

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, JANUARY 7, 2026

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953.8.3.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

JP Harris, Chair

Wayne Moore, Vice Chair (Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Section 54953.8.3.)

Les Robbins, Secretary

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Jason E. Green (Safety Alternate) (Joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.)

Aleen Langton

Ernesto J. Pantoja

David Ryu (Left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Atkinson Andelson Loya Ruud & Romo PLC

Irma Rodríguez Moisa, LACERA's Chief Negotiator

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harris at 9:04 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER SB707

A. Just Cause (Section 54953.8.3)

B. Statement of Persons Present at SB707 Teleconference Locations

Trustee Moore requested to participate in the meeting via teleconference for Just Cause, pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.3(c)(3) (SB 707). The reason for Just Cause was a need related to physical condition. A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. Trustee Moore confirmed that no individuals 18 years of age or older were present at the teleconference location.

IV. RATIFICATION OF OFFICERS

A. **Board of Retirement Board Officers – 2026 Calendar Year**

Recommendation as submitted by Luis A. Lugo, Acting Chief Executive Officer: That the Board ratify its slate of board officers who will serve their term in the 2026 calendar year under the Board's Board Officer Rotation Policy: James P. Harris as Chair, Wayne Moore as Vice Chair, and Les Robbins as Secretary. (Memo dated December 14, 2025)

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

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Fesler, Langton, Moore, Pantoja, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Green

V. ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Election of Trustees to Joint Organizational Governance Committee (1 Trustee) and Audit, Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Committee (3 Trustees)

Trustee Harris nominated Trustee Robbins for the position of Joint Organizational Governance Committee Member for 2026. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Trustee Harris announced that Trustee Robbins was elected.

Trustee Harris nominated Trustee Kehoe, Trustee Fesler and Trustee Langton to positions as Members of the Audit, Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Committee Member for 2026. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Harris announced that Trustees Kehoe, Fesler and Langton were elected.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2025

Trustee Langton made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Continued)

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

Absent: Green

Abstain: Pantoja

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VIII. EXECUTIVE UPDATE (Mr. Green joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.)

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: George Lunde, Irma Ornelas, Richard Bendall and Wenona Meyers. The Rideshare winner was Maria Cervantes and there were no web watcher winners.

B. Awards

Mr. Popowich recognized the members of the 2025 Employee Council Team and highlighted their hard work in organizing charitable and social events that strengthen our organizational culture.

C. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Adiel Vasquez.

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.

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Robbins, 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>
802E	THOMAS, STANLEY
803E	TRANI, JOHN A.
804E	GOMEZ, ERNESTO
805E	BURCHER, JOHN P.
806E	MEZA, GUSTAVO
807E	HARPER, BRIAN C.
808E*	WIARD, ROBERT G.
809E	LASKO, ERIC S.
810E*	RENTERIA, JULIA P.
811E	KOVAC, KRESIMIR M.
812E	FINN, MICHAEL T., JR.
813E	SLIMAK, TAYLOR M.
814E	SILVA, MICHAEL E.
815E	CHEATHAM, ERIC N.
816E	MISSAKIAN, GARY J.
817E**	RUIZ, FRANCIS R.
818E	FREDERICKSON, TRACY L.
819E	HAYDEN, KILEY B.
820E	BARAJAS, ADOLFO, JR.
821E	BARRAZA, TAYLOR N.
822E	VAN GORDER, DAVID R.
823E	NELSON, ROBERT A.
824E	LEON, DAVID
825E	GARCIA, ROBERT M.

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Retro Employer Cannot Accommodate

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)
Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Safety Fire, Lifeguards
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green seconded by Trustee Robbins, 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>
1029C	PITTS, GLEN A.
1030C	PALMA, DANIEL G.
1031C	LONERGAN, GREGORY B.
1032C	BETTERIDGE, STEVEN P.
1033C	COTA, DENNIS A.
1034C	DORSEY, MARVIN
1035C	GARCIA, MIGUEL A.
1036C	CERVANTES, JASON A.
1037C	BERNIER, DAVID C.
1038C	DORN, VINCENT J.
1039C*	MONROE, MICHAEL P.
1040C**	MERCADO, MICHAEL H. (DEC'D)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Granted SCD – Retroactive
**Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Green, 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>
2054D*	ORTIZ, ROSSANA E.
2055D*	LAZOS, MIRIAM T.
2056D**	BURNS, ANTHONY D., JR.
2057D***	PEREZ VALDEZ, ANNA M.
2058D**	BERMUDEZ, JEAN E.
2059D*	MILLER, JULIE A.
2060D***	BOOS, KAREN L.
2061D**	MACKINTOSH, REBECCA R.
2062D	GALVAN, ANTHONY J.
2063D*	NEVINS, MARY ANNE
2064D***	MEZA, MARTHA P.
2065D	MARIN-CORBETT, MARTHA
2066D	RHODES, DAMION R.
2067D	HERRERA, CARLOS J.
2068D*	ROSSI, CLINTON S.
2069D*	ALVAREZ, NANCY
2070D**	DAWSON, FREDRICK E.
2071D*	SEGURA, KATHERINE
2072D*	JOHNSON, NICOLE D.
2073D	RAMOS, MICHAEL U.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

**Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

***Granted SCD – Retroactive

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

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

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
4520*	PATTERSON, PORSHA N.
4521	MANUMALEUNA, DON H.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

X. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Robbins made a motion, Trustee Pantoja seconded, to approve consent items A-C. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

A. Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as December 30, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated December 30, 2025)

B. Appeal(s) for the Board of Retirement's Meeting

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board of Retirement grant the appeals and requests for administrative hearing received

*Granted NSCD – Retroactive

X. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

from Dacia A. Martinez and Herman B. Edwards and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee. (Memo dated December 22, 2025)

- C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Stuart Fischer M.D.**
Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Stuart Fischer M.D. (Memo dated December 18, 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))

XI. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion

XII. REPORTS

- A. **Disability Retirement Services: Strategic Operations and Performance**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services (Presentation) (Memo dated December 18, 2025)

Ms. Caldwell provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board. This item was received and filed.

- B. **SB707 Amendments to the Brown Act**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 30, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

- C. **Contract Activity Report - November 2025**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager
Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II
(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 15, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

XII. REPORTS (Continued)

D. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – November 2025**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 22, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

E. **December 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 29, 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.

F. **Fiduciary Counsel Annual Self-Assessments**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 29, 2025)

(Attachments are 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.

XIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

The Board directed staff to review and consider raising the current disability vendor invoice threshold.

XIV. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

XV. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For Information Purposes Only)

The Board and Staff welcomed Trustee Ernesto Pantoja.

Before going into Executive Session, Chief Counsel Steven P. Rice stated for the record that Item XVII(A)(1) relates to LACERA's negotiations, through the Chief Negotiator and bargaining team stated on the agenda, with LACERA employees represented by SEIU in Bargaining Units 850 and 851, and that Items XVII(A)(2) and (3) relate to benefit questions received from the County of Los Angeles. This information was inadvertently omitted from the published agenda.

Trustee Fesler recused herself from Items XVII(A)(1), (2), and (3).

XVI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5475B – PENA, JOSE L.

Trustee Fesler made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement – ineligible for a disability retirement. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Fesler, Langton, Moore, Pantoja, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Green

B. Staff Recommendations

1. **Application of Velma M. Ingram (Deceased)**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board instruct staff to close Velma M. Ingram's (deceased) application for Disability Retirement. (Memo dated December 22, 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, Ginsberg, Fesler, Langton, Moore, Pantoja, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Green

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Trustee Fesler recused herself for the Executive Session Items) (Mr. Ryu left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.)

A. Conference with Labor Negotiators
(Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6)

1. **Agency Designated Representatives**

Chief Negotiator Irma Rodriguez Moisa, Carly Ntoya, Luis Lugo, Laura Guglielmo, JJ Popowich, Annette Cleary, and Jasmine Bath

There is nothing to report.

2. **Labor Negotiation with Represented Group**

Luis A. Lugo, Acting Chief Executive Officer
(Memo dated December 19, 2025)

There is nothing to report.

3. **One Item**

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 10, 2025)

There is nothing to report.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Signature on File

LES ROBBINS, SECRETARY

Signature on File

JP HARRIS, CHAIR