



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Arlene Barrera
Auditor-Controller
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a special meeting on **Monday, July 18, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.**, via online conference call. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open sessions of the meeting may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 626 586 29#, at 9:30 a.m. on July 18, 2022.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 11:45 a.m. Members of the public who would like to hear reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 626 586 29#, at 11:40 a.m. on July 18, 2022. Please note that this time is an approximate start time and there may be a short delay before the Closed Session is concluded and the actions can be reported.

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

You may submit written public comments by e-mail to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov or by mail to: Attention: Los Angeles County Claims Board, Executive Office, County Counsel, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022. Please include the Agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Comments and any other written submissions will become part of the official record of the meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Any supporting documents will be posted and can be provided upon request. Please submit requests for supporting documents to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov.

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Secretary Derek Stane at dstane@counsel.lacounty.gov.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).

- a. Charles Watson, et al. v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV06589

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$60,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. Demetrius Lykes v. Los Angeles County, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07551

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$27,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Sayra Rubio v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV33993

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Jessie Castillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV15055

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$160,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- e. Nasser Baker v. County of Los Angeles
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-03742

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges plaintiff was assaulted by Sheriff's Department deputies; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Ryan Vintch v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case 2:20-CV-07932

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference to safety needs by Sheriff's Department jail staff at Men's Central Jail; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$300,000.

- g. Martin Serrano v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV17687

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving an Internal Services Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$77,500.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- h. Ana Jimenez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV23356

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Department of Public Health was subjected to harassment, discrimination, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$80,000.

- i. Tina Urbina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV09069

This lawsuit concerns allegations that four employees from the Department of Children and Family Services Department were subjected to harassment, discrimination, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$235,000.

- j. Timothy McNamara v. Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV33477

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office was subjected to age, disability, and whistleblower retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$450,000.

4. Approval of the minutes of the June 27, 2022, special meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
6. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Charles Watson, et al. v. L. A. County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	18STCV06589
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 29, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Frank R. McNally, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This Sheriff's Department automobile accident lawsuit arose when a Deputy Sheriff lost control of a Sheriff's Department radio car and collided into plaintiff Charles Watson's car that was stopped for a red signal light at the intersection of 108th Street and Compton Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. The Deputy Sheriff was in pursuit of a stolen car. Plaintiff Willis White was seated in the front passenger seat of Mr. Watson's car. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries and damages from the accident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 28,470
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,137

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Demetrius Lykes vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV07551
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 2, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 27,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Angela Swan, Esq. Law Offices of Angela Swan, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident which occurred on June 25, 2021, on the 405 freeway near Westminister Boulevard, in Orange County. Plaintiff Demetrius Lykes contends the collision caused injuries for which he seeks damages. Due to the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a settlement is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 27,000
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,000

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Sayra Rubio v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV33993
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 29, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Cynthia Hafif-Stonehouse, Esq. Hafif-Stonehouse Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engeliem Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an automobile collision that occurred on January 24, 2019 when a County employee rear-ended Plaintiff's vehicle on the 210 Freeway in the city of Glendora. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 83,095
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,109

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jesse Castillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV15055
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 20, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 160,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Michael Coletti Law Offices of Michael A. Coletti
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 10, 2019, Plaintiff Jesse Castillo's truck and a Sheriff's Department patrol car were involved in a motor vehicle versus motor vehicle incident in the parking lot of a gas station located at 31642 Castaic Road in an unincorporated area of the County, near the City of Santa Clarita. Plaintiff contends the collision caused injuries for which he seeks damages.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$160,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 13,284
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,947



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Sunday, March 10, 2019, at approximately 7: 50 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jesse Castillo v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2022-27</p> <p>On Sunday, March 10, 2019, at approximately 7:50 a.m., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy sheriff, assigned to patrol at Santa Clarita Valley Station, was driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle (2010, Ford Crown Victoria). The deputy sheriff stopped her patrol vehicle in the parking lot of the "Pilot Truck Stop" located at 31642 Castaic Road, Castaic, to speak to a person of interest who was in a parked vehicle.</p> <p>The deputy sheriff exited the patrol vehicle and neglected to put the transmission into park, inadvertently leaving it in reverse. As she walked away from the patrol vehicle, the deputy sheriff was alerted by witnesses that the vehicle was rolling backwards. The patrol vehicle rolled backwards approximately fifty to sixty (50-60) feet. The deputy sheriff heard the collision and noticed the passenger side of the patrol vehicle collided with the driver's side front bumper of the Plaintiff's parked vehicle (2002, Chevrolet Suburban, black in color).</p> <p>At the time of impact, the Plaintiff was kneeling on the driver's seat of his vehicle, facing the rear, trying to hang a barrier to block the light so he could sleep. A passenger in the Plaintiff's vehicle was seated in the back seat.</p> <p>The deputy sheriff checked on the welfare of the Plaintiff and the passenger. The deputy sheriff asked the Plaintiff and the passenger if they needed medical attention. The Plaintiff and the passenger advised they were not injured and refused medical treatment.</p> <p>A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department field sergeant assigned to Santa Clarita Valley Station responded to the scene. The field sergeant contacted the Plaintiff and the passenger, he asked if they needed medical attention. They both advised they were not injured and refused medical treatment. The field sergeant continued his supervisory traffic investigation.</p> <p>A California Highway Patrol officer responded to the scene and authored a Traffic Collision report.</p> <p>The CHP officer's traffic collision report noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patrol vehicle had moderate damage to the right side. The right front passenger and right rear passenger doors had dents. The doors also had scrapes and paint transfer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plaintiff's vehicle had minor damage to the left corner of the front bumper, including scrapes and paint transfer. <p>The CHP accident report revealed the deputy sheriff caused the collision by failing to set the vehicle transmission into park and not applying the parking brake before exiting the vehicle.</p> <p>Plaintiff's Medical Timeline:</p> <p>On March 10, 2019, the same day of the incident (unknown time), the Plaintiff went to the emergency room regarding complaint of pain due to the traffic collision. The Plaintiff got tired of waiting and left the hospital before a medical evaluation.</p> <p>Note: There was no report of the passenger going to the hospital to seek medical attention after the traffic collision.</p> <p>Approximately four days later, the Plaintiff was seen at a medical center and began treatment for his injuries from the traffic collision. The Plaintiff was treated from March 14, 2019, to September 21, 2020.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

<p>A Department root cause of this incident was the deputy sheriff's failure to set the patrol vehicle transmission into park prior to exiting the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>A Department root cause of this incident was the field sergeant and deputy sheriff failed to call paramedics. The Plaintiff and passenger could have refused medical treatment directly to the paramedics.</p>
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2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
 (Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

<p>Traffic Collision Investigation The incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the California Highway Patrol and Santa Clarita Valley Station supervisors.</p> <p>Administrative Investigation Appropriate Administrative action were taken.</p> <p>Traffic Collision Assessment and Review As a result of this collision, a station-wide assessment of employee-involved traffic collisions from March 10, 2019, to December 31, 2021, was conducted. The audit revealed the following:</p>		
Calendar Year	Preventable Collisions	Non-Preventable Collisions
2019	24	8
2020	16	8
2021	18	10

Santa Clarita Valley Station documented 58 preventable collisions over the past 3 years. Of those 58 preventable collisions, 3 involved failures to place a vehicle transmission in park prior to exiting a patrol vehicle.

In an attempt to improve employee safety and reduce the Department's liability exposure, Santa Clarita Valley Station continually schedules personnel to attend the Department's Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program.

This program focuses on low speed parking and starting maneuvers and is held at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Emergency Vehicle Operations Center.

Additionally, since 2020, the Department requires all patrol personnel to attend an 8-hour Emergency Vehicle Operations Course training every two years.


3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?

- Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
- No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Shawnee N. Hinchman, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 4/29/22

Name: (Department Head)	
Edwin E. Alvarez, Chief Professional Standards Division	
Signature: 	Date: 7/5/22

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Destiny Castro	
Signature: 	Date: 07/07/2022

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Nasser Baker v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-CV-03742
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	June 25, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Toni Jaramilla, Esq., Toni Jaramilla, A Professional Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard Hsueh Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle in the amount of \$75,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, this lawsuit filed by Nasser Baker against the County of Los Angeles, Sheriff Alex Villanueva, and Doe defendants alleging federal civil rights violations and related State-law claims in connection with a September 2020 incident in Lynwood.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$75,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 34,987
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,000

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Serrano, Martin vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV17687
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 8, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 77,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Tomas A. Guterres, Esq. Collins + Collins, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas Assistant County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident which occurred on July 25, 2018, eastbound on the 60 freeway. Plaintiff Martin Serrano alleges that he was injured and incurred property damage. Due to the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 25,475
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 13,152

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 27, 2022

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:39 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members online for the teleconference meeting were: Chair Steve Robles and Adrienne M. Byers. Arlene Barrera was absent from the meeting.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Narbeh Bagdasarian, David Lee, Michael Gordon, Minas Samuelian, Lana Choi, Yuan Chang, and Donna Koch; Department of Health Services: Konita Wilks, Kimmalo Wright, Christine Holschneider, and Arun Patel; Department of Parks and Recreation: Vicky Santana, Brian Mejia, and Donald Limbrick; Sheriff's Department: Melynne Rivers, Irma Chavez, Rodney Moore, Brian Jones, Valerie Silgero, Kerry Carter, Shawnee Hinchman, Tania Plunkett, Keith Harrison, Edward Ramirez, Jennifer Seetoo, Nicole Palomino, and Albert Maldonado; Office of the Public Defender: Monnica Thelen; Outside Counsel: Caylin Jones.

2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision [a] of Government Code section 54956.9).

At 9:41 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(i).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 11:46 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference phone line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Dareh D. Haghvirdi, et al. v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 720058

This medical malpractice lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges that Olive View Medical Center staff was negligent in performing prenatal tests and informing plaintiffs about their son's congenital condition.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$4,500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

b. **Joaquin Barajas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV12970

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Parks and Recreation alleges that plaintiff suffered injuries at the City Terrace basketball gym when a metal post leaning against a wall fell and struck his arm.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$42,500.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

c. **Tracy Lee v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV29641

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$45,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

d. **Victoria Contreras v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC722497

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$550,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

e. **Steven Moore v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-CV-07751

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges plaintiff suffered injuries and deliberate indifference by Sheriff's Department staff while he was detained at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$200,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

f. **Ivan Field v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC684848

This lawsuit alleges excessive force and federal civil rights violations by Sheriff's Department deputies.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$150,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

g. **Alex Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV34043

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$57,500.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

h. **Mika Marvin Lamar O'Neal v. Los Angeles County**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV03767

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained while being transported to court by a Sheriff's Department bus.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$210,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

i. **Bess Stiffelman v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV33474

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a former employee of the Public Defender's Office was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 6, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Absent: Arlene Barrera

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

No such matters were discussed.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane