

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 2, 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)

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

Shawn R. Kehoe

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Aleen Langton

Ernesto J. Pantoja

David Ryu (Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Section 54953.8.3.)

ABSENT:

Jason E. Green (Safety Alternate)

Wayne Moore, Vice Chair

Les Robbins, Secretary

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

JJ Popowich, Chief Benefits Officer

Jessica Baxter, Chief Administrative Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Jasmine K. Bath, Senior Staff Counsel

Eugenia W. Der, Senior Staff Counsel

Dr. Carly Ntoya, Director, Human Resources

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager

Milliman

Craig Glyde, Consulting Actuary

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Harris at 9:06 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Fesler 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 Ryu requested to participate in the meeting via teleconference for Just Cause, pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.3(c)(1) (SB 707). The reason for Just Cause was a need related to childcare. A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. Trustee Ryu confirmed that no individuals 18 years of age or older were present at the teleconference location.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2026

Trustee Pantoja made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2026. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Abstain: Fesler

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board received a written comment from Member, Robert Renko.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Barry Lew and Phil Ting. The web watcher winners were Christina Tung, Valery Ptacek and Carla Quezada and there were no Rideshare winners.

- B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Frances Fernandez.

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 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.

APPLICATION NO.

NAME

16F	MAISANO, EDWARD K.
17F	RODRIGUEZ, ALFONSO
18F	FERGUSON, THOMAS R.
19F	SUH, JOHN Y.
20F	TRUJILLO, LEOBARDO M.
21F	ROMERO, JORGE
22F	ROMO, ANTHONY
23F	LOPEZ, CHRISTIAN R.
24F	DEAN, MARK J.
25F*	POGUE, ELIZABETH
26F	KLINSKI, ALAN J.
27F	BERNAS, JOSEPH M.
28F	SCIACCA, CHRISTOPHER J.
29F*	JUAREZ, JORGE J.
30F	MADDEN, STEVEN P.
31F	SERPA, JEFFERY A.
32F**	CARON, MARK A.
33F	GLYNN, TASHEEN E.
34F	MARELLA, PETER J.
35F	DILIBERTI, RICHARD L.

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD Retroactive – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. 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, Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, Ryu

Safety Fire, Lifeguards Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Pantoja 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>
1143C	SMITH, ROBERT R.
1144C	KNIPSCHILD, KEITH A.
1145C	NEADERBAOMER, GREGORY B.
1146C*	CALDWELL, TODD D.
1147C	CLOUTIER, TODD M.
1148C*	BROWN, MICHAEL D., II
1149C*	NIEMELA, EDWARD J.
1150C	MULLEN, RICHARD D.
1151C*	YSAIS, KEVIN J.
1152C	MOOMEY, CHRISTOPHER

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Langton seconded by Trustee Pantoja, 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>
2252D	COLEMAN, ROSARIO A.
2253D*	MARTINEZ, DAVID, JR.
2254D*	AVALOS, SALVADOR, JR.
2255D**	YUEN, JOHN
2256D***	DURIO, CHRISTOPHER D.
2257D***	PARRA, DANIEL J.
2258D*	LOPEZ, ERENDIDA P.
2259D	TAM, NANCY F.
2260D***	GONZALES, KAREN L.
2261D*	BEARD, KINDRA S.
2262D	NAJERA, IRENE M.
2263D**	MILLER, LAURIE
2264D****	AUSTIN-CAMPBELL, LARHONDA F.
2265D*	SUTHERLAND, VINCE L.
2266D**	MALLET, SHEILA K.
2267D	PARKER, SIRR E.
2268D****	WORTHEY, MIESHA L.
2269D*	JOHNSON, DARCEL A.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

*Granted SCD – Salary Supplemental

**Granted SCD – Retro

***Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

****Granted SCD Retro – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Pantoja, 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.
4525*

NAME
MENDOZA, CYNTHIA

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Yes: Durazo, Fesler, Ginsberg, Harris, Kehoe, Langton, Pantoja, 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 August 25, 2026, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated August 25, 2026)

B. Appeals for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of September 2, 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 Gabriela A. Uribe and Rowena D. San Diego and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee. (Memo dated August 13, 2026)

* Granted NSCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

- C. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of Rosario M. Ramirez**
Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice Rosario M. Ramirez's appeal for a service-connected supplemental disability allowance. (Memo dated August 17, 2026)
- D. **Board Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance Framework**
Recommendation as submitted by Nancy M. Durazo, Chair, Operations Oversight Committee: That the Board adopt the Board Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance Framework. (Memo dated August 17, 2026)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT
(Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, LACERA

There is nothing to report.

- 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. **Kimberly Hines v. LACERA, LASC Case No. 23STCV23309**
Jasmine K. Bath, Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only)

There was nothing to report.

XI. NON CONSENT ITEMS

A. **2027 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 2, 2026, the actuarial cost of approving a 2027 STAR COLA award at the 80% benefit level. If approved, the projected cost is \$763,000 for an ad-hoc STAR COLA award and \$7,941,000 for a permanent STAR COLA award, 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 2027, and if awarded, determine whether the STAR COLA benefits will be ad-hoc or permanent.

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
Craig Glyde, Consulting Actuary – Milliman
(Presentation) (Memo dated August 19, 2026)

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

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

B. **Salary Placement for Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, LACERA**

Recommendation as submitted by Luis A. Lugo, Chief Executive Officer: The Board of Retirement approve the salary placement for the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer (CECO), LACERA at a starting base salary of \$17,625.80 per month (\$211,509.60 annually) or Step 16 of the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, LACERA MAPP Tier II LS 12 salary range. (Memo dated August 20, 2026)

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

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

XI. NON CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

C. **Application of Maria M. Griglio for Reinstatement to Active Membership**

Recommendation submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager: That the Board 1. Determine, based upon the medical evaluation conducted on July 31, 2026, that Maria M. Griglio is not incapacitated for the duties assigned to her in the position of Court Commissioner; and 2. Grant the application of Maria M. Griglio for reinstatement to active membership. (Memo date of August 7, 2026)

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

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

XII. REPORTS

A. **Process Improvements RHC Escalation Management and Cross-Divisional Coordination**

Cassandra Smith, Retiree Healthcare Director
Tionna Fredericks, Retiree Healthcare Section Head
Janet Chan, Retiree Healthcare Section Head
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 17, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

B. **Whether a Parent Automatically Qualifies as a "Legally Appointed Guardian" Under Government Code Section 31787(e)**

Elaine K. Salon, Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 11, 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.

XII. REPORTS (Continued)

C. **Legal Transactions Year End Report**

Christine Roseland, Senior Staff Counsel
(For Information Only)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Disability Retirement Pilot Program Update**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager
(Presentation) (Memo dated August 10, 2026)

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

E. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 18, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

F. **Monthly Trustee Travel and Education Report - July 2026**

**FY 2025-2026 4th Quarter Trustee Travel and Education
Expenditure Reports**

FY 2025-2026 4th Quarter Staff Travel Report and Budget Report

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated August 20, 2026)

This item was received and filed.

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

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated (Memo dated August 17, 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.

XII. REPORTS (Continued)

H. **Contract Activity Report - July 2026**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

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

This item was received and filed.

XIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee Kehoe requested a copy of staff's response to Mr. Renko, as well as continued updates on the Disability Retirement Pilot Program.

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

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

2583C - HAILU, MEKLIT G.

This item was pulled from the agenda for further development.

B. **Leanne M. Steinhaus – Recommendation to Grant a Service-Connected Disability Retirement**

Recommendation as submitted by Eugenia W. Der, Senior Staff Counsel: Pursuant to Government Code section 31720, it is recommended the Board of Retirement (Board) find Leanne M. Steinhaus permanently incapacitated from the performance of her duties for service-connected reasons and grant her a service-connected disability retirement. (Memo dated August 10, 2026)

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

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pantoja, pursuant to Government Code section 31720, to find Leanne M. Steinhaus permanently incapacitated from the performance of her duties for service-connected reasons and to grant her a service-connected disability retirement. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Signature on File

LES ROBBINS, SECRETARY

Signature of File

JP HARRIS, CHAIR