

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, JUNE 3, 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 (Left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.)

Les Robbins, Secretary (Left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.)

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

Jason E. Green (Safety Alternate)

Shawn R. Kehoe

Aleen Langton

Ernesto J. Pantoja

Lisa Proft, Acting Ex-Officio (Left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.)

David Ryu (Joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.)

ABSENT:

Elizabeth Ginsberg

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Jessica Baxter, Assistant Executive Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Kathy Delino, Chief Information Technology

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Jessica Rivas, Staff Counsel

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Jeffrey A. Hirsch, MD., Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Zenith Economics

Samuel Maury-Holmes

Johnathan Cahill, Zenith Economics

Kevin Williams, Zenith Economics

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Latham & Watkins

Manuel (Manny) A. Abascal, Partner

Roman Martinez, Partner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Moore 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 May 6, 2026.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2026. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Pantoja, Proft, Robbins

Absent: Ryu

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jimmy C. Lim addressed the Board regarding his Administrative Appeal case.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Ms. Langton recused herself from this item due to her position with County Counsel)

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

- 1. *LACERA v. County of Los Angeles*
California Supreme Court, Case No. S286264

There is nothing to report.

VII. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Selassie Burke, Kyle Kawakami, Melissa Salazar and Miguel Rodriguez. The web watcher winner was Stephanie Kawai and the Rideshare winner was Liping Li.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Bernie Buenaflor.

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.

VIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Pantoja, 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.

931E

932E

933E

934E*

935E

936E

NAME

ESTRADA, CARLOS M.

POKORNY, MICHAEL J.

MASKA, GLENN C.

SHERROD-STRONG, SIDRA A.

STRONG, ERIC

DLUGOS, TIMOTHY S.

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
937E**	YANAGI, BRIAN K.
938E	MORENO, RUSSELL R.
939E*	WILLIAMS, ANTHONY C.
940E	BRIONES, PHILLIP R.
941E***	STEWART, JONATHAN A. (DEC'D)
942E	ROWELL, JEFFREY P.
943E	SUMNER, WILLIAM A., III
944E	JIMENEZ, BRYANT
945E	AGUILAR, ALFRED L.
946E	MATSUMOTO, COLIN B.
947E	WALTON, ANGELA D.
948E*	ESPELETA, FRANCIS G.
949E	AZTECA, JAVIER P.
950E**	KNEER, DENNIS M.
951E*	AVOLA, MAURIZIO
952E****	AULT, ALICIA E.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

****Granted SCD Retro – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green seconded by Trustee Pantoja, 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>
1109C	LAW, BRIAN P.
1110C	SVOBODA, THEODORE M.
1111C	TYLER, MARK W.
1112C*	TIMES, BRENT J.
1113C	KINSNER, K. SEAN
1114C	LOFFREDO, CARLO A.
1115C	SWIATEK, STEVEN J.
1116C*	PONTES, LARINDA R.
1117C	PROFITT, BRANDON D.
1118C	SNYDER, SIMON

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General MembersService-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Pantoja seconded by Trustee Moore, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of 1 4 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>
2164D*	JOSEPH, GEORGE R.
2165D	MARRISETT, LEIGH D.
2166D	JEWETT, RICHARD W., III
2167D**	GUY, FRANK
2168D	NAVA, ANTHONY
2169D***	BAKER, LINDA
2170D***	WALKER, JOSEPH C.
2171D*	RAY, DEREK E.
2172D	MORALES, MARCIE A.
2173D****	MENJIVAR, OSKAR H.
2174D	BELMONT, ANITA L.
2175D****	OCHOA, IVAN
2176D****	HILL, DESHAUN
2177D***	GARCIA, DEBRA
2178D	SUTTON-SMITH, DINEEN L.
2179D	GALLEGOS, DENA M.
2180D	RAMIREZ, GRISELDA
2181D*****	ZARAGOZA, FRANCISCO
2182D	LEGESSE, ASTER
2183D	ROBY, JERRY
2184D****	WILLIAMS, LATESHA S.
2185D	MCKINNEY, KIMBERLY A.
2186D**	ALAMILLO, PETER S., III

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

****Granted SCD – Salary Supplemental

*****Granted SCD – Salary Supplemental Employer Cannot Accommodate

VIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

General Members

Non-service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton, seconded by Trustee Robbins, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a non-service-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.

4524*

NAME

TELLO, LUZ X.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

IX. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Pantoja, Proft, 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 May 22, 2026, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated May 22, 2026)

* Granted NSCD – Retroactive

IX. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

B. **Appeals for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of June 3, 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 Joseph A. Badali, Konrad W. Thieme, William P. Forster and Hilda Aranda and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee. (Memo dated May 18, 2026)

C. **LACERA Budget Policy (Annual Review)**

Recommendation submitted by Nicole Mi, Chair, Joint Organizational Governance Committee (JOGC): That the Board of Retirement review and approve the revised LACERA Budget Policy, attached as a companion to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Administrative, Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Budgets. (Memo dated May 26, 2026)

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

Recommendation as submitted by Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel that the Board 1. Approve the recommendations set forth above as to the new pay item. 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 May 12, 2026)

E. **Ratification of Outgoing Reciprocal Disability Retirement**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Manager. That the Board approve the outgoing reciprocal disability retirement for the following named deferred members who were found to be disabled by the current reciprocal agency for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof. (Memo dated May 20, 2026)

IX. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

F. **Request for Consideration and Recognition of SEIU Local 721 Retirees Committee as a Recognized Retiree Organization**

Recommendation as submitted by Nancy Durazo, Chair, Operations Oversight Committee (OOC): That the Board recognize Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721's Los Angeles County Retirees Committee as a *Recognized Retiree Organization* pursuant to Government Code Section 31471.5 of the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) and authorize staff to proceed with any remaining administrative and onboarding requirements under the Agency Deduction Program. (Memo dated May 19, 2026)

X. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

XI. NON CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Administrative, Retiree Healthcare and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Budgets**

Recommendation as submitted by Nicole Mi, Chair, Joint Organizational Governance Committee (JOGC): That the Board of Retirement (BOR) and Board of Investments (BOI) approve and adopt the LACERA Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Proposed Administrative, Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Budgets. (Memo dated May 26, 2026)

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

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

B. **SACRS Board of Directors Election**

Recommendation as submitted by Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board ratify the voice vote of its voting delegate at the Business Meeting of the SACRS 2026 Spring Conference to approve the SACRS Nominating Committee's recommended board of directors slate for the 2026-27 term. (Memo dated May 21, 2026)

XI. NON CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

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

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

XII. REPORTS

A. **COVID-19 Causation and Disability**

Jeffrey A. Hirsch M.D. - Jeffrey A. Hirsch, M.D., Board Certified in Internal Medicine
(Presentation)

Dr. Hirsch provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board. This item was received and filed.

B. **LACERA Economic Impact Study**

Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer
Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(Presentation) (Memo dated May 22, 2026)

Mr. Lew and Messrs. Maury-Holmes, Cahill and Williams provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board. This item was received and filed.

C. **Contract Activity Report – April 2026**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager
Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II
(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 20, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Report of Revised Pay Item**

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 12, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

XII. REPORTS (Continued)

E. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

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

This item was received and filed.

F. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – April 2026**

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 3rd Quarter Trustee Travel & Education
Expenditure Reports

FY 2025-2026 3rd Quarter Staff Travel Report

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

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

This item was received and filed.

G. **May 2026 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 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.

H. **2026 Quarterly Report of Paid Invoices 3rd Quarter - January 1,
2026 to March 31, 2026**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services
(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 14, 2026 – Attachment is
Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and
Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections
7927.700, 54957.5 (a))

This item was received and filed.

(Ms. Proft and Mr. Robbins left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.)

XIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items for staff review.

XIV. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

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

There was nothing to report.

XVI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (Mr. Moore left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.)

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5490B - JONES, KENNETH F., JR.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded to grant a nonservice-connected supplemental disability allowance pursuant to Government Code sections 31720 and 31725.5. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris

Absent: Proft, Moore, Ryu, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5491B - ALVAREZ, BENJAMIN*

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

XVI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION (Continued)

5491B - ALVAREZ, BENJAMIN*

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5492B - DELK, KATRITA R.

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

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5493B - STEWART, VI EYVETTE

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

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5494B - OKONGWU, MIKE A. (DEC'D)

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

XVI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION (Continued)

5494B - OKONGWU, MIKE A. (DEC'D)

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5495B - BARRERA, ESTELA*

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

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5328B - RAMIREZ, ROSARIO M.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Pantoja seconded to continue a nonservice-connected supplemental disability allowance pursuant to Government Code sections 31720 and 31725.5. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

XVI. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5458B - WILLIAMS, ANTHONY

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded to grant a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code sections 31720 and 31724 as employer cannot accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5483B - GEISER SANTOS, WILLIAM G.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Pantoja 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, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Harris, Ryu

Absent: Moore, Proft, Robbins

XVII. Executive Session (Continued)

- 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)

- 1. Administrative Appeal of Jimmy C. Lim

There is nothing to report.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Signature on File

LES ROBBINS, SECRETARY

Signature on File

JP HARRIS, CHAIR

