

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5709**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., January 15, 2025, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

<b>1. Roll Call:</b>	<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
	Michael Allen, Chair	X	
	Laura Kent-Monning, Vice-Chair	X	
	Mike Eng	X	
	Bob Wieckowski	X	

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The Board approved the December 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 916 second-level appeals, 848 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen reported on his meeting with the Governor's office regarding his confirmation. Chair Allen also thanked the CUIAB staff for their work and expressed his support for those affected by the wildfires in Southern California.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning wished Chair Allen well on his confirmation and also expressed her sympathy for those affected by the wildfires.

Member Eng thanked the agency for their concern regarding the nearby wildfires and reported on his recent visit with the Pasadena Office of Appeals.

**5. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director, Michael Cutri Report:**

Chief Cutri reported that the Pasadena Office of Appeals had a brief office closure due to the fires. The office was re-opened with minimal operational disruption due to the availability of telework and assistance from other field offices. Chief Cutri thanked the field offices for their support provided to the Pasadena field office.

In December, the average daily appeals intake increased by approximately 12%. The field offices issued approximately 21,000 decisions, reducing the backlog by approximately 2,100 cases. The average case age decreased to 57 days, significantly ahead of the 193-day national average.

In the last month, CUIAB moved over 800 cases via CAMS in order to normalize wait times across the state.

In 2024, the field offices issued 312,000 decisions and reduced the open inventory from 96,000 to 55,000. Chief Cutri also reported that CUIAB reduced the average case age from 138 to 57 days.

Member Wieckowski inquired about guidelines concerning parties attending hearings remotely due to emergencies such as the wildfires. Chief Cutri stated that the guidelines that went into effect in 2020 regarding telework remain in effect.

**7. Supervising ALJ for Appellate Operations, Rebecca Bach Report:**

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during December, 64.5% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 90.0% within 75 days. The average case age was 42.5 days. Since December 2023, DOL timelapse measures and case aging have improved significantly, and in 2024, Appellate Operations issued 13,660 decisions.

**8. Acting Chief Information Officer, Mark Smith Report:**

Acting CIO Smith reported that IT is in the process of completing quarterly IT reports for the State Controller's office.

IT continues to identify and work on enhancements with CAMS, such as continuously improving engagement with EDD and the public.

**9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:**

Chief Silva reported that three support staff were recently hired, with 12 pending. Since the last Board meeting, three Administrative Law Judges have retired.

CUIAB conducted its biannual bilingual audit during November. The 42 employees who participated in the audit met the required threshold.

Administrative Time Off has been authorized for those employees directly affected by the Southern California Wildfires. The Pasadena Office of Appeals reopened yesterday and CUIAB will meet with the property manager regarding the office conditions.

The annual IT cost report for the California Department of Technology was completed and is on track for submission by the February 1 deadline. Chief Silva thanked ISO Sonja Teamer and the IT team for their assistance preparing this.

**Closed Session:**

There was no closed session.

**Adjournment**