

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5538**

1. Opening of Meeting:

The Appeals Board convened at 10:35 a.m., March 22, 2011, in Sacramento, with Chair Robert Dresser presiding.

2. Roll Call: <u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Robert Dresser, Chair	X	
George Plescia, Vice Chair	X	
Bonnie Garcia	X	
Denise Moreno Ducheny	X	
Alberto Torrico	X	
Roy Ashburn	X	
Dennis Hollingsworth	X	

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The March 8, 2011, minutes were approved by all members.

4. Chair's Report:

Chair Dresser reported receiving a copy of a letter from Richard Trigg, Regional Director for Department of Labor in San Francisco, to Secretary Morgenstern asking the Agency to pursue and support CUIAB's freeze exemption request.

Given our progress on the workload, Tax Unit ALJs will return to their primary function and handle just tax cases. In addition, a number of judges in the field have expressed an interest in helping out with the tax cases. Tax cases will be one of the focuses of the upcoming training in May.

To date Chair Dresser been to the San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Orange County, Inland, San Diego, Sacramento and the Tax offices, and hopes to finish visiting all of the field offices by the end of next week. One of Chair Dresser's observations is a certain amount of burn out due to the ongoing mass calendars. Chair Dresser has asked Alberto to make sure that the mass calendars are equitably spread throughout the offices. Another common theme that was heard was the desire for more field input on IT Projects, which would be a good thing. The field also expressed great appreciation for the grant of OT, as it has enabled them to reduce the registration and typing backlogs. The inability to hire more support staff has been a serious impediment to getting some of the work done, so the overtime has helped in that regard. Chair Dresser has asked Pam Boston to

work on getting some volunteers from EDD or other sources to assist us. Another issue frequently raised was security, and Chair Dresser has asked Alberto Roldan to bring together a committee of judges to address that issue.

5. Board Member Reports:

The Board members commented on the on-going status of their subcommittee projects, which did not involve any milestones.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Roldan acknowledged Chair Dresser's comments about expressed security concerns, a particular issue inasmuch as the CUIAB is the first opportunity that many people in the unemployment and disability system have for face-to-face contact with State of California representatives. We have been working for a number of months now on improving security within the offices, including CHP security assessments of each office and implementation of recommendations stemming from those assessments in all new construction, and retrofitting of other offices with things such as safe rooms, new locks, and additional safety doors. Member Hollingsworth expressed particular interest in the security measures being taken, and suggested consideration of additional security measures such as video monitoring. Chair Dresser asked Chief ALJ/Executive Director Roldan for an update of the status of security training and improvements at a subsequent Board meeting.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Roldan also reported that as of March 18, we were down to 65,623 for all cases, and the UI balance was down to 55,205 cases. March is a critical month for purposes of Federal reporting. Case aging has improved greatly, currently at 39 days. Internally we have a new report that shows the cycle times for each processing component, so we can get an office by office view of where the problems are. You can see that most of the problems are in the offices with the highest number of vacancies. Those offices are lagging 25 to 30 days behind and the Statewide average in terms of their performance. Clearly our continued request for exemption from the hiring freeze is very important, because we see the practical impact upon our performance. We would be further ahead in our performance in coming into compliance with the corrective action plan if we were properly staffed in our offices

7. Chief ALJ of Appellate Operations, Joel Contreras:

Appellate Operations anticipates it will continue to meet case standard during March, but April may be more problematic as the caseload continues to increase. We'll have actual numbers for the April Board meeting.

8. Special Assistant to the Board, Lori Kurosaka Report:

Briefly, we are continuing to work on the Feasibility Study Report for the imaging

project; last week Administration Services released the request for bid for Spanish consulting services; we will be scheduling quarterly coordination meetings with EDD, with the first set for Monday May the 28.

9. Chief Information Officer, Rafael Placencia Report:

Nothing new to report, just that our projects are moving forward. The exemption process for the IPads is in process. We have a pretty good feel for exactly what we're looking for, mainly ease of use and cost.

10. Deputy Director, Administrative Services Branch, Pam Boston Report:

Deputy Director Pam Boston referred the Board to the report on lump sum payouts, which reflects a payout of \$780,929 for calendar year 2009/10, and \$668,857 to date for 2010/11, and the report on and workforce retirement eligibility, which covers only employees with at least 20 years of service and who are at least 55 years of age; with a total of 93 employees eligible for retirement under those factors, the payout potential liability is \$3,559,093.

11. Chief Counsel's Report:

Chief Counsel Ralph Hilton had nothing new in litigation to report, but referenced the proposed regulation amendments, and after summarizing the proposed changes, deferred to Jorge Carrillo for his power point presentation regarding applications to reopen and vacate. (See attachment A)

12. Unfinished & New Business:

The proposed Telecommute Policy was briefly discussed, and concern expressed by Member Garcia as to whether the new policy would obligate the Board to extend telecommuting options beyond that which would be practical for the type of work performed by the CUIAB. The policy was tabled for further consideration at the next Board meeting.

13. Public Comment:

There was no public comment offered.

14. Closed Session:

The Board went into closed session. No votes were reported.

Adjournment