

MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5715

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., July 16, 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 June 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,103 cases. Of these, 1,078 were processed through CAMS, and 25 cases were completed in the legacy system. Chair Allen thanked the Board and the members of the CUIAB organization for their work and dedication. Chair Allen also reminded the Board that the August Board meeting will be held on August 13.

4. Board Member Reports:

Member Eng thanked the Board members and the organization for their work.

Member Wieckowski noted the reduction in the case backlog since joining the Board.

Member Roth commended CUIAB for its work.

5. Public Comment:

No public comment.

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

In June, the average daily appeals intake remained consistent with levels over the past 21 months, after a brief increase in December and January. The field offices reduced the overall inventory by nearly 5,374 cases. The average case age decreased to 38.1 days, significantly lower than the national average. In June, 12.8% of first-level appeals were resolved within 30 days and 55.1% within 45 days.

Chief Cutri commended IT and the subject-matter experts on the recent rollout of CAMS enhancements. He welcomed and congratulated Supervising Administrative Law Judge of the Orange County Office of Appeals, Chris Battersby.

Chair Allen expressed satisfaction that CUIAB reached an agreement with various employer organizations concerning the recent return-to-office order.

Member Eng inquired about CUIAB's attrition rate, whether CUIAB anticipates hiring additional ALJs to fill vacancies, and the impacts on the budget. Chief Cutri advised that five ALJs have retired since the beginning of 2025, with five more anticipated to retire by the end of the year. Should there be a need to hire additional ALJs, CUIAB has the ability and budget to hire. Member Eng also asked about the suspension of the Governor's return-to-office order. Chief Cutri advised that under the collective bargaining agreements, the return-to-office order has been suspended for one year.

Member Wieckowski asked about potential exemptions from return-to-office mandates for CUIAB's ALJs. Chief Cutri stated CUIAB would receive guidance from the State and apply exemptions where available. Member Wieckowski also inquired about the FO Time Cycle Report and which aspects of this are related to CAMS enhancements. Chief Cutri advised on the functionality of the enhancements.

Member Roth inquired about the variations in processing times between the field offices. Chief Cutri explained that processing times reported often reflect the movement of cases between field offices in an effort to normalize wait times across the state.

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

In June, 32.2% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 98.3% within 75 days. The average case age was 29.5 days, significantly ahead of the national average.

Supervising Judge Bach congratulated Supervising Judge Battersby on his appointment.

Member Eng thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her ongoing assistance and asked about languages available for the Board's "Acknowledgment Letter." Supervising Judge Bach and Chief Cutri advised that additional languages are in the process of being made available to the public. CUIAB utilizes professional third-party interpreters for official translations of CAMS documents and the public portal.

Member Roth inquired about the extent to which appellants cite language issues as the reason for missing filing deadlines. Chief Cutri advised that CUIAB's initial communications with parties include information in over 20 languages and direct them to contact the agency regarding language assistance needs.

8. Chief Information Officer, John Caampued Report:

Chief Information Officer Caampued reported that several new enhancements were successfully deployed in CAMS at the end of June.

Member Eng asked if there are currently any major enhancements that will impact the Board. Chief Cutri stated that multiple large enhancements are waiting to be completed; however, the majority of the enhancements impact field operations.

Chair Allen thanked IT for their ongoing work on CAMS.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva reported that there are 10 pending support staff recruitments. Chief Silva discussed hires, attritions, and workload throughout the remainder of the year.

Chief Silva confirmed that because of the collective bargaining agreements, employees will continue to adhere to their previously submitted telework schedules. CUIAB is currently awaiting authorization to resume purchasing for the new fiscal year.

Member Eng inquired about ALJ attrition and backfill needs. Chief Silva explained that at this time, CUIAB does not plan to backfill the ALJ positions as it is currently aligned with the workload. Member Eng also inquired about potential fiscal impacts resulting from the suspension of the return-to-office order. Chief Silva advised that there is no anticipated fiscal impact and that CUIAB does not have plans to reduce its office footprint because of the return-to-office suspension.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjournment