

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5710**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., February 19, 2025, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

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

2. Approval of Minutes:

The Board approved the January 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes, with Member Roth abstaining.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,244 second-level appeals, 1,155 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen thanked the CUIAB organization for their continuous hard work and dedication.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning, Member Wieckowski and Member Eng welcomed Member Richard Roth to CUIAB.

Member Wieckowski plans to visit various field offices throughout 2025.

Member Eng reported on his recent visit to the Pasadena field office and commended staff for their work during the recent wildfires.

Member Roth thanked the Board for their welcome, the Governor for appointing him,

and looks forward to working with CUIAB.

5. Public Comment:

No public comment.

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

Chief Cutri welcomed Member Roth to CUIAB.

In January, the average daily appeals intake decreased to levels consistent with the past 18 months and open inventory has remained stable. CUIAB moved over 800 cases via CAMS to normalize wait times across the state and the average case age decreased to 53 days, significantly ahead of the national average.

Chief Cutri met with the U.S. Department of Labor to discuss national unemployment insurance appeal trends and provided a working demonstration of CAMS from the beginning to the end of a case.

Chief Cutri visited the Pasadena field office and met with several ALJs and staff. He also visited the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center with EDD. Due to the wildfires, EDD is forecasting an increase in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims.

Chief Cutri reported on potential changes to the DOL's quality review standards involving the critical due process criteria. In response to Member Kent-Monning's inquiry, Chief Cutri described the impact of the proposed change in evaluating the quality of the hearing. There is no timeframe for implementation of this change.

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

Supervising Judge Bach welcomed Member Roth to the Board and CUIAB.

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during January, 35.5% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 91.2% within 75 days. The average case age was 39.7 days.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning commended Supervising Judge Bach and the AO staff for their work.

Member Eng commended Supervising Judge Bach for her quick responses and assistance on cases. Member Eng asked whether the Board would require

additional training in connection with the forecasted increase in DUA cases. Judge Bach advised that additional training would not be needed because the second-level appeals of DUA cases go directly to DOL rather than to the Board.

Member Wieckowski congratulated Supervising Judge Bach on achieving a case age below 40 days. Member Wieckowski asked when AO last met DOL's closed case and case aging guidelines. Chief Cutri stated that 2019-2020 was the last time these timeliness measures were met at the field and appellate levels.

Member Roth commended CUIAB on its performance.

Chair Allen expressed his appreciation for Judge Bach for her ongoing assistance.

8. Acting Chief Information Officer, Mark Smith Report:

Acting CIO Smith continues to work on the 2025/2026 State Fiscal Year budget. EDD and CUIAB continue to work on developing enhancements for the Office of Tax Petitions and upgrading the communication platform utilized between EDD and CUIAB.

Acting CIO Smith gave a presentation on CAMS to EDD's Small Business Employers Advisory Counsel.

IT continues to work on enhancements to CAMS, including a migration enhancement for cases closed in CUIAB's legacy system into CAMS.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning requested clarification regarding the migration of closed cases into CAMS. Acting CIO Smith advised that the migration would provide efficiencies to CUIAB in support and licensing.

Member Eng asked about stakeholders' feedback on CAMS and Acting CIO Smith advised that input is received via the website and many comments involve questions concerning participation in hearings. IT continues to modify CAMS to increase clarity for users.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the Small Business Employers Advisory Counsel. Acting CIO Smith informed that the Small Business Employers Advisory Council is comprised of approximately 20 member organizations representing specific industries.

Member Roth asked about the public's ease of public access using the CAMS web portal. CIO Acting Smith advised that the hearings are telephonic and do not require the use of a computer to participate.

Chair Allen inquired about the hiring status for CUIAB's Chief Information Officer. Chief Cutri stated the hiring process is underway and expects to provide an update at the March Board meeting. Chair Allen also inquired about the language access on the public portal. Acting CIO Smith advised that English, Spanish, and Vietnamese are currently available on the portal; Chinese will be the next language available. CAMS currently provides document output in English and Spanish; Vietnamese and Chinese will be available next.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva welcomed Member Roth to the Board.

Chief Silva reported that one support staff was recently hired, and one support staff was recently promoted to a supervisory position. There are 16 pending support staff recruitments.

Chief Silva reported that as a result of the Southern California wildfires, the President authorized Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits to those directly affected.

Administrative Services released the Personnel and Operating Expenses Budget Call Letters for State Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The budget requests from each program with CUIAB will be consolidated and reviewed by the Executive Director.

CUIAB has begun discussions with EDD's Program Estimate Group, and shared data regarding backlog and workload capacities in preparation for the Governor's May budget revise.

Chair Allen thanked Chief Silva for enabling staff to provide feedback during the construction of the budget. Chair Allen and the Board wished Member Wieckowski a Happy Birthday.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjournment