

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Destiny Castro, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez

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 member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Sharon L. Anderson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34038

This lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault and battery by a Department of Mental Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Noes: Destiny Castro

- b. **Matthew Reppa v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00552

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Works' employee driving a snowplow.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. Non-Litigated Claims of Steven B. Lam and Hisae K. Utsunomiya

These inverse condemnation claims seek compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a sewage spill from a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$161,089.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

**d. Ann Grigoryan v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23GDCV00441**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when she tripped and fell at Crescenta Valley Community Regional Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Destiny Castro
Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

[See Supporting Document](#)

**e. Mercury Insurance Company v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STLC08558**

This subrogation lawsuit seeks reimbursement for property damage allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 3(e) to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**f. Diego Guarchaj v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV27961**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained when a Sheriff's Department's vehicle struck Plaintiff's bicycle.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

**g. Marco Antonio Vazquez, Sr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:20-cv-01527**

This federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit arises from a fatal deputy-involved shooting of Decedent.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$2,250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Destiny Castro
Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

[See Supporting Documents](#)

4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[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, 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.

6. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Matthew Reppa vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AVCV00552
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 25, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	MICHAEL EMRANI, ESQ. SOHAIB LATIF, ESQ ME Lawyers, APLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA McCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on January 18, 2023, when a Department of Public Works employee driving a snowplow collided into Plaintiff's vehicle at the intersection of Bouquet Canyon Road and Elizabeth Canyon Road in the City of Santa Clarita. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 44,589
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,500

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claims of Steven B. Lam and Hisae K. Utsunomiya
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 161,089
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	These claims involve property damage from a sewage spill caused by a sewer mainline blockage. Due to the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ -0-
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ -0-

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Ann Grigoryan v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23GDCV00441
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 6, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	ANTON ABRAMYAN, ESQ. Brand Law Group, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MICHAEL J. GORDON, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On April 9, 2022, Plaintiff Ann Grigoryan tripped and fell near the picnic tables at Crescenta Valley Community Regional Park located at 3901 Dunsmore Avenue in La Crescenta due to an allegedly dangerous condition. Plaintiff alleges the incident caused injuries for which she seeks compensation. Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$75,000 is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 80,452
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 11,178

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Diego Guarchaj v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23STCV27961
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 14, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 100,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	KAMYAR SHAYAN, ESQ. Law Offices of Kamyar Shayan
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	KEVIN ENGELIEN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on May 3, 2023. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 38,673
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 18,023

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Marco Vazquez, Sr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:20-CV-01527
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 18, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 2,250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	LUIS A. CARRILLO MICHAEL S. CARRILLO Carillo Law Firm, LLP
	Dale K. Galipo Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	RICHARD HSUEH Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a federal civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit filed by the plaintiffs arising out of a fatal deputy-involved shooting of Marco Antonio Vazquez, Jr., when deputies responded to a call for service at his parents' residence.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 107,215
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 72,963



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:	October 6, 2019, approximately 10:40 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Summary Corrective Action Plan 2023-144 Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident. Multiple investigative reports indicate on October 6, 2019, at approximately 2010 hours, deputies assigned to the Pico Rivera Station were dispatched a call for service for a family disturbance. While deputies were responding, the call was updated indicating the Decedent was armed with a machete knife. Several units responded with lights and siren. Upon their arrival, they immediately contacted several family members outside the residence. Family members informed deputies the Decedent was no longer armed with the machete, and he never threatened to harm anyone with it. The family hid the machete from the Decedent underneath the living room couch. Family members also informed the deputies the Decedent was suffering from a medical issue and was possibly under the influence of drugs. After speaking with the Decedent's family, they attempted to contact the Decedent but he refused to exit the residence. Via a cellular phone, the Decedent's family members and deputies tried to convince him to exit, but he refused to cooperate with the deputies. The Department's Mental Evaluation Team (MET) arrived to conduct an evaluation of the Decedent, but he remained inside the residence. Although a clinician was able to speak with the Decedent over the phone, they were unable to properly evaluate him. After spending approximately two hours at the scene trying to gain his cooperation, deputies determined that the Decedent had not committed a crime and he was not a danger to himself or others. Seargent One decided, based on the totality of the circumstances and their investigation, it was best to leave the location. Prior to sheriff personnel leaving the location, they suggested to the Decedent's family they should leave for the night.

	The Decedent's family stated they were not afraid of the Decedent; however, they did plan to leave the location. Approximately thirty minutes later, the Pico Sheriff's Station received another call for service at the location. The caller stated that the Decedent rearmed himself with the machete and was stating he wanted to be shot by deputies. When deputies arrived, they gathered quickly to establish a tactical plan on how to proceed. As they planned, several family members ran out of the residence and out onto the street and appeared to be frightened. Deputies heard someone screaming from the direction of the residence and they ran toward the entrance of the residence's driveway. Personnel noticed the Decedent held onto a large kitchen knife and made slashing motions with it toward a woman standing in front of him. When deputies ordered the Decedent to drop the knife, he turned toward the deputies and began to run toward them. When the Decedent came within several feet of the deputies, a deputy involved shooting occurred. The Decedent was struck several times by the deputies' gunfire. Also, the gunfire inadvertently grazed a male family member of the Decedent. Department personnel attempted to begin life saving measures, but they were hindered by family members who laid on top of the Decedent. Once family members were removed, personnel began to provide medical aid to the Decedent until they were relieved by the fire department paramedics. The Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics contacted the hospital where the attending physician pronounced the Decedent deceased. The incident was investigated by the Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau to determine if any criminal misconduct occurred. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division, completed its review of the shooting and determined there was insufficient evidence to disprove Sergeant One and Deputies One and Two, did not act lawfully in self-defense at time they fired their weapons.
--	---

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was deputies' use of deadly force.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the sergeant and deputies did not have equipment (Body-Worn Camera) to video record their contact with the plaintiff, in order to prove or disprove the plaintiff's allegations.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the Decedent's failure to comply with the lawful orders given by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's personnel.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

Criminal Investigation:

The incident was investigated by the Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau to determine if any criminal misconduct occurred.

On August 24, 2022, the JSID determined there was insufficient evidence to disprove Sergeant One and Deputies One and Two, did not act lawfully in self-defense at the time they fired their weapons.

Administrative Investigation:

This incident was investigated by representatives of the Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Bureau to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The results of the investigation were presented to the Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) for adjudication. On June 15, 2023, the EFRC determined the use of deadly force and tactics were within Department policy (Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures 3-10/200.00 Use of Firearms and Deadly Force). The Panel had no corrective action recommendations. South Patrol Division Acting Chief concurred with the Panel's findings and recommendations.

Although the tactics and Use-of-Force used in this incident were found to be within Department policy, Sergeant One and Deputies One and Two received additional training pertaining to the circumstances surrounding this incident.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWC)

As of May 30, 2021, all personnel assigned to Pico Rivera Station were issued a Body-Worn Camera in an effort to ensure all public contact is transparent. The use of BWC's ensures reliable recording of enforcement and investigative contacts with the public. The Department established policy and procedures for the purpose, use, and deployment of the Department issued BWC

Tactical Debriefing

In the days following the incident, personnel were briefed on the events known at the time and based on information provided by Homicide Bureau investigators. Special focus was placed on officer safety, tactical preparedness, and lessons learned to assist employees if they ever find themselves in a similar situation. Briefings occurred on all shifts and were given by the field sergeants and watch commanders.

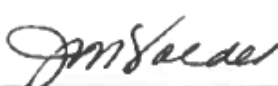
Station Training

Field Operations Support Services (FOSS) sent a department wide email on October 19, 2022, and September 29, 2023, regarding Newsletter 16-003 – Calls for Service Involving Alleged Mentally Ill Persons. This topic was thoroughly discussed during Pico Rivera Station pre-shift briefings and continues to be a recurrent briefing topic. Deputy sheriffs assigned to Pico Rivera Station will continuously be scheduled to attend critical incident training with the Department's Tactics and Survival (TAS) Unit. Classes will be scheduled utilizing the Department Situation Simulation Trailer and the Multiple Interactive Learning Objective platform. Pico Rivera Station field training officers have already attended this training as a group.

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) Julia M. Valdes, A/Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 05/09/2025
Name: (Department Head) Myron Johnson, Assistant Sheriff Patrol Operations	
Signature: 	Date: 5/28/25

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
- ☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.

Name: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: 	Date: 5/29/2025

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

June 16, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:47 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Jason Carnevale appeared in person for the Office of the County Counsel. Tom Guterres appeared in person for Collins & Collins LLP. All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Erin Chang, Garrett Green, Sanjay Athalye, Latasha N. Corry, Kevin Engeli, Kent Sommer, Anthony F. Morrone, Narbeh Bagdasarian, and Edward Morrissey appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Commander Johann Thrall, Captain Benjamin Torres, Lieutenant Juan Sanchez, and Sergeant Shanese Winfrey appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Luz Luna, and Sonia Alfaro appeared for the Board of Supervisors. Quintin Haynes, Michael Owh, and Marian Bellard appeared for the Internal Services Department. Ronald Castaneda, Michele Chimienti, and Jacklin Injijian appeared for the Department of Public Works. Christina Lee appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Justin Kimura, Arnetta Counts, Ruth Gibson, and Simone Agee appeared for the Department of Public Social Services. Vanessa Dinsay, and Ly Ngo appeared for the Department of Mental Health. Chris Silva appeared for the Law Office of George Mallory, Jr. & Associates. David J. Weiss appeared for David Weiss Law. David Miller appeared for Martin & Martin, LLP. Avi Burkwitz appeared for Peterson Bradford Burkwitz. Mitzie Dobson appeared for Bonne Bridges Mueller O'Keefe & Nichols.

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 member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

At 9:48 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(i).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

At 12:39 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Daisy Milagro Velasquez v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24CHCV02947

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$37,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**b. Jovani Flores, et al. v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24NWCV00219**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$41,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**c. Cinthia Carballo v. Nicole Englund, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV34081**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Board of Supervisors' employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$750,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**d. Classic Parking Inc. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV24834**

This breach of contract lawsuit seeks damages against the County of Los Angeles for alleged lost revenue and failure to pay for services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$875,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Destiny Castro
Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

**e. Estela Garduno v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV47358**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained when she tripped and fell over an uplifted portion of the sidewalk.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**f. Angelina Bawaan, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV03851**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Children and Family Services' employee.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**g. Deborah Tolbert v. County of Los Angeles Dept. of Children and Family Services, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC698440**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to disability and age discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$175,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**h. Valerie Kincaid v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27139**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee from the Department of Public Social Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**i. Sharon L. Anderson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV34038**

This lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault and battery by a Department of Mental Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4(i) to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

5. Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the June 2, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro
Abstention: Oscar Valdez

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary