



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  
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, October 2, 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.
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. Rosa Parada de Turcios v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Lancaster Superior Court Case No. MC 025 275

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$175,000.

See Supporting Documents

- b. Cynthia Rodriguez v. Todd Anderson, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 569 760

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.

See Supporting Document

- c. Amalia Guardado v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 610 810

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Mental Health employee and a pedestrian; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$190,670.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- d. Betty McDonald v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 597 665

This lawsuit alleges medical malpractice against the Department of Health Services for injuries suffered while Plaintiff was a patient at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$175,000 (plus the assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the approximate amount of \$40,000).

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. David Gomez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 535 242

This lawsuit alleges medical malpractice against the Department of Health Services for injuries suffered while Plaintiff was a patient at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$595,000 (plus the assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the approximate amount of \$425,000).

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the September 18, 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.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Rosa Parada De Turcios v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	MC025275
COURT	Lancaster Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 3, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 175,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John V. Bell
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessica C. Rivas Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises out of an October 9, 2014 automobile accident caused by a Sheriff's Department employee when he rear-ended plaintiff Rosa Parada de Turcios' vehicle. Ms. Parada de Turcios claims to have suffered injuries and damages as a result of the accident.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 30,225
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 38,241

Case Name: Rosa Parada De Turcios v. County of Los Angeles, 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:	Thursday, October 9, 2014
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><b><u>Rosa Parada De Turcios v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u></b> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2017-024</p> <p>On October 9, 2014, at approximately 1:00 P.M., an on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department sergeant assigned to Lancaster Sheriff's Station was driving a marked patrol vehicle near the intersection of Sierra Highway and Avenue L-12, Lancaster, when the sergeant collided with the plaintiff's vehicle (a 2000 Honda Odyssey van).</p> <p>The sergeant was traveling north on Sierra Highway at approximately 50-55 MPH as the plaintiff's vehicle was traveling in the same lane and direction, in front of him.</p> <p>The plaintiff and sole occupant of her vehicle, slowed for another vehicle that suddenly entered her lane and cut her off. The sergeant's attention had been briefly diverted to the side of the road where he believed some criminal activity was occurring. When the sergeant looked forward, he saw the plaintiff's vehicle was almost completely stopped in front of him. The sergeant applied emergency braking, but was unable to stop before colliding into the rear of the plaintiff's vehicle. The sergeant estimated his speed at the time of impact to be approximately 25 MPH.</p> <p>Paramedics were summoned to the scene, however, the plaintiff refused to be transported to a medical facility.</p> <p>The subsequent traffic investigation determined the sergeant was at fault for the collision for violation of California Vehicle Code section 21703, following too closely.</p>

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

The **Department** root cause in this incident was that the sergeant was following the plaintiff's vehicle too closely, in violation of California Vehicle Code section 21703.

The California Vehicle Code states, "The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon, and the condition of, the roadway."

The sergeant should have allowed ample room between his vehicle and the plaintiff, as well as kept his attention focused in front of him.

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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

The traffic collision was investigated by traffic investigators assigned to Lancaster Sheriff's Station. Their investigation included measurements of the scene, the gathering of witness statements, photographs, analysis and estimations of speeds, distances, road and weather conditions, as well as factual diagrams and applicable mathematical computations.

The subsequent investigation determined the sergeant to be at fault for the collision in violation of California Vehicle Code section 21703, Rules of the Road – Following too closely.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedures in effect at the time of the incident. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addressed the circumstances which occurred in the incident. Appropriate administrative action has been taken.

Lancaster Sheriff's Station conducted a review of all deputy involved collisions which occurred between this incident on October 9, 2014 and April, 2017. The goal of the review and audit was to identify patterns of driving immediately following similar incidents, as well as identify solutions to prevent or mitigate such collisions. Based on the audit, a traffic reduction - risk management plan was developed.

The audit revealed 43 "preventable" deputy involved traffic collisions occurred between the dates noted above:

33% were attributed to moving violations such as failing to yield the right of way to an approaching vehicle, or making an unsafe turn

30% were attributed to unsafe backing or starting

14% were attributed to sworn personnel following a vehicle too closely

12% resulted from the driver's inattention

7% resulted from the involved persons unsafe speed

2% were attributed to a failure to stop for a posted traffic signal.

Mitigation efforts will include a quarterly audit of preventable traffic collisions, and an increase of employees attending the Department's Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction (S.T.A.R.) driving program.

Personnel receiving at least (1) administrative driving point will be evaluated for both the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) and/or S.T.A.R. driving program.

In addition, recurrent briefings of applicable Department policy and state law are being conducted on all shifts. Field supervisors have been tasked to monitor the driving habits of all persons under their span of control.

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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)

Scott E. Johnson, Captain  
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



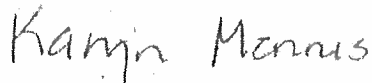
Date:

9-5-17

Name: (Department Head)

Karyn Mannis, Chief  
Professional Standards and Training Division

Signature:



Date:

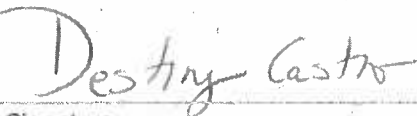
09-12-17

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: (Risk Management Inspector General)



Signature:



Date:

9/18/2017

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Cynthia Rodriguez v. Todd Anderson, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC569760
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 20, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ryan C. Stanley Cohen & Marzban Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessica C. Rivas Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a lawsuit filed by Cynthia Rodriguez for bodily injuries and loss of earnings caused by a Sheriff's Deputy in a January 30, 2014 traffic collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$45,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 13,965
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,848

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Amalia Guardado v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 610810
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 18, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Mental Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 190,670
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Geri Saklad
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On November 19, 2014, Ms. Guardado was walking east in a marked crosswalk which connects the southwest corner of the intersection of Vermont Avenue and 220th Street to its southeast corner. When she was approximately half-way through the intersection, she was struck by a vehicle being driven by an employee of the Department of Mental Health who was driving to a client appointment at a nursing home. The employee was making a left turn and failed to see Ms. Guardado because the sun was in his eyes as he made his turn. Ms. Guardado claims injuries to her head, neck, back, arms, left hip, and both legs.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$190,670 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 29,416
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,122



## 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:	11/19/2014
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	A DMH employee was driving to see a client and a nursing facility. On his way, he made a left turn and hit Plaintiff, who was walking in the crosswalk. Plaintiff claimed that as a result of this incident, she suffered various injuries necessitating surgery as well as lost earnings.

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

A. The DMH employee operated the vehicle in a negligent manner.

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

1. A Letter of Warning was issued to the DMH employee on May 2, 2017, regarding his failure to exercise sound judgment as a mileage permittee.
2. The DMH employee completed the online Defensive Driving Training course on June 6, 2017, and is scheduled to take DMH's In-person Safe Driving Training course on August 24, 2017. DMH will also require the employee to take a behind-the-wheel driver's training course prior to August 24, 2017.

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.  
☐ Some of the corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)  
Mar. Morales

Signature:

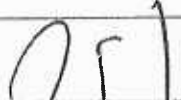
*Mar. Morales*


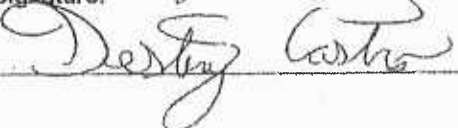
Date:

06/14/17

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Name: (Department Head) Jonathan Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.	
Signature: 	Date: 7/3/17

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>	
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) 	
Signature: 	Date: 6/26/2017

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Betty McDonald v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 597665
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 13, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 175,000, plus County's assumption of Medi-Cal lien in the approximate amount of \$40,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	George Royce, Esq. Law Offices of George Royce
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian, Esq. Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On March 5, 2015, Betty McDonald underwent a laparoscopic procedure at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center ("Rancho"). Postoperatively, Ms. McDonald developed pain and fever.</p> <p>On March 6, 2015, Ms. McDonald underwent another procedure where the staff discovered that she was suffering from a small tear in her colon which was inadvertently caused during the March 5, 2015 procedure.</p> <p>Ms. McDonald filed a complaint against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the March 5, 2015 procedure at Rancho was negligently performed.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 76,245
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 24,087

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	David Gomez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 535242
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 4, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 595,000 plus County's assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the approximate amount of \$425,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Philip Michaels, Esq. Law Offices of Michaels & Lew
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian, Esq. Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>Plaintiff, David Gomez, was a patient at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center ("HUMC"). While the HUMC staff were managing Mr. Gomez' infection, he suffered a respiratory arrest, and as a result, suffered brain injury.</p> <p>Mr. Gomez, by his Guardian-Ad-Litem, filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the HUMC failed to provide the appropriate care thereby causing him to suffer brain injury.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 372,142
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 144,343

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 2017

### 1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:28 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 Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Lindsay Yoshiyama, Dusan Pavlovic, Timothy Kral, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Wendy Sha, Richard Kudo, Jessica Rivas, Thomas Fagan, Adrian Gragas, and Stacey Lee; Department of Public Works: David Rydman and Dominic Osmena; Sheriff's Department: Christy Guyovich, Jennifer Bateman, April Carter, David Walters, Kimberly Unland, Kevin Percy, and Dominic Dannan, Department of Mental Health: Margo Morales, Mary Ann O'Donnell and Joseph Ortega; Department of Parks and Recreation: David Waage and Donald Limbrick; Department of Children and Family Services: Christina Lee and Diane Iglesias; Fire Department: William McCloud, Julia Bennett, and Patricia Chan; and Outside Counsel: Tomas Guterres and Ronda Jamgotchian.

### 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 9:30 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(k) below.

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

At 11:34 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. **Non-Litigated Claims of Alfredo and Robin Trento and State Farm Insurance**

This inverse condemnation claim against the Department of Public Works contends that an air release valve malfunctioned and released water onto claimants' property.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$54,867.76.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

b. **Jenaro Soto v. Los Angeles County Flood Control District, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-00787**

This lawsuit against the Department of Public Works alleges violation of Plaintiff's civil rights under the American with Disabilities Act as he experienced fear and anxiety accessing ADA non-compliant entry points to the Rio Hondo Bike Path, which is owned and maintain by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$30,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

c. **Angel Galvez v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. CV 15-08747**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that Sheriff's Department personnel failed to protect Plaintiff from an assault by another inmate.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$60,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

d. **Dwight Edmondson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 535 508**

This lawsuit alleges that Sheriff's Deputies detained, falsely arrested, and used excessive force on Plaintiff at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Metro Station.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$39,750.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

e. **Maria Loberg, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 16-CV-06190**

This lawsuit concern allegations that Mr. Loberg committed suicide while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility and while receiving care provided by the Department of Mental Health.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,700,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

f. **Ban Nguyen v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 572 479**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,600,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

**g. Tomas Casillas v. Stephen David Martin, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 560 247**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee and a pedestrian.

**Action Taken:**

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

**h. Fanny Valenzuela, a minor by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, Maria Valenzuela v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 565 890**

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Parks and Recreation arises from injuries received in a trip and fall accident at Mary M. Bethune Park.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$47,200.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

**i. Advokids, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 150 163**

This lawsuit seeks a court order commanding the Department of Children and Family Services to provide foster parents with notice and the opportunity to be heard and submit evidence at proceedings involving children in their care.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$500,868.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

j. **Nida Hoese v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 567 918**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department utility truck.

**Action Taken:**

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

k. **Stephen Weston v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-3330**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Fire Department violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by not compensating Plaintiff for overtime.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$154,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

5. **Approval of the minutes of the August 21, 2017, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, 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 11:36 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By   
Sandra C. Ruiz