

# 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, FEBRUARY 4, 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 (Retired Alternate)

Wayne Moore, Vice Chair

Les Robbins, Secretary

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Jason E. Green (Safety Alternate)

Shawn R. Kehoe

Aleen Langton

Ernesto J. Pantoja

David Ryu

#### STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, 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

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Christine Roseland, Senior Staff Counsel

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Nossaman LLP

Ashley Dunning, Partner

Alex Westerfield, Partner

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harris at 9:26 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Robbins 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

There was nothing to report. No trustees participated under Section 54953.8.3

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2026

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2026. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Janet Chan, Chris Ibarra, Serineh Davis and Gloria Rios. There were no Rideshare winners and the web watcher winner was Kevin Hawkins.

- B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Cesar Huerta.

- 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 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>
826E*	PORTER, DAVID L.
827E**	WILLIAMS, JOSEPH J.
828E	ODENTHAL, ERIC M.
829E	HUGHES, CLINT E.
830E	HENSEL, ADAM S.
831E	GREENWOOD, JILL R.
832E	BARBER, RANDY J.
833E	JORDAN, HEATH M.
834E	CHRISTIANSEN, JENNY A.
835E	DE LA MAZA, ROLANDO R.
836E	BROOKS, ERIKA L.
837E	HITA, CHRISTOPHER D.
838E	FERNANDEZ, PABLO G., III
839E*	PONCE, KIMBERLY A.
840E	ROSA, JAMES A.
841E	MOORE, DELBERT B.
842E*	BOWLEY, JASON R.
843E***	OSBORN, WILLIAM C. (DEC'D)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*\*Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Ginsberg, 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>
1041C	CHAVEZ, CHRISTOPHER
1042C	SCHIARETTI, GARRETT N.
1043C	CHATTLE, CASEY P.
1044C	HAGAN, BRYAN E.
1045C	STILSON, TODD M.
1046C	KOJO, ERNEST A.
1047C	BREHM, EDWARD B.
1048C	DICKEY, TRAVIS W.
1049C	RODORACIO, DAVE R.
1050C	WINDES, CARY J.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Ginsberg, 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.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2074D	LIMMEN, EUGENE I.
2075D	WADE-SANCHEZ, RHONDA L.
2076D*	PAYNE, RICKEY D.
2077D**	VALVERDE, MAURO H.
2078D*	SMITH, TANYA D.
2079D***	PALACIO, DORA G.
2080D	HUBBER, PETER W.
2081D*	GONZALEZ, ANNA M.
2082D**	DOZIER, ERIC J.
2083D****	ROJAS, THOMAS G.
2084D	GUTIERREZ, THERESA A.
2085D	ASH WILLIAMS, YOLANDA M.
2086D*	FLOURNOY, SUNNIE M.
2087D*****	ROSALES, CARMEN J.
2088D**	STRICKLAND, ALEXIS N.
2089D**	HALL, SHAENA D.
2090D*	WADE, KATRINA K.
2091D**	ROBINSON, ISIAH E.
2092D	COZINE, ROBERT
2093D*	HASTINGS, JOEL
2094D*	ARVIZU, RICHARD V.

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

\*\*\*Granted SCD – Retro Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*\*\*Granted SCD – Salary Supplement Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*\*\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

## VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

### General Members (Continued) Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

## VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Kehoe, 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 January 27, 2026, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated January 27, 2026)

### B. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of George F. Gillen**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice George F. Gillen's appeal for a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date. (Memo dated January 15, 2026)

### C. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of Ingrid L. Martinez**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice Ingrid L. Martinez's appeal for a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date. (Memo dated January 15, 2026)

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

- D. **Appeals for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of February 4, 2026**  
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 from Andrea P. Ramsey and Jose L. Pena and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee.  
(Memo dated January 22, 2026)
- E. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request-Winet Patrick Gayer Creighton & Hanes**  
Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Winet Patrick Creighton & Hanes (Memo dated January 15, 2026 – 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))
- F. **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 new pay items. 2. Instruct staff to coordinate with the Auditor-Controller to establish the necessary reporting mechanisms and procedures to permit LACERA to implement such determinations when calculating final compensation for legacy and PEPRA members.  
(Memo dated January 16, 2026)
- G. **Appeal For the Board of Retirement's Meeting of February 4, 2026**  
Recommendation, as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Sr. Staff Counsel: That the Board of Retirement grant the appeal and request for administrative hearing received from confidential applicant 2H2024K and direct the Legal Office to refer the case to a referee.  
(Memo dated January 13, 2026)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion

X. NON CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Cost-Of-Living Adjustment Effective April 1, 2026**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer: That the Board of Retirement determine the Consumer Price Index for the year ended December 2025 changed by 3.0% (and when rounded to the nearest one-half of 1.0% as the COLA benefit rules require: the LACERA 2026 COLA Award is 3.0%), and approve cost-of-living adjustments and respective COLA Accumulation changes for retired LACERA members and beneficiaries, based on retirement plan and date of retirement or death, to become effective April 1, 2026 in accordance with applicable California Government Code Sections. (Memo dated January 21, 2026)

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

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

B. **Disability Case Review – CPI Increase in Compensation Effective April 1, 2026**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer: That the Board of Retirement determine the Consumer Price Index changed by 6.5% for the last two calendar years ended December 2025 and adjust the compensation for the review and analysis of disability retirement cases to a maximum of \$157 per day, to be prorated for less than eight hours in a single day at the hourly rate of \$19.63, effective April 1, 2026. (Memo dated January 23, 2026)

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

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

X. NON CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

C. **LACERA 2026 Election of Second, Eighth, and Alternate Retired Trustees: Approval of Statement of Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees**

Recommendation as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel: That the Board of Retirement approve the “Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees,” which will be included in the election materials for the 2026 election of the Second, Eighth, and Alternate Retired Trustees of the Board and also posted on lacera.gov. (Memo dated January 28, 2026)

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

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

D. **Assembly Bill 1383—Public Employees’ Retirement Benefits**

Recommendation as submitted by Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer: That the Board maintain a “Watch” position on Assembly Bill 1383, which would adjust the pensionable compensation limit to be consistent with the Social Security wage base. (Memo dated January 26, 2026)

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

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

No: Kehoe

E. **Revised Policy for the Procurement of Goods and Services**

Recommendation as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager and Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II: That the Board of Retirement adopt the revised Policy for the Procurement of Goods and Services. This action would delegate purchasing authority to the Chief Executive Officer

X. NON CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

and designated staff, enabling more efficient and streamlined procurement processes within the organization.

(Memo dated January 12, 2026)

Trustee Robbins made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded to approve staff's recommendation.

Trustee Kehoe made a substitute motion, Trustee Fesler seconded to increase the informal bid threshold from \$100,000 to \$250,000 and to return the policy to the Operations Oversight Committee for further discussion.

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

XI. REPORTS

A. **Procurement - Contract Management Lifecycle**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

(Presentation)

Mses. Contreras and Gutierrez provided a presentation and answered question from the Board. This item was received and filed.

B. **Federal and State Legislative Advocates' Self-Evaluations**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 21, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

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

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 20, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

D. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 22, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – December 2025**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 23, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

F. **January 2026 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 26, 2026)

(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.

G. **2025 Quarterly Reports of Paid Invoices 2nd Quarter - October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 15, 2026 – 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))

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items for staff review.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

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

The Board congratulated Luis A. Lugo on his new appointment as Chief Executive Officer.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5476B – CARDER, ELIJAH D.

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

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

Absent: Moore

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5477B – ESCOBEDO, ABELARDO\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded to deny a service-connected disability retirement without prejudice. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

\*Applicant Attorney was present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5478B – GUEVARA, RAMON E.

This item was pulled by staff for further development.

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5479B – FOX, SEAN R.

Trustee Green made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded to grant a service-connected disability retirement.

Trustee Moore made a substitute motion, Trustee Fesler seconded to deny a service-connected disability retirement without prejudice. The motion failed by the following vote.

No: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Pantoja, Robbins, Ryu

Yes: Moore

The Board voted on the original motion to a grant service-connected disability retirement (Retroactive, if the applicant is eligible). The motion passed by the following vote.

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

No: Moore

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

JAMERSON, WANDA R\*. – Steven Rosales, for the Applicant  
Eugenia W. Der, for the Respondent

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

\*Applicant Attorney was present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals (Continued)

JAMERSON, WANDA R\*. – Steven Rosales, for the Applicant  
Eugenia W. Der, for the Respondent

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

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation  
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

1. **Robert Renko v. Board of Retirement of LACERA**  
(Case No. 24STCV29324)  
(Presentation) (Memo dated January 23, 2026)

There is nothing to report.

2. **LACERA v. Marquez**  
Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 25NNCV03240  
(Presentation) (Memo dated January 28, 2026)

There is nothing to report.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was  
adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

*Signature on File*

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LES ROBBINS, SECRETARY

*Signature on File*

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JP HARRIS, CHAIR