COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

John Naimo
Auditor-Controller
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Roger H. Granbo
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, February 6, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order.
- 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. Maria Bermudez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
 Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 578 447
 Yeris Avelar, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
 Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 626 477

These wrongful death lawsuits concern allegations of excessive force by Sheriff's Deputies while responding to a 911 call; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$250,000.

See Supporting Documents

b. Non-Litigated Claim of Luis Kao and Julie Teoh

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damages allegedly caused from a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$32,894.08 (includes pre-payment of \$11,064.29).

See Supporting Document

c. <u>Justin S., a minor by and through his Guardian Ad Litem,</u>
<u>Margarita Ramirez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u>
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 483 559

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff received from a fall while on the playground at Ruben Salazar Park; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$40,000.

See Supporting Document

d. <u>Elisa Yanez v. County of Los Angeles</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 517 322

This lawsuit concerns allegations of personal injury by a garage entry gate at a Department of Mental Health Facility; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,500,000.

See Supporting Documents

e. <u>Sandra Gabriel, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-03118

This lawsuit alleges plaintiffs' civil rights were violated when the Department of Children and Family Services detained her four minor children without a warrant; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$140,000.

See Supporting Documents

f. Constance Johnson v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 570 876

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment based on age and gender, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$250,000.

g. <u>Kimberly Nguyen v. County of Los Angeles</u>
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 589 086

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Public Health was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$175,000.

h. <u>Jane Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 561 292

This lawsuit concerns allegations of medical malpractice and privacy breach while Plaintiff was a patient of the Emergency Department at LAC+USC Medical Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$497,000.

See Supporting Document

- Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2017, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

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.
- 7. Adjournment.

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME

Maria Bermudez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles

- and-

Yeris Avelar, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

CASE NUMBER

BC 578447 / BC 626477

COURT

Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED

4/14/2015

COUNTY DEPARTMENT

Sheriff's Department

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

\$ 250,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Dale K. Galipo

Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY

Jonathan McCaverty

Principal Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

These two consolidated lawsuits arose out of the November 2014 fatal shooting of Ricardo Avelar and Eduardo Bermudez by Sheriff's Deputies following a 911 call about a suspect brandishing a handgun. When Mr. Bermudez threatened the Deputies with what appeared to be a handgun, the Deputies fired at Mr. Bermudez resulting in his death. Mr. Avelar, who ignored Deputies' orders to move away, was fatally struck by a ricocheting bullet.

Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. Therefore, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$250,000 is recommended.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$ 318,355

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$ 118,147

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.

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November 16, 2014

Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:

Yeris Avelar and Maria Bermudez v. County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan 2016-044

On November 16, 2014, at approximately 2:24 a.m., several uniformed Los Angeles County deputy sheriffs, assigned to East Los Angeles Station, responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call. The caller, who was a security guard at a local bar, indicated an individual in an SUV had pointed a firearm at him. The informant provided detailed information regarding the suspect and suspect vehicle, including a license plate number. Four deputy sheriffs, in two separate patrol vehicles, monitored the streets near the suspect vehicle's registered owner's address.

Within minutes, two deputy sheriffs saw the suspect vehicle and began to follow. Emergent radio traffic was initiated, requesting assistance as the deputies followed the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle quickly stopped along a curb. The passenger (matching the description of the armed suspect) exited the vehicle and stood near the rear bumper. Two additional assisting deputy sheriffs arrived on scene to provide assistance. Suddenly the suspect vehicle pulled forward, approximately 15 feet, and turned into a parking spot of the apartment complex at the location. Believing the suspect vehicle was giving flight, the two assisting deputy sheriffs followed, but eventually stopped behind the suspect's vehicle in its parking spot.

The passenger remained 15 feet from the primary deputy sheriffs. The passenger reached into his jacket, grabbed a pistol, and moved his hand in and out of his jacket several times, partially exposing the grip and the trigger guard of the pistol. The deputy sheriffs attempted to detain the passenger at gunpoint and gave several commands to show his hands and to drop the pistol, in both Spanish and English. Seeing and hearing what was occurring with the passenger and realizing they were in a potential shooting backdrop, the assisting deputy sheriffs left their patrol vehicle and moved to join the two primary deputy sheriffs at their patrol car. Additional commands were expressed in English and Spanish, but the passenger did not follow the orders. In an aggressive and taunting manner, the passenger shouted at the deputy sheriffs, "Do you know who I am?" and "Just shoot me!"

The driver of the suspect vehicle exited and stood next to the vehicle (approximately 25 feet away from the passenger and 50 feet from the initial deputy sheriffs), but directly in the potential shooting backdrop behind the passenger. The deputy sheriffs gave the driver commands in English and Spanish, and motioned with their hands and arms for the driver to get out of the shooting backdrop. The driver failed to comply with

the deputy sheriffs' orders and remained in a potential line of fire behind the passenger.

Seconds later, the passenger slowly pulled the pistol completely out of his jacket prompting the deputies to fear for their safety and the safety of others, and a deputy-involved shooting occurred. All four deputy sheriffs fired a total of 18 rounds. The amount of rounds fired per deputy were as follows: four, five, seven, and two. The passenger (intended target) was struck with 13 rounds. The driver (unintended party) was struck by one round. Emergency medical services were summoned to the location. The driver and passenger were both pronounced dead at the scene.

No deputies were injured during the incident. A toxicology analysis revealed the driver's blood alcohol content (BAC) was .20 percent, and the passenger's BAC was .25 percent. The passenger's handgun was found to be a replica air pistol with no red tip on the barrel.

The co-plaintiffs in this settlement agreement are the surviving family members of both the driver and passenger.

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

A Department root cause in this incident was the unintentional shooting of the driver as four members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department employed deadly force against the passenger, who had armed himself with a pistol.

Another **Department** root cause in this incident was the delay in providing medical aid to the driver and passenger after they had been shot by the deputy sheriffs.

A non-Department root cause in this incident was the passenger's failure to comply with the lawful orders of Los Angeles County deputy sheriffs. When the passenger armed himself with a replica gun, the deputy sheriffs feared for their lives, prompting a deputy involved shooting.

Another **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the driver's failure to comply with orders of the on-scene Los Angeles County deputy sheriffs to move out of the potential shooting backdrop as deputy sheriffs detained the armed passenger at gunpoint. The driver remained in the shooting backdrop and was unintentionally hit by a round when the passenger retrieved a replica pistol and the deputy sheriffs shot at him.

Document version: 4.0 (January 2013)

¹ Replica air pistols are made to look and have similar function to an actual manufactured firearm. In this incident, the passenger was armed with a Cybergun, model "Tanfoglio Witness 1911," air pistol. The replica in this incident has a metal barrel, metal slide, a wood colored grip, and looks like an actual Model 1911, semiautomatic firearm.

² California Penal Code section 20150(a) states any person who alters, removes or obliterates any coloration or markings for an imitation or replica firearm is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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The results of the Attorney's Office. Ieputy sheriffs ac	On April 16	, 2015, the	Los Ange	les Count	y Distric	Attorney	s Office o	concluded t
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This incident was nternal Affairs B EFRC) for evalu Department polic	ureau, The lation. The	investigation EFRC deter	n was pre mined tha	esented to at the use	an Exe	cutive For	ce Revie	w Committ s were with
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 Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system is 	sues?
☐ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system	issues.
⋈ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected p	
	<u>, </u>
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Name. (Risk Management Cooldinator)	3
Scott E. Johnson, Captain Risk Management Bureau	it.
Signature:	Date:
Signature:	12-8-16
Name: (Department Head)	
Karyn Mannis, Chief Professional Standards Division	
Signature:	Date:
Kama Monnis	12-08-16
Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE O	NLY
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the Co	unty?
Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide appli	cability.
No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Departme	· 在中国的特殊的一个人,但是他们的自己的特殊的
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Traine, Irisk Manageriesk dispessed desistan	
Destinu Castro	
Signature:	Date:
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INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME

Non-Litigated Claim of Luis Kao and Julie Teoh

CASE NUMBER

N/A

COURT

N/A

DATE FILED

November 9, 2015

COUNTY DEPARTMENT

Department of Public Works

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

32,894.08 (includes pre-payment of \$11,064.29)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

N/A

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY

Kevin J. Engelien

Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

This claim arises from a blocked sewer mainline that caused a sewage backflow into Claimants' residence and damaged their real 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

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME

Justin S., a minor, by and through his Guardian Ad

Litem, Margarita Ramirez v. County of Los Angeles,

et al.

CASE NUMBER BC 483559

COURT Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED April 26, 2012

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Department of Parks and Recreation

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 40,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF Robin E. Paley

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY Richard K. Kudo

Principal Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

This lawsuit arises from an accident that occurred

on August 13, 2011, at Ruben Salazar Park when the minor plaintiff fell to the ground as an inflatable slide tipped over on its side while he was on top of it waiting to slide down. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages as a result of 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 \$ 90,852

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 10,506

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME

Elisa Yanez v. County of Los Angeles

CASE NUMBER

BC 517322

COURT

Los Angeles Superior Court

DATE FILED

August 7, 2013

COUNTY DEPARTMENT

Department of Mental Health

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

\$ 1,500,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Marvin S. Cherin, Esq.

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY

Richard K. Kudo

Principal Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

On October 19, 2011, Elisa Yanez was injured when she was caught within the pedestrian gate portion of the garage gate at the Edelman Mental Health Center building. The garage gate opened spontaneously and without warning as Ms. Yanez stepped through the pedestrian portion of the gate, while exiting the building. She received soft tissue injuries to her cervical and lumbar spine which necessitated surgical intervention. She continues to have residual symptoms that will require future care. She alleges that the gate existed as a dangerous condition. The County disputes that it had notice of a dangerous condition and the cost of her future care.

Due to the risks and uncertainties of a trial, a full and final settlement of this case is recommended at this time.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$ 124,929

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$ 46,970

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:	10/19/2011
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiff claimed she was injured when she exited a DMH facility. She alleged that as she walked through a pedestrian door of the facility's garage gate, the gate unexpectedly went up. She further alleged that she was trapped by the pedestrian door, causing her to hang from the gate for approximately 5-10 minutes before help arrived. Plaintiff claimed that as a result of this incident, she suffered various injuries to her spine, necessitating three (3) invasive spinal surgeries.

- 1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:
 - A. DMH management allowed non-County entities to use the County facility after business hours without an agreement that addressed liability/indemnification.
 - B. After hours, the facility's front doors are locked, which required individuals to exit the facility using the garage gate pedestrian door.
 - C. The garage gate was poorly configured with the pedestrian door constructed as part of the vehicular gate.
 - D. The garage gate open/closure equipment may have malfunctioned.
 - E. The contracted security guard(s) at the facility may have opened the garage gate without properly scanning the area for individuals.
 - F. The Department did not conduct routine inspections to ensure that the facility's garage gate was working properly.
- Briefly describe recommended corrective actions: (Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)
 - 1. Staff was reminded in February 2015, and an updated memo will be sent out on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, stating that non-County entities who would like to use Departmental facilities must rent the space through the Real Estate Division of the Chief Executive Office. This will ensure that liability is addressed, and door locking schedules are coordinated allowing individuals to exit the facility through the front door and not the garage gate.
 - 2. ISD reconfigured/replaced the facility's garage gate in April 2012 so that:
 - The pedestrian door is separate and operates independently from the vehicular gate
 - The vehicular gate is operated by an external keypad in the driveway, instead of a security guard.
 - The pedestrian door is now locked at all times so that it can only be used by DMH staff.
 - 3. DMH will hire a contractor by early 2017 to conduct routine inspections of the mechanical infrastructures in all four (4) County-owned Departmental facilities on a regular basis.
- 3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

County of	Los Angeles
Summary	Corrective Action Plan

Yes – The corrective actions address do No – The corrective actions are only ap	
Some of the corrective actions address	
Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Margo Morales	
Stanature: Metalls	Date: 670(ol.k.
Name: (Department Head) Robin Kay, Ph.D.	
Signature: Kap Ph 1).	Date: 9-)7/6
Chief Executive Office Risk Management Insp Are the corrective actions applicable to other dep Yes, the corrective actions potentially I No, the corrective actions are applicable	partments within the County?
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature: Castro	Date: 9 /29/2016
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INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME Sandra Gabriel, et al. v.

Sandra Gabriel, et al. v. County of Los Angeles,

et al.

CASE NUMBER 2:15-CV-03118

COURT United States District Court

DATE FILED April 27, 2015

COUNTY DEPARTMENT Department of Children and Family Services

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT \$ 140,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF L. Wallace Pate, Esq.

Pate and Bond

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY Jessie Lee

Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE Plaintiffs Sandra Gabriel and her four minor children

filed this action for unlawful seizure, violation of familial privacy/association, violation of due process, Monell claim, and supervisory liability claim as a result of a warrantless detention of the four minors. On April 25, 2013, Ms. Gabriel gave birth to M. G. and both tested positive for amphetamine. Social workers detained M. G. and his siblings without a warrant while M. G. was still in the hospital and his

siblings were under the care of maternal

grandparents.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$ 98,000

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$ 2,520

Case Name: Sandra Gabriel, et al. vs. COLA, et al.



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:	April 26, 2013
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	The plaintiff alleged that her children were removed from her care without consent, a warrant or exigent circumstances, under the pretense of false reports to court, including faulty drug test results.

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

Lack of clarity of what constitutes exigency.

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

The Department had relevant policies and procedures in effect at the time of the incident and continues to ensure that its protocols support the current state of the law so as to assist its workforce to provide appropriate and legally-sufficient child welfare services. Relevant training has been made more accessible to social work staff and a mechanism for tracking completion of such training has been implemented.

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

The corrective actions address department-wide system issues The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Di	
Signature: DIM LYUNAS	Date: 1.17.17
Name: (Department Head)	
PHILIP L. BROWNING, DIRECTOR	
Signature:	Date:
Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspare the corrective actions applicable to other dep Yes, the corrective actions potentially long the corrective actions are applicable.	partments within the County?
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Destiny Castro-	

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME

Jane Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

CASE NUMBER

BC 561292

COURT

Los Angeles County Superior Court

DATE FILED

October 20, 2014

COUNTY DEPARTMENT

Department of Health Services

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT

\$ \$497,000

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Neville Johnson Johnson & Johnson, LLP

COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY

Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel

NATURE OF CASE

On June 20, 2011, Ms. Doe, a 21-year-old female, was brought to the Emergency Department at LAC+USC Medical Center. She was treated by various physicians and nurses.

While at the Emergency Department, a nurse, who was an employee of a contractor with the County of Los Angeles, took Ms. Doe's picture and sent it to another nurse, who was a County employee. The picture was later published on the internet.

Ms. Doe sued the County of Los Angeles and the contracting agency for violation of privacy.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$ 217,337

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$ 13,255

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2017

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 Roger Granbo.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Millicent Rolon; Sheriff's Department: Buddy Goldman, Jason Skeen, and Kelley Fraser.

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(b) below.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 9:41 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. <u>Dalia Silva v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u>
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 595 727

This wrongful death lawsuit alleges negligence and deliberate indifference to medical needs of an inmate while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$250,000.

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

b. <u>Jane Doe v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 561 292

This lawsuit concerns allegations of medical malpractice and privacy breach while Plaintiff was a patient of the Emergency Department at LAC+USC Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to the meeting of February 6, 2017.

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

5. Approval of the minutes of the December 19, 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 9:44 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

Sandra C. Rui