

APPROVED

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953 (b),(f).

Teleconference Locations for Trustees and the Public under California
Government Code Section 54953(b).
2618 Newton Street NE, Washington D.C. 20016

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Les Robbins, Chair

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Seventh Member)

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Jason E. Green

Aleen Langton

Wayne Moore (By Teleconference)

David Ryu

ABSENT:

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

Zack Meth, Staff Counsel

Jessica Rivas, Staff Counsel

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robbins at 9:03 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Kehoe led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (f)

- A. Just Cause
- B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests
- C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

There were no requests.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2025

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu
Abstain: Fesler

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

IV. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Ana Chang, Arturo Guzman, Jr., Andrea Ellison and Michael Huang.

- B. Awards

Mr. Popowich recognized each member of the Employee Council Team.

V. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

C. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Stephanie Barnett.

D. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Lugo provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

VI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

APPLICATION NO.

NAME

574E*

BETTS, ERIC C. (DEC'D)

575E

NORTH, JAMES J.

576E

BRUNER, THOMAS G.

577E

CASTRO, MARK C.

578E

DAVIS, NICOLE R.

579E

ROBINSON, CINDY

580E

MARQUEZ, MARIO R., JR.

581E

RULE, SCOTT A.

582E

COLLADO, NELSON C. (DEC'D)

583E

SCHMIDT, CHELSEA L.

584E

ADLER, KELLY L.

585E

LOZANO, ADALBERTO G.

586E

CARTER, KERRY A.

587E**

SUAREZ, KEITH M.

588E

YUANGBHANICH, KANE L.

589E

DOTY, ROBERT C.

*Granted SCD Survivor Benefit

**Granted SCD Retroactive

VI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
590E	BUNNELL, DICK J.
591E**	WHEELER, JAMES A.
592E**	PATTERSON, DAVID A.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1915B*	SALDIBAR, ANDREW M.
1916B*	PEREA, ROBERT A.
1917B	GUINTO, RENATO S., JR.
1918B	LEVESQUE, MATHEW R.
1919B	JERZEK, SCOTT R.
1920B	CONTRERAS, GILBERT, JR.
1921B	FOWLER, STEPHEN C.
1922B	MCALISTER, NEIL A.
1923B	GREGER, JOHN G.
1924B	BARRETT, JEANE M.
1925B	PUGH, SCOTT D.
1926B	WARE, DAVID S.
1927B	APLANALP, MICHAEL L.
1928B	MOORE, SCOTT N.

*Granted SCD Retroactive

VI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

APPLICATION NO.

NAME

2886C*

NEW, BRIAN L.

2887C**

BINGHAM, GLENDRA

2888C**

MCINTOSH, ALICIA F.

2889C**

MARTINEZ, REBECA

2890C***

CRUMB, AIYSHA T.

2891C

HEINZ, STARLA Y.

2892C***

AYALA, JESSE

2893C

MENDOZA, MARIA D.

2894C

AGUILAR, DAVID A.

2895C****

LAGANSUA, ROBERTO G.

2896C

HOANG, VALENTINO

2897C

SANTOS, YVONNE M.

2898C*

CARMONA, ARACELY

2899C***

LACY, JOHN E.

2900C*****

GONZALES, REYNALDO A.

2901C

BLAKELY-BROWN, MIA C.

2902C*

FLORES, MONICA

2903C

VILLA, JOHN L.

2904C

ALLEN, MARTIN S.

*Granted SCD Retroactive

**Granted SCD Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD Salary Supplement

****Granted SCD Salary Supplement Employer Cannot Accommodate

*****Granted SCD Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to approve consent items A-E.

A. Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as February 25, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated February 25, 2025)

B. State Engagement: Visit with California State Legislature

Recommendation as submitted by Les Robbins, Chair, Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative Committee: That the Board approve visits during the 2025 legislative year with the California State Legislature by trustees and staff as designated by the Chair of the Board of Retirement and approve reimbursement of travel costs incurred in accordance with LACERA's Trustee Travel Policy. (Memo dated February 11, 2025)

C. 2025-2026 Plan Year Health Insurance Rate Renewals and Benefit Changes for LACERA's Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program

Recommendation as submitted by the Les Robbins, Chair, Insurance, Benefits, and Legislative Committee: That the Board 1) Approve the fiscal year 2025-2026 rate renewal proposal and mandatory contractual changes, listed by carrier; 2) Maintain LACERA's administrative fee at \$8 per member, per plan, per month; and 3) Allow a one-time temporary waiver of the 6-month waiting period for the commercial plan members currently enrolled in the United Healthcare Pre-65 medical plan. (Memo dated February 7, 2025)

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

D. **Pensionability Analysis Under CERL and PEPRA for New Pay Items**

Recommendation as submitted by Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel and Zack Meth, Staff Counsel: That the Board 1) Approve the recommendation as to each of the pay items (Psychiatry Jail Registry Rate – Relief Physician (Item No. 304), Psychiatry Jail Registry Rate – Relief Mental Health Psychiatrist (Item No. 305), Relief Physician Carceral Care Rate (Item No. 306); and 2) Instruct staff to coordinate with the Auditor-Controller to establish necessary reporting mechanism and procedures to permit LACERA to implement such determinations when calculating final compensation for legacy and PEPRA members. (Memo dated February 18, 2025)

E. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Perry R. Secor, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoices for Perry R. Secor, M.D.
(Memo dated February 20, 2025 – Attachment is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.700, 54957.56(a))

VIII. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion.

IX. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **LACERA 2025 Election of Seventh and Alternate Seventh Members Review and Update of the Statement of Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees**

Recommendation as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel: That the Board select and approve the format and content of the “Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees,” which will be included in the ballot materials for the 2025 election of the Seventh Member and Alternate Seventh Member of the Board of Retirement and posted on lacera.com. (Memo dated February 27, 2025)

IX. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve Option B in the memo for this item dated February 27, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

B. **Policy Governing Deductions for Dues and Similar Assessments from Retired Member Benefit Allowances**

Recommendation as submitted by JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer: That the Board adopt the revised Policy Governing Deductions for Dues and Similar Assessments from Retired Member Benefit Allowances and authorize staff to begin implementing the new policy with all existing agencies. (Memo dated February 25, 2025) (Confidential Memo dated February 27, 2025 - Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

Trustee Langton made a motion, Trustee Fesler seconded, to make changes to page 3 of the policy regarding inclusion of all statutory deduction categories and refer back to staff before taking action on the policy.

The motion was amended without objection to include the policy being implemented for new deductions prospectively while staff reach out to the 33 agencies receiving current deductions.

Trustee Green made a substitute motion, Trustee Durazo seconded, to adopt the policy with the changes identified, in addition to reaching out to the 33 agencies and with a monthly update to the Board or Operations Oversight Committee.

The substitute motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Green, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

No: Langton, Fesler

X. REPORTS

A. **PEPRA Compensation Limit and Final Compensation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(Presentation) (Memo dated February 19, 2025)

Mr. Lew provided a presentation to the Board and answered questions.
This item was received and filed.

B. **Federal Legislative Advocate: Self-Evaluation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 18, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 25, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – January 2025
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – 2nd Quarter Trustee Travel and Education
Expenditure Reports**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 21, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – 2nd Quarter Staff Travel Report

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 21, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Semi-Annual Interest Crediting for Reserves as of December 31,
2024**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 30, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

X. REPORTS (Continued)

F. **February 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated February 24, 2025)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

This item was received and filed.

XI. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Staff will provide a monthly update regarding Item IX. B.

XII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

XIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER
(For Information Purposes Only)

The Board welcomed Trustee Bobbie Fesler to the Board of Retirement.

XIV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5448B – OZOEMENA, PASCHAL C.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

XIV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5427B – HOFMANN, SANFORD K.

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In open session, Chief Counsel announced that Item XV.A concerned the contract claim of Morado Intelligence, LLC.

A. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9

Number of Cases: One
(Memo dated February 24, 2025)

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board voted 9-0 to approve a settlement with Morado Intelligence, LLC, with Trustees Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, and Ryu, voting yes.

B. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9

1. Administrative Appeal of Michele L. Webber-Klein
(Memo dated February 19, 2025)

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)

Following the Board of Retirement's denial of Appellant's request to purchase service credit and the direction provided to staff as reported from the Board's December 4, 2024 meeting, the Board again reviewed the matter and provided staff with additional direction, which will be reported at a future date if required by the Brown Act.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.



SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY



LES ROBBINS, CHAIR