



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CLAIMS BOARD
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a special meeting on **Monday, February 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting or would like to provide public comment may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 601 509 665# at 9:30 a.m. on February 26, 2024.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, February 26, 2024, at approximately 10:00 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 601 509 665# at 10:00 a.m. on February 26, 2024. Please note that these are approximate start times 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 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024. 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.

If you wish to address the Los Angeles County Claims Board in person, you may come to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, and enter on the Second Floor. Please advise the security guard station personnel that you would like to attend the public portion of the Claims Board meeting and a security guard will escort you to the Sixth Floor where you will be assisted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is limited to the specific items on the agenda and general public comment is limited to subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: The Agenda and any supporting documents will be posted at <https://lacounty.gov/newsroom/public-information/los-angeles-county-claims-board/> 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 or Laura Z. Salazar at lzsalar@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 (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).
 - a. Jane Doe, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27868
This lawsuit concerns allegations that two applicants for intern positions with the Department of Children and Family Services were subjected to disability discrimination and failure to accommodate; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$2,764,000.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)
5. Adjournment.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 5, 2024

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Members participating in person and online. Claims Board Members Chair Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez appeared in person and via video conference. Destiny Castro was also in attendance.

All other persons present at the virtual Claims Board meeting: Mark Lomax, Matthew Dill, Peter Bollinger, Drew Taylor, Richard Kudo, Kevin Engelen, Joseph Langton, Lauren Lyman, Stacey Lee, and Kent Sommer appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Shanese Winfrey, Renata Phillip, Johann Thrall, Benjamin Torres, Glenn Emery, Alfred Reyes, Andrew Meyer, Michael Hannemann, Allen Castellanos, Richard Conti, and Justin Clark appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Melissa Lara, and Michele Chimienti appeared for the Department of Public Works. Devyne Dawson appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Nicole Alcaraz, Deondria Barajas, Michael McComas, Jennifer Koai, Elizabeth Ginsburg, Damia Johnson, and Keith Knox appeared for the Treasurer Tax-Collector. Jeffrey Revilla appeared for the Auditor-Controller. Tho-Hung Tran, Virginia Landig, and Kristine Shmavonyan appeared for the Assessor. Arnetta Counts, and Carlos Molina appeared for the Department of Public Social Services. Catherine Mathers appeared for the Department of Health Services. Christina Lee, and Dianne Iglesias appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Jesse Levin appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP. Margaret Ikeda appeared for David Weiss Law. Geoffrey Sheldon appeared for Leibert, Cassidy, and Whitmore, LLP. Janet Soutanian appeared for Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP.

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.

An unidentified caller was on the public teleconference phone line and requested to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:38 a.m., Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(l).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

An unidentified caller listened as the reportable actions of the Claims Board were read.

At 12:23 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Non-Litigated Claim of Juventino Jasso

This claim seeks compensation for personal injuries allegedly caused by an automobile accident involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$24,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

b. Sanjiv Agrawal, Kusum Agrawal v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

This petition to rescind a sale of tax-defaulted property and resolve claims for damages alleging the Treasurer-Tax Collector wrongfully foreclosed on a 2005 tax sale.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$90,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**c. Aaron Esquenazi, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCP02885**

This class action lawsuit against the Treasurer-Tax Collector alleges the department extraterritorially imposed and collected utility user tax in former unincorporated areas of the County that were annexed by incorporated cities.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$310,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**d. Apartment Association of Los Angeles County, Inc. dba "Apartment Association of Great Los Angeles" et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 22STCV08225**

This lawsuit for injunctive relief involves the Chief Executive Office and the Department of Consumer and Business affairs and seeks compensation for attorney's fees in a housing dispute.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**e. Jerry Mostad v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 20STCV43700**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Department of Public Works employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$2,750,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Adrienne M. Byers
Noes: 1 – Oscar Valdez

f. **Anthony Espinoza v. Jeffrey Raymond Williams, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV14097

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

g. **Olga Torres v. Cong Ha, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 21STCV09926

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.g. in the amount of \$215,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

h. **Non-Litigated Claims of Auto Club ASO Cuong Tang, Mo Chen, and Po Jui Su**

These claims seek compensation for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$39,288.33.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

i. **Juan Leon, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV36328

This lawsuit arises from injuries 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 Item 4.i. in the amount of \$450,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**j. Curtis Thomas v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Number 22STCV01146**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**k. Wendy Valdovinos v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court No. BC680138**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Public Social Services was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to engage in the interactive process, and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

**l. Jane Doe, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27868**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that two applicants for a Department of Children and Family Services intern program were subjected to disability discrimination and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4.l. to a future meeting in February.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

5. Approval of the Minutes for the December 18, 2023, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary