

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, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Seventh Member)

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Jason E. Green (Joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.)

Nancy Durazo (Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Section 54953 (f))
(Joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.)

Bobbie Fesler

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Aleen Langton

Wayne Moore

David Ryu (Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Section 54953 (f))
(Joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Les Robbins, Chair

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Acting Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jon Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Eugenia Der, Senior Staff Counsel

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Jasmine Bath, Senior Staff Counsel

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

James C. Beasley Jr., Supervising Administrative Assistant II

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Kehoe at 9:02 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Ginsberg 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

A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. There were two requests received from Trustee Durazo (Just Cause (B) Due to Contagious Illness) and Trustee Ryu (Just Cause (A) Childcare Needs) to attend by teleconference. Trustee Durazo and Trustee Ryu confirmed that there were no individuals 18 years of age or older present at the teleconference location.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 6, 2025

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 6, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A written comment was received and filed on behalf of LACERA member, Terry F. Stevenson, regarding her disability retirement application.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Tamara Caldwell Margaret Chwa, Eddie Tomita and Sevag Antabian. The Web Watcher winner was Leilani Ignacio and the Rideshare winner was Liping Li.

- B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Karen A. Stevens.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE (Continued)

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

VII. 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

720E

OHNEMUS, MATTHEW W.

721E

O'BRIEN, JOHN P.

722E

RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN L.

723E

MELANSON, KEITH C.

724E

SIMMONS, RICHARD K.

725E

AMBRIZ, JEANINE M.

726E*

DARBY, JULIE A.

727E

SUN, BRANDON K.

728E*

SPEED, RICHARD L., JR.

729E

MUSIL, TRACEY D.

730E

OH, MIKE S.

731E

CABRERA, DANIEL A.

732E

HARRIS, ROSALINA L.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton 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.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1989B	KEEHN, JAMES V.
1990B*	DIGGS, COREY D.
1991B*	BARRIGA, RUBEN, JR.
1992B	ESCOBEDO, GARY A.
1993B	FEDERICO, TOM G.
1994B*	PADILLA, MIGUEL
1995B	THOMPSON, THOMAS M.
1996B**	FORMAN, FRANK W.
1997B	PORTER, JAMES S.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Okum, 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.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2983C	HOWARD, CHARITY D.
2984C	ANDINO, CHRISTINA D.
2985C*	THOMAS, CURTIS
2986C**	BLAKENEY, LESLIE M.
2987C***	FLORES, ARNOLD S.
2988C*****	ORRANTE, ERICKA L.
2989C*****	HARDY, ETTA M.
2990C****	MCBIRNEY, ROBERT F. (DEC'D)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

**Granted SCD – Retro Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

****Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

*****Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employee who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of her usual duties.

APPLICATION NO.
4517*

NAME
METTLER, HEIDI N.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve consent items A-D. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

A. **Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals**

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of August 25, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated August 27, 2025)

B. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of Lisa Washington**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice Lisa Washington's appeal for a Service-Connected Survivor Benefit. (Memo dated August 8, 2025)

*Granted NSCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

- C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Perry Maloff, M.D.**
Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Perry Maloff, M.D.
(Memo dated August 8, 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))
- D. **Pensionability Analysis Under CERL and PEPRA for New Pay Items**
Recommendation as submitted by Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel: That the Board: 1) Approve the recommendations set forth above as to the pay items; 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 August 8, 2025)
- E. **Review of Fiduciary Counsel Policy**
Recommendation as submitted by Patrick Jones, Chair, Joint Organizational Governance Committee: That the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments approve the proposed revised Fiduciary Counsel Policy. (Memo dated August 26, 2025 – Attached Privileged Letter from Nossaman LLP, Fiduciary Counsel is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))
- F. **Request for Proposal for Fiduciary Counsel Services**
Recommendation as submitted by Patrick Jones, Chair, Joint Organizational Governance Committee: That the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments issue an RFP for fiduciary counsel services.
(Memo dated August 26, 2025)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

Agenda Item VIII. E - F were pulled for further discussion.

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve consent items E - F. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

Yes: Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Ryu

Absent: Durazo

X. NON – CONSENT ITEMS

(Ms. Durazo joined the meeting at 9:28 am and Mr. Green joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.)

A. **2026 STAR COLA Program Eligibility and Cost**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer:

- (1) That the Board of Retirement make public at its meeting on September 3, 2025, the cost of approving an award under the ad-hoc and permanent STAR COLA Program in 2026 at an 80% benefit level. If a benefit is approved, the projected cost for the ad-hoc STAR COLA award is \$832,000, while the cost for awarding a permanent STAR COLA is \$8,824,000 as determined by LACERA's consulting actuary, Milliman; and
- (2) Direct staff to place this item on the Board of Retirement's October agenda to decide at that time whether or not to award a STAR COLA for Program Year 2026, and if awarded, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be ad-hoc or permanent. Craig Glyde, Consulting Actuary, Milliman
(Presentation) (Memo dated August 22, 2025)

Mr. Granger and Mr. Glyde of Milliman provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

X. NON – CONSENT ITEMS

B. **Proposed Boardroom Floor Plan Layout**

Recommendation as submitted by James C. Beasley Jr., Supervising Administrative Assistant II, Administrative Services Division: That the Board of Retirement authorize the floor plan (Attachment A) and the commencement of the construction of the new Boardroom.

(Memo dated August 19, 2025)

Mr. Beasley and Ms. Guglielmo provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Trustee Green made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

XI. REPORTS

A. **Legal Transactions Year End Report**

Christine Roseland, Senior Staff Counsel
(Presentation) (Memo August 25, 2025)

Mses. Roseland and Wang provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board. This item was received and filed.

B. **Report of Revised Pay Items**

Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 4, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Contracting Activity Report – July 2025**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager
Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II
(For Information Only) (Memo August 21, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

D. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – July 2025**
FY 2024-2025 4th Quarter Trustee Travel & Education Expenditure Reports

FY 2024-2025 4th Quarter Staff Travel Report

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memos dated August 22, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 23, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

F. **Semi-Annual Interest Crediting for Reserves as of June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Michael Huang, Accounting Officer II

(For Information Only) (Memo dated July 28, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

G. **August 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 26, 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.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There was nothing to report.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The Board requested that staff prepare a comprehensive report on improving disability processing times and identifying the reasons for the current delays.

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

Mr. Lugo announced the new hires and internal promotions for the month of Tony Phung, David Gharibian, Shay Matsuura, Maritza Perez, Justin Chiu, Sarah Robles, Gabriela Valadez and Dena Carbajal.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5466B – SICAIROS, GENESIS C.

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to deny a service-connected supplemental allowance and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5454B – LAMPKIN, YULANDA T.*

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31720.5. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorney Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION
(Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5463B – WILLIAMS, RANDALL S.*

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

MADRID, MAX – In Pro Per
Jason Waller for the Respondent

Trustee Fesler made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement.

Trustee Langton made a substitute motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to request the necessary transcripts for further information and to formally notify the applicant. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

C. Staff Recommendations

1. **Terry F. Stevenson* – Recommendation to Grant a Service-Connected Disability Retirement**

Recommendation as submitted by Eugenia W. Der, Senior Staff Counsel: That the Board, pursuant to Government Code sections 31720 and 31724, find Terry F. Stevenson permanently incapacitated from the performance of her duties for service-connected reasons

*Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorney Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION
(Continued)

and grant her a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date. (Memo dated August 14, 2025)

Trustee Langton made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

2. **Application of Jeff C. Howard (Deceased)**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board instruct staff to close Jeff C. Howard's (deceased) application for Disability Retirement. (Memo dated August 25, 2025)

Trustee Fesler made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

1. **Hines v. LACERA**

Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 23STCV23309
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 25, 2025)

There was nothing to report.

B. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation
(Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)

1. **Number of Cases: 2**

Case 1: (Memo dated August 19, 2025)

There was nothing to report.

Case 2: (Memo dated August 26, 2025)

There was nothing to report.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Signature on File

SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY

Signature on File

LES ROBBINS, CHAIR