

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD**

**HELD IN ROOM 648 OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION,**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

**ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**Present: Chair John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo**

1. **Call to Order.**
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 addressed the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Adrian Scott Morgan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 08-8357-ODW**

This lawsuit alleges deliberate indifference to an inmate's medical needs while he was incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$175,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. **Desiree Henriquez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:14-CV00196-GW**

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the death of an accident victim that was treated by Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$925,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

**c. Non-Litigated Claim of Victor Sevilla**

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damage allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. Non-Litigated Claim of Steven Shvarts and Yuquian Cai**

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damage allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$59,643.43.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

**e. Non-Litigated Claim of Roohi Pinhassian and Avraham Pinhassian**

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damage allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$58,643.83.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Dalaj International Corporation v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number BC 512 582**

This breach of contract lawsuit against the Department of Public Works concerns a construction contract.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$350,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

g. **Ankuo Lee v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 524 091**

This lawsuit seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damage allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$98,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

h. **Lisette E., a minor by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, Maria Lozano, v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 516 649**

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries received in a trip and fall accident at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$24,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

i. **Alisa Medders v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 538 161**

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries received in a trip and fall accident on a bleacher walkway at Arcadia County Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

j. **Francisco Coronado v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 585 636**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation was subjected to sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

**4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.**

The Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as indicated under Agenda Item No. 3 above.

**5. Approval of the minutes of the February 1, 2016, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

[See Supporting Document](#)

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 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.**

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Adrian Scott Morgan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	CV08-8357-ODW
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	March 14, 2011
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 175,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Joshua Lynn, Esq. Joshua E. Lynn and Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On February 26, 2006, Adrian Morgan, a 34-year-old male, was arrested and taken to a non-County facility to undergo a surgery to treat a gunshot wound in his left leg. On March 2, 2006, Mr. Morgan was brought under Los Angeles Sheriff's Department ("LASD") custody. He stayed in LASD's custody until May 19, 2008, when he was transferred to State Prison.</p> <p>During his incarceration with the LASD, Mr. Morgan complained about his left leg and was treated by medical staff at LASD and LAC+USC Medical Center, a County medical facility.</p> <p>After his death on July 12, 2103, Mr. Morgan's Estate brought an action against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the LASD providers did not adequately treat him for his left leg injury, and as a result, he suffered pain and discomfort prior to his death.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 289,460
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 67,757

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Desiree Henriquez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:14-CV-00196-GW
COURT	United States District Court - Central District
DATE FILED	August 21, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 925,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kaye, McLane, Bednarski & Litt, LLP; and Law Office of Sonia Mercado & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On April 13, 2013, Jose Roberto Enriquez, Jr. was involved in a vehicle accident. Police officers from the City of Bell arrived at the scene. Later, Los Angeles County paramedics were called to treat Mr. Henriquez at a hospital.</p> <p>Later on the same day, while being booked at the City of Bell jail, Mr. Henriquez suffered a massive bleeding in his brain and died.</p> <p>Mr. Henriquez' family brought a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles, the City of Bell and the private company that manages the City of Bell jail.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 407,473
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 143,306

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Victor Sevilla
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 23, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 99,500 (sum included payment already made of \$19,014.19)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Liliana Campos, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a blocked sewer mainline that caused a sewage backflow into Claimant's residential property damaging its structure and personal property. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0



## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Steven Shvarts and Yuquian Cai
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 23, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 59,643.43 (sum includes payment already made of \$18,485.83)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Liliana Campos, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a blocked sewer mainline that caused a sewage backflow into Claimants' residential property damaging its structure and personal property. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Roohi Pinhassian and Avraham Pinhassian
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 28, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 58,643.83 (sum included payment already made of \$15,815.77)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Liliana Campos
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from a blocked sewer mainline that caused a sewage backflow into Claimants' residential property damaging its structure and personal property. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Dalaj International Corporation v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC512582
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court-Central District
DATE FILED	July 2, 2013
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 350,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Eric Bensamochan
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Rosa Linda Cruz Mark Worthge, Litchfield, Cavo, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Action for alleged breaches of construction contract (including the failure to timely release retention sums) by the County. The County cross-complained for return of contract monies paid to the contractor while the contractor's license was suspended by operation of law.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 229,100
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 31,751

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Ankuo Lee v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC 524091
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 10, 2013
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works – Sewer Maintenance District
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 98,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Victor Lao, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Brian T. Chu Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit involves property damages arising from a sewer back-up at the residence of Ankuo Lee located in Walnut on November 30, 2012. A County sewer crew investigated the complaint and found that wastewater from a sewer main line entered the home through its lateral line due to a blockage in the sewer main line. The wastewater affected several rooms. The County crew rodded the mainline and relieved a stoppage created by tree roots. The sewer mainline is maintained by the County as part of the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District.

Due to the inherent risks and uncertainties involved in a trial, and the potential liability and potential exposure to an adverse verdict, the County proceeded with settlement negotiations and was eventually able to develop this recommended settlement.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$	35,891
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$	2,834

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lisette E., a Minor, by and Through her Guardian Ad Litem Maria Lozano v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC 516649
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 22, 2013
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 24,999.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alan Aghabegian, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Brian T. Chu Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This case arises from an incident at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in which minor, Lisette E., tripped against the edge of a mat in a waiting room play area, fell and hit her forehead against a bookcase. As a result, she sustained a bleeding cut that required stitches. She has continued scarring that her Guardian Ad Litem, Maria Lozano, claims requires scar revision surgery. Through her Guardian Ad Litem, she contends that the play area existed in a dangerous condition of which the County had notice or created.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$24,999 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 27,277
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,110

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Alisa Medders v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC 538161
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 3, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Harry F. Scolinos, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Brian T. Chu Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is an alleged dangerous condition of public property lawsuit concerning a trip and fall incident that occurred in the late evening on February 4, 2013, as Alisa Medders was jogging along the bleacher walkway at the Baseball Grandstand at Arcadia County Park. Ms. Medders allegedly tripped due to a displaced crack in the concrete walkway and sustained a fracture to her hip and soft tissue injuries to her neck and back.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$50,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 93,531
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 19,647

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

**1. Call to Order.**

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:31 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Patrick Wu.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Claudia Gutierrez, Donna Koch, Joyce Aiello, Katie Bowser, Lauren Black, Danielle Drossel, Joseph Langton, Jonathan McCaverty, Edwin Lewis, Richard Kudo, and Brian Chu; Department of Public Works: Craig Cline; Probation Department: Jacklin Injijian; Department of Children and Family Services: Michelle Victor and Karla Hernandez; Sheriff's Department: Comm. Henry Romero, Sgt. April Carter, Sgt. Kevin Percy, Deputy Dominic Dannan, and Deputy Donald Moore; and Outside Counsel: Diane Ratcliff, Scott Caron, Harold Becks, and Tomas Gutierrez.

**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 addressed the Claims Board.

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

At 9:32 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(j) below.

**4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.**

At 11:45 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

- a. Kathleen Barajas v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:14-CV-7915

This lawsuit against the Department of Public Works alleges a violation of Plaintiff's civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act when she was denied access to certain sidewalks within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$25,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo



- b. Jason Willis v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 512 876

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to race, gender, and disability harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$95,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- c. Chris Edwards, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 14-01705

This lawsuit alleges the wrongful detention of minor children by the Department of Children and Family Services ("Department") and alleges that employees of the Department made false statements which prolonged the separation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$340,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- d. Gregory Goods v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 11-02948

This lawsuit alleges that Sheriff's Deputies violated Plaintiff's civil rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act by being deliberately indifferent to his medical needs while he was incarcerated.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$24,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- e. Reginald Smith v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 11-10666

This lawsuit concerns allegations of federal civil rights violations for a violation of Plaintiff's procedural due process rights when he was arrested on a warrant that was for someone else.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$650,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- f. Jose Aguirre v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 09-06222

This lawsuit concerns allegations of excessive force by Sheriff's Deputies on an inmate at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$178,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- g. Willie Breaux v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 497 077

This lawsuit concerns allegations of civil rights violations, and State law causes of action against Sheriff's Deputies.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$49,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- h. Juan Carlos Alamo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 506 783

This lawsuit concerns allegations of civil rights violations and State law causes of action after Plaintiff was shot and detained by Sheriff's Deputies.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$492,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- i. Nicholas Fobia, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 516 710

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$25,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$25,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

- j. Heather Kowalczyk v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 531 503

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy. (Continued from the Claims Board Meeting of January 4, 2016)

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$2,200,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles and Roger Granbo  
Abstention: 1 – John Naimo

5. **Approval of the minutes of the January 4, 2016, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – John Naimo, Steve Robles, and Roger Granbo

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 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 11:50 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
Sandra C. Ruiz