

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5711**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., March 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 February 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Allen thanked Governor Newsom for the reappointment and all those involved in the confirmation process. Chair Allen thanked the Board members and the CUIAB organization for their work and dedication.

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 842 second-level appeals, 803 of which were issued within CAMS.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning highlighted the positive impact of CAMS, shortening processing times and normalizing case aging across the state.

Member Eng congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment, expressed appreciation for the work done by the Pasadena Office of Appeals, and acknowledged the field offices for their work during the challenges of the wildfires.

Member Wieckowski congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment and echoed Vice-Chair Kent-Monning's observations regarding the positive impacts of CAMS.

Member Roth congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment and expressed how impressed he has been with CUIAB's operation.

5. Public Comment:

No public comment.

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

Chief Cutri congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment. In February, incoming appeals were approximately 9% below pre-pandemic levels and the field offices issued 24,000 decisions. CUIAB moved over 800 cases via CAMS to normalize wait times across the state and the average case age decreased to 50 days, significantly ahead of the national average.

Due to the wildfires, EDD is forecasting an increase in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claims.

Chief Cutri reported that one support staff was recently hired. There are 16 pending support staff recruitments.

Supervising Judge Rebecca Bach will attend the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) conference in Kansas.

Member Eng inquired about the impact of the Governor's Return-to-Office executive order on CUIAB. Chief Cutri noted that the effective date for implementation is July 1, and anticipates having additional information to provide at the Board's May meeting. Member Eng asked about a report of CUIAB's accomplishments over the past five years. Chief Cutri confirmed he is preparing this. Member Eng commended Chief Cutri for his regular visits to the CUIAB field offices.

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

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during February, 28.5% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 85.7% within 75 days. The average case age was 38.4 days, significantly ahead of the national average.

Supervising Judge Bach congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment and reported that Member Roth has undergone Board Member training.

Member Wieckowski asked about the DOL's recognition of CUIAB's meeting second-level timelapse metrics. Judge Bach confirmed that it is a significant accomplishment and will highlight it at the upcoming NAUIAP conference.

8. Acting Chief Information Officer, Mark Smith Report:

Acting CIO Smith congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment. Since the last Board meeting, there has been one attrition in IT that has been backfilled with a retired annuitant while a replacement is sought.

Acting CIO Smith provided an update on language accessibility in CAMS. Chair Allen inquired about who helps with language translations in CAMS. Acting CIO Smith advised that vendors assist with the translations.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning asked about the status of languages supported in the public portal. Acting CIO Smith advised that he would confirm and update the Board.

Member Wieckowski commended IT on their support.

Member Eng asked about the possibility of CUIAB conducting hearings via video. Acting CIO Smith advised that the existing technology supports this and is used in the limited number of hearings involving sign language translation. However, operational, technical and fiscal issues need to be fully evaluated prior to attempting to implement a pilot project conducting video hearings on larger scales. Member Eng inquired if the funding for CAMS is federally funded. In response to Member Eng's question regarding funding for CAMS, Chief Cutri advised that IT projects are subsumed within CUIAB's federal funding allocations.

Chief Counsel Mark Woo-Sam congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment and expressed his appreciation for his leadership.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjournment