

**COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES**

980 NINTH STREET, SUITE 300  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
PHONE: (916) 323-3562  
FAX: (916) 445-0278  
E-mail: osmInfo@csm.ca.gov



May 10, 2007

Mr. Allan Burdick  
MAXIMUS  
4320 Auburn Blvd., Suite 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95841

Ms. Jacqueline M. Gong  
County of Napa  
1195 Third Street, Suite 301  
Napa, CA 94559

*And Affected State Agencies and Interested Parties (see enclosed mailing list)*

Re: **Adopted Statement of Decision and Draft Parameters and Guidelines**  
*Binding Arbitration, 01-TC-07*  
Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 1281.1, 1299, 1299.2, 1299.3  
1299.4, 1299.5, 1299.6, 1299.7, 1299.8, and 1299.9  
City of Palos Verdes Estates, Claimant  
County of Napa, Co-Claimant

Dear Mr. Burdick and Ms. Gong:

The Commission on State Mandates adopted the attached Statement of Decision on March 29, 2007. State law provides that reimbursement, if any, is subject to Commission approval of parameters and guidelines for reimbursement of the mandated program, approval of a statewide cost estimate, a specific legislative appropriation for such purpose, a timely-filed claim for reimbursement, and subsequent review of the claim by the State Controller's Office.

Following is a description of the responsibilities of all parties and of the Commission during the parameters and guidelines phase.

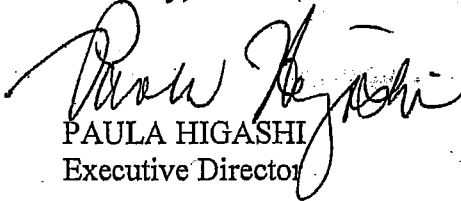
- **Draft Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.12 (operative September 6, 2005), the Commission staff is expediting the parameters and guidelines process by enclosing draft parameters and guidelines to assist the claimant. The proposed reimbursable activities are limited to those approved in the Statement of Decision by the Commission.
- **Claimant's Review of Draft Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.12, subdivisions (b) and (c), the successful test claimant may file modifications and/or comments on the proposal with Commission staff by **June 11, 2007**. The claimant may also propose a reasonable reimbursement methodology pursuant to Government Code section 17518.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.13. The claimant is required to submit an original and two (2) copies of written responses to the Commission and to simultaneously serve copies on the state agencies and interested parties on the mailing list.
- **State Agencies and Interested Parties Comments.** State agencies and interested parties may submit recommendations and comments on staff's draft proposal and the claimant's modifications and/or comments within 15 days of service. State agencies and interested

parties are required to submit an original and two (2) copies of written responses or rebuttals to the Commission and to simultaneously serve copies on the test claimant, state agencies, and interested parties on the mailing list. The claimant and other interested parties may submit written rebuttals. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11.)

- **Adoption of Parameters and Guidelines.** After review of the draft parameters and guidelines and all comments, Commission staff will recommend the adoption of an amended, modified, or supplemented version of staff's draft parameters and guidelines. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.14.)

Please contact Nancy Patton at (916) 323-3562 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



PAULA HIGASHI  
Executive Director

Enclosures

MAILED: \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIAL: 5/10/07  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FILE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRON: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORKING BINDER: \_\_\_\_\_

BEFORE THE  
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE RECONSIDERATION OF PRIOR  
FINAL DECISION:

Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1281.1, 1299,  
1299.2, 1299.3, 1299.4, 1299.5, 1299.6, 1299.7,  
1299.8, and 1299.9;

Statutes 2000, Chapter 906

Filed on October 24, 2001, by the City of  
Palos Verdes Estates, Claimant; joined by  
County of Napa, Co-claimant on  
January 23, 2007.

Case No.: 01-TC-07

*Binding Arbitration*

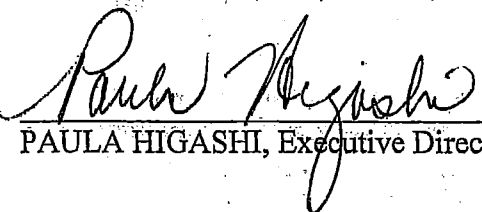
STATEMENT OF DECISION PURSUANT  
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 17500  
ET SEQ.; CALIFORNIA CODE OF  
REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, DIVISION 2,  
CHAPTER 2.5, ARTICLE 7

*(Adopted on March 29, 2007)*

**STATEMENT OF DECISION**

The attached Statement of Decision of the Commission on State Mandates is hereby adopted in the above-entitled matter with the following technical corrections, highlighted with strike-out for deleted text and double underlining for added text:

- Pages 2, 7, 8, 12, 19, and 20 – clarified that the original claimant was the City of Palos Verdes Estates;
- Page 16 – added citation to Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.7, subdivision (a);
- Pages 17, 18, and 21 – added citation to Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.8;
- Pages 17 and 20 – changed an incorrect citation to Code of Civil Procedure *from* section 1299.4, subdivision (b) *to* the correct reference, section 1299.6, subdivision (a); and
- Page 20 – corrected a reference to the July 28, 2006 hearing, which previously reflected the original hearing date incorrectly as July 25, 2006.

  
PAULA HIGASHI, Executive Director

  
Date

BEFORE THE  
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE RECONSIDERATION OF PRIOR  
FINAL DECISION:

Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1281.1, 1299,  
1299.2, 1299.3, 1299.4, 1299.5, 1299.6, 1299.7,  
1299.8, and 1299.9;

Statutes 2000, Chapter 906

Filed on October 24, 2001 by the City of  
Palos Verdes Estates, Claimant; joined by  
County of Napa, Co-claimant on  
January 23, 2007.

Case No.: 01-TC-07

*Binding Arbitration*

STATEMENT OF DECISION PURSUANT  
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 17500  
ET SEQ.; CALIFORNIA CODE OF  
REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, DIVISION 2,  
CHAPTER 2.5, ARTICLE 7

*(Adopted on March 29, 2007)*

**STATEMENT OF DECISION**

The Commission on State Mandates ("Commission") heard and decided the reconsideration of this test claim during a regularly scheduled hearing on January 25, 2007. Pamela Stone from MAXIMUS and Judy Smith from City of Palos Verdes Estates appeared on behalf of claimant. Jacqueline M. Gong from County of Napa appeared on behalf of co-claimant. Donna Ferebee and Carla Castaneda appeared on behalf of the Department of Finance.

The law applicable to the Commission's determination of a reimbursable state-mandated program is article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, Government Code sections 17500 et seq., and related case law.

The Commission adopted the staff analysis at the hearing by a supermajority vote of 7-0 to change the prior final decision adopted on July 28, 2006, and to partially approve this test claim.

**Summary of Findings**

This is a reconsideration of a prior final decision that was adopted on July 28, 2006, to deny the *Binding Arbitration* test claim. Government Code section 17559 and section 1188.4 of the Commission's regulations provide authority for this action. A supermajority of five affirmative votes is required to change a prior final decision.

The *Binding Arbitration* statutes, in the context of improving labor relations between local agencies and their law enforcement officers and firefighters, provide that, where an impasse in negotiations has been declared, and if the employee organization so requests, the parties would be subject to binding arbitration. The test claim statutes were effective on January 1, 2001, but were declared unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court on April 21, 2003, as violating the "home rule" provisions of the California Constitution.

In the original test claim, the claimant City of Palos Verdes Estates sought reimbursement for employee compensation costs. The Commission's prior decision to deny the test claim was based on case law holding that additional costs alone for employee compensation and litigation, in the absence of some increase in the actual level or quality of governmental services provided to the public, do not constitute a new program or higher level of service. Moreover, since strikes by law enforcement officers and fire services personnel are prohibited by law, the Commission found that no successful argument could be made that the test claim statutes affect law enforcement or firefighting service to the public.

However, the test claim was modified at the July 28, 2006 hearing to withdraw the reimbursement request for employee compensation and for litigating the constitutionality of the test claim statutes. Testimony was also provided at the hearing that, even if strikes by public safety personnel are illegal, strikes do still occur in the less obvious form of "blue flu" or via other methods. Thus, the Commission reconsidered the claim in light of the modification and analyzed the activities expressly required by the test claim statutes.

The Commission, on reconsideration, finds that the Statement of Decision adopted on July 28, 2006, was contrary to law. The Commission further finds that the test claim statutes mandate certain activities, constitute a "program" as well as a "new program or higher level of service," and also impose "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. Because the test claim statutes were declared unconstitutional on April 21, 2003, however, the reimbursement period is limited to January 1, 2001 through April 20, 2003.

On January 23, 2007, the County of Napa joined as co-claimant on this test claim, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183, subdivision (h), and provided a declaration signed under penalty of perjury outlining costs incurred as a result of the test claim statutes. The County declared that, after the passage of the test claim statutes and during the reimbursement period of January 1, 2001 through April 20, 2003, the County did engage in binding interest arbitration with the Napa County Deputy Sheriffs' Association to the final award of a decision by the arbitration panel. The County asserts that the costs to engage in this process exceeded \$10,000.

## **BACKGROUND**

### *Jurisdiction on Reconsideration*

Government Code section 17559, subdivision (a), grants the Commission, within statutory timeframes, discretion to reconsider a prior final decision. That section states the following:

The commission may order a reconsideration of all or part of a test claim or incorrect reduction claim on petition of any party. The power to order a reconsideration or amend a test claim decision shall expire 30 days after the statement of decision is delivered or mailed to the claimant. If additional time is needed to evaluate a petition for reconsideration filed prior to the expiration of the 30-day period, the commission may grant a stay of that expiration for no more than 30 days, solely for the purpose of considering the petition. If no action is taken on a petition within the time allowed for ordering reconsideration, the petition shall be deemed denied.

By regulation, the Commission has provided that any interested party, affected state agency or Commission member may file a petition with the Commission requesting that the Commission reconsider and change a prior final decision to correct an error of law.<sup>1</sup>

Before the Commission considers the request for reconsideration, Commission staff is required to prepare a written analysis and recommend whether the request for reconsideration should be granted.<sup>2</sup> A supermajority of five affirmative votes is required to grant the request for reconsideration and schedule the matter for a hearing on the merits.<sup>3</sup>

If the Commission grants the request for reconsideration, a second hearing must be conducted to determine if the prior final decision is contrary to law and to correct an error of law.<sup>4</sup> Prior to that hearing, Commission staff prepares and issues for public comment a draft staff analysis.<sup>5</sup> Any comments are incorporated into a final staff analysis and presented to the Commission before the scheduled meeting.<sup>6</sup> A supermajority of five affirmative votes is required to change a prior final decision.<sup>7</sup>

### Binding Arbitration Test Claim

In the context of labor relations between local public agencies and their law enforcement officers and firefighters, the test claim statutes provide that, where an impasse in negotiations has been declared, and if the employee organization so requests, the parties would be subject to binding arbitration.

Since 1968, local public agency labor relations have been governed by the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.<sup>8</sup> The act requires local agencies to grant employees the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organizations, and to present grievances and recommendations regarding wages, salaries, hours, and working conditions to the governing body. The California Supreme Court has recognized that it is not unlawful for public employees to strike unless it has been determined that the work stoppage poses an imminent threat to public health or safety.<sup>9</sup> Employees of fire departments and fire services, however, are specifically denied the right to strike or to recognize a picket line of a labor organization while in the course of the performance of their official duties.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, the Fourth District Court of Appeal has held that police work stoppages are per se illegal.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (b).

<sup>2</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (f).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (g).

<sup>5</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (g)(1)(B).

<sup>6</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (g)(1)(C).

<sup>7</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1188.4, subdivision (g)(2).

<sup>8</sup> Government Code sections 3500 et seq.; Statutes 1968, chapter 1390.

<sup>9</sup> *County Sanitation Dist. No. 2 v. Los Angeles County Employees' Assn.* (1985) 38 Cal.3d 564.

<sup>10</sup> Labor Code section 1962.

<sup>11</sup> *City of Santa Ana v. Santa Ana Police Benevolent Association* (1989) 207 Cal.App.3d 1568.

Under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, the local employer establishes rules and regulations regarding employer-employee relations, in consultation with employee organizations.<sup>12</sup> The local agency employer is obligated to meet and confer in good faith with representatives of employee bargaining units on matters within the scope of representation.<sup>13</sup> If agreement is reached between the employer and the employee representatives, that agreement is memorialized in a memorandum of understanding which becomes binding once the local governing body adopts it.<sup>14</sup>

The test claim statutes<sup>15</sup> added Title 9.5 to the Code of Civil Procedure, providing new procedures that could be invoked by the employee organization in the event an impasse in negotiations has been declared. Section 1299 states the following legislative intent:

The Legislature hereby finds and declares that strikes taken by firefighters and law enforcement officers against public employers are a matter of statewide concern, are a predictable consequence of labor strife and poor morale that is often the outgrowth of substandard wages and benefits, and are not in the public interest. The Legislature further finds and declares that the dispute resolution procedures contained in this title provide the appropriate method for resolving public sector labor disputes that could otherwise lead to strikes by firefighters or law enforcement officers.

It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the health and welfare of the public by providing impasse remedies necessary to afford public employers the opportunity to safely alleviate the effects of labor strife that would otherwise lead to strikes by firefighters and law enforcement officers. It is further the intent of the Legislature that, in order to effectuate its predominant purpose, this title be construed to apply broadly to all public employers, including, but not limited to, charter cities, counties, and cities and counties in this state.

It is not the intent of the Legislature to alter the scope of issues subject to collective bargaining between public employers and employee organizations representing firefighters or law enforcement officers.

The provisions of this title are intended by the Legislature to govern the resolution of impasses reached in collective bargaining between public employers and employee organizations representing firefighters and law enforcement officers over economic issues that remain in dispute over their respective interests...

The statutes provide that if an impasse is declared after the parties exhaust their mutual efforts to reach agreement over matters within the scope of the negotiation, and the parties are unable to agree to the appointment of a mediator, or if a mediator agreed to by the parties has been unable

---

<sup>12</sup> Government Code section 3507.

<sup>13</sup> Government Code section 3505.

<sup>14</sup> Government Code section 3505.1.

<sup>15</sup> Statutes 2000, chapter 906 (Sen. Bill No. 402).

to effect settlement of a dispute between the parties, the employee organization can, by written notification to the employer, request that their differences be submitted to an arbitration panel.<sup>16</sup> Within three days after receipt of written notification, each party is required to designate one member of the panel, and those two members, within five days thereafter, are required to designate an additional impartial person with experience in labor and management dispute resolution to act as chairperson of the arbitration panel.<sup>17</sup>

The arbitration panel is required to meet with the parties within ten days after its establishment, or after any additional periods of time mutually agreed upon.<sup>18</sup> The panel is authorized to meet with the parties, make inquiries and investigations, hold hearings, and take any other action, including further mediation, that the panel deems appropriate.<sup>19</sup> The arbitration panel may, for purposes of its hearings, investigations or inquiries, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person, and issue subpoenas duces tecum to require the production and examination of any employer's or employee organization's records.<sup>20</sup>

Five days prior to the commencement of the arbitration panel's hearings, each of the parties is required to submit a last best offer of settlement on the disputed issues.<sup>21</sup> The panel decides the disputed issues separately, or if mutually agreed, by selecting the last best offer package that most nearly complies with specified factors.<sup>22</sup> The panel then delivers a copy of its decision to the parties, but the decision may not be publicly disclosed for five days.<sup>23</sup> The decision is not binding during that period, and the parties may meet privately to resolve their differences and, by mutual agreement, modify the panel's decision.<sup>24</sup> At the end of the five-day period, the decision as it may be modified by the parties is publicly disclosed and binding on the parties.<sup>25</sup>

The provisions are not applicable to any employer that is a city, county, or city and county, governed by a charter that was amended prior to January 1, 2001, to incorporate a binding arbitration provision.<sup>26</sup> The provisions also state that, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties,

---

<sup>16</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, subdivision (a).

<sup>17</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, subdivision (b).

<sup>18</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (a).

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (b).

<sup>21</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.6, subdivision (a).

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.7, subdivision (a).

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.7, subdivision (b).

<sup>26</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.9, subdivision (a); this provision was modified by Statutes 2003, chapter 877, to change the date of the amended charter to January 1, 2004, but since that amendment was not pled in the test claim, the Commission makes no finding with regard to it.



the costs of the arbitration proceeding and the expenses of the arbitration panel, except those of the employer representative, shall be borne by the employee organization.<sup>27</sup>

Preexisting general arbitration provisions are applicable to arbitration that is triggered by the test claim statutes, unless otherwise provided in the test claim statutes.<sup>28</sup> Among other things, these general arbitration provisions set forth procedures for the conduct of hearings such as notice of hearings, witness lists, admissible evidence, subpoenas, and depositions.<sup>29</sup>

When a party refuses to arbitrate a controversy as requested under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, subdivision (a), that party may be subject to a court order to engage in arbitration pursuant to section 1281.2.<sup>30</sup>

The test claim statutes in their entirety were declared unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court on April 21, 2003, as violating portions of article XI of the California Constitution.<sup>31</sup> The basis for the decision is that the statutes: 1) deprive the county of its authority to provide for the compensation of its employees as guaranteed in article XI, section 1, subdivision (b); and 2) delegate to a private body the power to interfere with local agency financial affairs and to perform a municipal function, as prohibited in article XI, section 11, subdivision (a).<sup>32, 33</sup>

Accordingly, the analysis addresses only the period during which the test claim statutes were presumed to be constitutional, January 1, 2001 through April 20, 2003.

---

<sup>27</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.9, subdivision (b).

<sup>28</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.8.

<sup>29</sup> Code of Civil Procedure sections 1280 et seq.

<sup>30</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.1.

<sup>31</sup> *County of Riverside v. Superior Court of Riverside County* (2003) 30 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 278 (*County of Riverside*).

<sup>32</sup> *County of Riverside* (2003) 30 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 278, 282.

<sup>33</sup> Section 1299.7, subdivision (c), of the Code of Civil Procedure was subsequently amended to cure the constitutionality issue (Stats. 2003, ch. 877), by adding a provision allowing the local public agency employer to reject the decision of the arbitration panel:

The employer may by unanimous vote of all the members of the governing body reject the decision of the arbitration panel, except as specifically provided to the contrary in a city, county, or city and county charter with respect to the rejection of an arbitration award.<sup>33</sup>

However, that statute was not pled in the test claim and the Commission makes no finding with regard to it.

### The Commission's Prior Decision

The Commission denied this test claim, for the activities related to local government participation in binding arbitration, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 1281.1, and 1299 through 1299.9. The Commission concluded the following:

[T]he Commission finds that the test claim legislation does not constitute a new program or higher level of service. The test claim legislation requires the local agency to engage in a binding arbitration process that may result in increased costs associated with employee compensation or benefits. The cases have consistently held that additional costs alone, in absence of some increase in the actual level or quality of governmental services *provided to the public*, do not constitute an "enhanced service to the public" and therefore do not impose a new program or higher level of service on local governments within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution. Since strikes by law enforcement officers and fire services personnel are prohibited by law, no successful argument can be made that the test claim legislation affects law enforcement or firefighting service *to the public*.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates (claimant) had initially requested reimbursement for: 1) costs to litigate the constitutionality of the test claim statutes; 2) increased costs for salaries and benefits that could result from the binding arbitration award; 3) increased costs for compensation package "enhancements" that could be offered by the local agency as a result of vulnerabilities in its bargaining position; and 4) other costs related to binding arbitration activities.

At the hearing, however, the claimant withdrew its request for reimbursement for litigation, compensation and compensation enhancement costs.<sup>34</sup> Testimony was also provided at the hearing that regardless of the legality of strikes by public safety personnel, strikes do still occur in the less obvious form of "blue flu" or in other ways.<sup>35</sup> The claimant also presented exhibits at the hearing consisting of test claims and parameters and guidelines related to collective bargaining that were previously heard by the Commission.

Removing the costs for litigating the constitutionality of the test claim legislation and employee compensation significantly modified the test claim, causing the need for a reevaluation of activities that are required by the test claim statute (e.g., designating an arbitration panel member and participating in hearings) in light of the relevant case law.

The request for reconsideration alleged the following error of law:

The statement of decision relied upon cases supporting the concept that no higher level of service to the public is provided when there are increased costs for compensation or benefits *alone*. For example, *City of Richmond v. Commission on State Mandates* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1190, cited in the statement of decision, held that even though increased employee benefits may generate a higher quality of local safety officers, the test claim legislation did not constitute a new program or higher level of service; the court stated that "[a] higher cost to the local government for compensating its employees is not the same as a higher cost of providing services to the public." However, *City of Richmond* was based on test claim legislation that

<sup>34</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings, July 28, 2006, pages 104-106.

<sup>35</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings, July 28, 2006, pages 98-99.

increased the cost for death benefits for local safety members, but did not result in actual mandated activities.

The statement of decision also relied upon *San Diego Unified School Dist. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 859, which summarized and reaffirmed several previous cases to illustrate what constitutes a “new program or higher level of service.” However, none of the older cases cited [— i.e., *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 46, *City of Anaheim v. State of California* (1987) 189 Cal.App.3d 1478, *City of Sacramento v. State of California* (1990) 50 Cal.3d 51, and *City of Richmond v. Commission On State Mandates, et al.* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1190, —] denied reimbursement for actual activities imposed on the local agencies. In addition, *San Diego Unified School Dist.* did not address the issue of “new program or higher level of service” in the context of actual activities mandated by test claim legislation which increased the costs of employee compensation or benefits.<sup>36</sup>

### **Claimant's Position**

The City of Palos Verdes Estates (claimant) contends that the test claim statutes constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514.

Claimant asserts that costs for the following activities will be incurred and are reimbursable:

1. Costs for training agency management, counsel, staff and members of governing bodies regarding SB 402 as well as the intricacies thereof.
2. Costs incident to restructuring bargaining units that include employees that are covered by SB 402 and those which are not covered by SB 402.
3. Increased staff time in preparing for negotiations in order to collect and compile comparability data specified in Code of Civil Procedure, section 1299.4.
4. Increased time of agency negotiators, including staff, consultants, and attorneys, in handling two track negotiations: those economic issues which are subject to SB 402 arbitration and those issues which are not subject to arbitration.
5. Time to prepare for and consult with the governing board regarding the last best and final offer to be submitted to the arbitration panel.
6. Time to prepare for and participate in any mediation process.
7. Consulting time of negotiators, staff and counsel in selecting the agency panel member.
8. Time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in vetting and selecting a neutral arbitrator.
9. Time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in briefing the agency panel member.
10. Time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in preparing for the arbitration hearing.
11. Time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in vetting, selecting and preparing expert witnesses.
12. Time of the agency panel member and attorney in pre-arbitration meetings of the panel.
13. Staff and attorney time involved in discovery pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure, sections 1281.1, 1281.2 and 1299.8.
14. Staff, attorney, witness and agency panel member time for the hearings.

---

<sup>36</sup> Request for Reconsideration, page 3.

15. Attorney time in preparing the closing brief.
16. Agency panel member time in consulting in closed sessions with the panel.
17. Time of the attorney, negotiators, and staff consulting with the agency panel member prior to the issuance of the award.
18. Time of the attorney, negotiators, staff, agency panel member, and governing board consulting regarding the award and giving directions to agency negotiators.
19. Time of the agency negotiators to negotiate with the union's negotiating representatives based on the award.
20. Costs of inevitable litigation regarding the interpretation of critical provisions of the law which are ambiguous, including the fact that the act covers "all other forms of remuneration," and covers employees performing "any related duties" to firefighting and investigating.

Claimant argued, in its April 13, 2006 comments on the first draft staff analysis, that "[a]s of January 1, 2001, local government officials had no alternative other than to enforce the provisions of this statute until it was declared unconstitutional, otherwise they would be subject to a writ of mandate to compel binding arbitration." Claimant further states that "[i]n fact, it was because the County of Riverside refused to engage in binding arbitration that the writ of mandate action was commenced against it, resulting in the decision of the Supreme Court which made this test claim statute invalid as being unconstitutional." Claimant believes the cases cited by Commission staff in the analysis are not on point.

Claimant also points out that as legislation goes through the process of being adopted "there are a plethora of committee hearings and analyses performed" and "if there is any risk for a statute being declared unconstitutional, it should be borne by the State, which has the resources for a full and complete analysis of pending legislation prior to enactment." Claimant concludes that "[l]ocal authorities have no alternative than to assume that legislation is valid until such time as it is declared unconstitutional by the courts of the State of California." Therefore, claimant contends, the Commission should find that Binding Arbitration was a reimbursable, mandated program from its effective date until it was declared unconstitutional.

Claimant also provided testimony that, regardless of the legality of strikes by public safety personnel, strikes do still occur by these personnel in the less obvious form of "blue flu" or via other methods.

#### **Co-Claimant's Position**

The County of Napa joined as co-claimant on January 23, 2007, alleging costs exceeding \$10,000 to engage in binding arbitration with the Napa County Deputy Sheriffs' Association. The County appeared at the January 25, 2007, hearing and provided testimony agreeing with the final and supplemental staff analyses.

#### **Department of Finance Position**

Department of Finance submitted comments on the test claim concluding that the administrative and compensation costs claimed in the test claim are not reimbursable costs pursuant to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, based on various court decisions and the provisions of the test claim statutes. Specifically, the Department asserted that:

- 1) the test claim statutes do not create a new program or higher level of service in an existing program, and the costs alleged do not stem from the performance of a requirement unique to local government;
- 2) alleged higher costs for compensating the claimant's employees are not reimbursable, since compensation of employees in general is a cost that all employers must pay; furthermore, allowing reimbursement for any such costs could "undermine an employer's incentive to collectively bargain in good faith;"
- 3) alleged cost for increased compensation is not unique to local government; even though claimant may argue that compensation of firefighters and law enforcement officers is unique to local government, the "focus must be on the hardly unique function of compensating employees in general;" and
- 4) Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.9, subdivision (b), provides that costs of the arbitration proceeding and expenses of the arbitration panel, except those of the employer representative, are to be borne by the employee organization; in the test claim statutes, the Legislature specifically found that the duties of the local agency employer representatives are substantially similar to the duties required under the current collective bargaining procedures and therefore the costs incurred in performing those duties are not reimbursable state mandated costs; and thus, during the course of arbitration proceedings, "there are not any net costs that the employers would have to incur that would not have been incurred in good faith bargaining or that are not covered by the employee organizations."

The Department provided additional comments on the draft staff analysis for reconsideration of the prior decision, concurring in Commission staff's findings recommending the test claim be denied. However, at the January 25, 2007, hearing, after the County of Napa alleged actual costs for engaging in binding arbitration, the Department provided testimony agreeing with the final and supplemental staff analyses.

### COMMISSION FINDINGS

The courts have found that article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution<sup>37</sup> recognizes the state constitutional restrictions on the powers of local government to tax and spend.<sup>38</sup> "Its purpose is to preclude the state from shifting financial responsibility for carrying out governmental functions to local agencies, which are 'ill equipped' to assume increased financial

---

<sup>37</sup> Article XIII B, section 6, subdivision (a), (as amended by Proposition 1A in November 2004) provides: "Whenever the Legislature or any state agency mandates a new program or higher level of service on any local government, the State shall provide a subvention of funds to reimburse that local government for the costs of the program or increased level of service, except that the Legislature may, but need not, provide a subvention of funds for the following mandates: (1) Legislative mandates requested by the local agency affected. (2) Legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime. (3) Legislative mandates enacted prior to January 1, 1975, or executive orders or regulations initially implementing legislation enacted prior to January 1, 1975."

<sup>38</sup> *Department of Finance v. Commission on State Mandates (Kern High School Dist.)* (2003) 30 Cal.4th 727, 735.

responsibilities because of the taxing and spending limitations that articles XIII A and XIII B impose.”<sup>39</sup> A test claim statute or executive order may impose a reimbursable state-mandated program if it orders or commands a local agency or school district to engage in an activity or task.<sup>40</sup> In addition, the required activity or task must be new, constituting a “new program,” and it must create a “higher level of service” over the previously required level of service.<sup>41</sup>

The courts have defined a “program” subject to article XIII B, section 6, of the California Constitution, as one that carries out the governmental function of providing public services, or a law that imposes unique requirements on local agencies or school districts to implement a state policy, but does not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state.<sup>42</sup> To determine if the program is new or imposes a higher level of service, the test claim legislation must be compared with the legal requirements in effect immediately before the enactment of the test claim legislation.<sup>43</sup> A “higher level of service” occurs when there is “an increase in the actual level or quality of governmental services provided.”<sup>44</sup>

Finally, the newly required activity or increased level of service must impose costs mandated by the state.<sup>45</sup>

The Commission is vested with exclusive authority to adjudicate disputes over the existence of state-mandated programs within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6.<sup>46</sup> In making its decisions, the Commission must strictly construe article XIII B, section 6 and not apply it as an “equitable remedy to cure the perceived unfairness resulting from political decisions on funding priorities.”<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> *County of San Diego v. State of California* (1997) 15 Cal.4th 68, 81.

<sup>40</sup> *Long Beach Unified School Dist. v. State of California* (1990) 225 Cal.App.3d 155, 174.

<sup>41</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4th 859, 878 (*San Diego Unified School Dist.*); *Lucia Mar Unified School District v. Honig* (1988) 44 Cal.3d 830, 835-836 (*Lucia Mar*).

<sup>42</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 874, (reaffirming the test set out in *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 46, 56 (*Los Angeles*); *Lucia Mar*, *supra*, 44 Cal.3d 830, 835).

<sup>43</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 877; *Lucia Mar*, *supra*, 44 Cal.3d 830, 835.

<sup>44</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 877.

<sup>45</sup> *County of Fresno v. State of California* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 482, 487; *County of Sonoma v. Commission on State Mandates* (2000) 84 Cal.App.4th 1265, 1284 (*County of Sonoma*); Government Code sections 17514 and 17556.

<sup>46</sup> *Kinlaw v. State of California* (1991) 54 Cal.3d 326, 331-334; Government Code sections 17551, 17552.

<sup>47</sup> *County of Sonoma*, *supra*, 84 Cal.App.4th 1264, 1280, citing *City of San Jose v. State of California* (1996) 45 Cal.App.4th 1802, 1817.

This reconsideration poses the following issues:

- Is the final decision on the *Binding Arbitration* test claim, adopted on July 28, 2006, contrary to law?
- Are the test claim statutes subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?
- Do the test claim statutes constitute a “new program or higher level of service” within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?
- Do the test claim statutes impose “costs mandated by the state” within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514?

**Issue 1: Is the prior final decision on the *Binding Arbitration* test claim, adopted on July 28, 2006, contrary to law?**

The *Binding Arbitration* test claim was denied based on the finding that it did not impose a “new program or higher level of service” on local agencies within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution. The test claim statutes were found to constitute a “program,” since they impose unique requirements on local agencies that do not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state. However, since strikes by public safety personnel are illegal, and no other service to the public could be identified, the test claim statutes were not found to constitute an enhanced service to the public.

Because the City of Palos Verdes Estates claimant requested reimbursement for employee compensation costs in the original test claim, the analysis relied upon case law applicable to that situation, i.e., where reimbursement was sought for employee compensation or other benefit-related costs *alone* and no actual activities had been claimed. However, since the test claim was modified at the hearing to withdraw the request for reimbursement for employee compensation costs, the costs and activities that remain must be re-analyzed as a factual situation that can be distinguished from the situations in the case law originally cited.

The prior final decision relied upon cases supporting the concept that no higher level of service to the public is provided when there are increased costs for compensation or benefits *alone*. For example, *City of Richmond v. Commission on State Mandates* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1190, cited in the Statement of Decision, held that even though increased employee benefits may generate a higher quality of local safety officers, the test claim statutes did not constitute a new program or higher level of service; the court stated that “[a] higher cost to the local government for compensating its employees is not the same as a higher cost of providing services to the public.” However, *City of Richmond* was based on test claim statutes that increased the cost for death benefits for local safety members, but did not result in actual mandated activities.

The prior final decision also relied upon *San Diego Unified School Dist. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 859, which summarized and reaffirmed several previous cases to illustrate what constitutes a “new program or higher level of service.” However, none of the older cases cited — i.e., *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 46, *City of Anaheim v. State of California* (1987) 189 Cal.App.3d 1478, *City of Sacramento v. State of California* (1990) 50 Cal.3d 51, and *City of Richmond v. Commission On State Mandates, et al.* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1190, — denied reimbursement for actual activities imposed on the local

agencies. In addition, *San Diego Unified School Dist.* did not address the issue of “new program or higher level of service” in the context of actual activities mandated by test claim statutes which increased the costs of employee compensation or benefits.

Although there is no case law directly on point for the situation where the test claim statutes impose activities that are unique to local government but do not clearly provide a service to the public, prior test claims have allowed reimbursement in such circumstances. Furthermore, since testimony was provided at the hearing that strikes by public safety personnel do occur, albeit in the less obvious form of “blue flu” or by other means, the legislative purpose for the test claim statutes must be reevaluated in the analysis to determine whether the provisions result in an increase in the level or quality of governmental services provided.

The Commission finds that the prior final decision for this test claim is contrary to law, and the Statement of Decision should be replaced to reflect the following new analysis and the resulting findings.

**Issue 2: Are the test claim statutes subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?**

*Do the Test Claim Statutes Mandate Any Activities?*

In order for a test claim statute or regulation to impose a reimbursable state-mandated program under article XIII B, section 6, the language must mandate an activity or task upon local governmental agencies. If the language does not mandate or require local agencies to perform a task, then article XIII B, section 6 is not triggered.<sup>48</sup>

As amended at the hearing on this test claim, claimant is seeking reimbursement for the following activities: 1) costs for training on the test claim statute; 2) costs for restructuring bargaining units; 3) discovery activities pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 1281.1, 1281.2 and 1299.8; 4) selecting the agency panel member and neutral arbitrator, and briefings; 5) preparing for and consulting with governing board regarding the last best and final offer; 6) preparing for and participating in negotiations, mediation and arbitration hearings; and 7) costs of litigating interpretation of the test claim statutes.

*Training Costs*

The Commission finds that training agency management, counsel, staff and members of governing bodies regarding binding arbitration is *not required* by the plain language of the test claim statutes. Therefore, these costs are not state-mandated or subject to article XIII B, section 6.

*Costs for Restructuring Bargaining Units*

The Commission finds that the plain language of the test claim statutes *does not require* bargaining units to be restructured. Therefore, any costs associated with such restructuring are not state-mandated or subject to article XIII B, section 6.

*Discovery Activities Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1281.1, 1281.2 and 1299.8*

When one party refuses to engage in arbitration, section 1281.2 establishes grounds for a court to determine whether there is a legal requirement to engage in arbitration, and to compel arbitration

---

<sup>48</sup> *City of Merced v. State of California* (1984) 153 Cal.App.3d 777, 783 (*City of Merced*).



if necessary. Sections 1281.1 and 1299.8 make these provisions applicable to binding arbitration proceedings set forth under the test claim statutes. The Commission finds that activities related to discovery, pursuant to these sections, are not required.

Under the test claim statutes, arbitration is compelled when an impasse has been declared and the employee organization initiates arbitration. The only party that would refuse to engage in binding arbitration under this scenario is the local public agency employer, and such a decision to refuse to engage in arbitration is discretionary. Any discovery activities claimed by these provisions would be triggered by that discretionary decision, and thus are not state-mandated or subject to article XIII B, section 6.

Selecting Agency Panel Member and Neutral Arbitrator

Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, subdivision (b), states that:

Within three days after receipt of the written notification [triggering binding arbitration], each party shall designate a person to serve as its member of an arbitration panel. Within five days thereafter, or within additional periods to which they mutually agree, the two members of the arbitration panel appointed by the parties shall designate an impartial person with experience in labor and management dispute resolution to act as chairperson of the arbitration panel.

Subdivision (c) further states:

In the event that the parties are unable or unwilling to agree upon a third person to serve as chairperson, the two members of the arbitration panel shall jointly request from the American Arbitration Association a list of seven impartial and experienced persons who are familiar with matters of employer-employee relations. The two panel members may as an alternative, jointly request a list of seven names from the California State Mediation and Conciliation Service, or a list from either entity containing more or less than seven names, so long as the number requested is an odd number. If after five days of receipt of the list, the two panel members cannot agree on which of the listed persons shall serve as chairperson, they shall, within two days, alternately strike names from the list, with the first panel member to strike names being determined by lot. The last person whose name remains on the list shall be chairperson.

Claimant is seeking reimbursement for: 1) consulting time of negotiators, staff and counsel in selecting the agency panel member; 2) time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in vetting and selecting a neutral arbitrator; and 3) time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in briefing the agency panel member. The Commission finds that the plain language of the test claim statutes requires only that the public agency employer select an agency panel member. The test claim statutes require the arbitration *panel members* selected by the parties, rather than the employer or employee organization, to select the neutral third panel member to act as chairperson. Moreover, nothing in the test claim statutes requires the public agency panel member to be briefed.

Thus the only activity required is the selection of an agency panel member, and, therefore, that activity alone is state-mandated and subject to article XIII B, section 6.

Prepare for and Consult with Governing Board Regarding Last Best Offer of Settlement

Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.6, subdivision (a), requires that, once the arbitration process is triggered, the arbitration panel shall direct that five days prior to the commencement of its hearings the local public agency employer and employee organization shall submit "the last best offer of settlement as to each of the issues within the scope of arbitration ... made in bargaining as a proposal or counterproposal and not previously agreed to by the parties prior to any arbitration request ..." The test claim statutes *do not*, however, require the local public agency employer to prepare for and consult with the governing board regarding the last best offer of settlement. Thus the only activity required is to *submit* the last best final offer of settlement to the arbitration panel, and, therefore, that activity alone is state-mandated and subject to article XIII B, section 6.

Prepare for and Engage in Negotiations, Mediation and Hearings

The claimant is seeking reimbursement for increased costs associated with collecting and compiling comparability data specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, handling two-track negotiations (for economic issues that are subject to arbitration and economic issues that are not subject to arbitration), and preparing for and participating in mediation.

The Commission finds that the plain language of the test claim statutes *does not require* the local public agency to collect and compile comparability data in preparation for negotiations, to handle "two-track" negotiations, or to participate in mediation, when such activities occur outside the arbitration process. Therefore, any costs associated with such preparation or negotiations prior to the arbitration process being triggered are not state-mandated or subject to article XIII B, section 6.

However, once the arbitration process is triggered — by declaration of the negotiation impasse and the employee organization's request for arbitration — the arbitration panel can direct the parties to take various actions. The panel may "meet with the parties or their representatives, either jointly or separately, make inquiries and investigations, hold hearings, and take any other action including further mediation, that the arbitration panel deems appropriate."<sup>49</sup> For the purposes of its hearings, investigations or inquiries, the panel may also "subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person, and issue subpoenas duces tecum to require the production and examination of any employer's or employee organization's records, books, or papers relating to any subject matter before the panel."<sup>50</sup>

Additionally, Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.8 states that, unless otherwise provided in the test claim statutes, the general provisions regarding arbitration found in the Code of Civil Procedure<sup>51</sup> are applicable to binding arbitration proceedings under the test claim statutes. The relevant portions of these general arbitration provisions establish procedures for the conduct of hearings such as notice of hearings, witness lists, admissible evidence, subpoenas, and depositions.<sup>52</sup>

---

<sup>49</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (a).

<sup>50</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (b).

<sup>51</sup> Code of Civil Procedure sections 1280 et seq.

<sup>52</sup> Code of Civil Procedure sections 1282 et seq.

Section 1299.9, subdivision (b), states that, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the costs of the arbitration proceeding and the expenses of the arbitration panel, *except those of the employer representative*, shall be borne by the employee organization. Thus, the public agency employer is responsible for costs of its agency panel member, but not the cost of the proceeding or the other panel members.

Claimant is seeking reimbursement for the following remaining activities:

1. time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in preparing for the arbitration hearing;
2. time of the agency negotiators, staff and counsel in vetting, selecting and preparing expert witnesses;
3. time of the agency panel member and attorney in pre-arbitration meetings of the panel;
4. staff, attorney, witness and agency panel member time for the hearings;
5. agency panel member time in consulting in closed sessions with the panel;
6. attorney time in preparing the closing brief;
7. time of the attorney, negotiators, and staff in consulting with the agency panel member prior to the issuance of the award;
8. time of the attorney, negotiators, staff, agency panel member, and governing board consulting regarding the award and giving directions to agency negotiators; and
9. time of the agency negotiators to negotiate with the union's negotiating representatives based on the award.

Once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the arbitration panel, within the scope of its authority, may direct the parties to perform specified activities. Since the arbitration proceeding, once triggered, is mandatory, the Commission finds that the activities directed by the arbitration panel or activities initiated by the local public agency employer to participate in arbitration, are not discretionary. As noted above, the arbitration panel's authority includes meeting with the parties or their representatives, making inquiries and investigations, holding hearings, and taking any other action including further mediation, that the arbitration panel deems appropriate,<sup>53</sup> as well as subpoenaing witnesses, administering oaths, taking the testimony of any person, and issuing subpoenas duces tecum to require the production and examination of any employer's or employee organization's records, books, or papers relating to any subject matter before the panel.<sup>54</sup>

The plain language of the test claim statutes does not require the local public agency, or its staff or governing board, to prepare for hearings, prepare expert witnesses; prepare a closing brief, or consult with its panel member prior to issuance of the award, ~~or negotiate with the employee organization representatives based on the award.~~ Nor does the plain language of section 1299.7, subdivision (a), require the local public agency, or its staff or governing board, to negotiate with the employee organization representatives based on the award. Further, the plain language of the test claim statutes does not require the employer's arbitration panel member to participate in pre-

<sup>53</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (a).

<sup>54</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.5, subdivision (b).

arbitration meetings with local agency staff, consult with local agency staff prior to issuance of the award, consult in closed session with the arbitration panel, or consult with local agency staff and the governing board regarding the award. However, to the extent that any of the above activities are directed by the arbitration panel within the scope of its authority, the activity is state-mandated.

Thus, once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, only the following activities, *to participate in the arbitration process or as required by the arbitration panel*, are state-mandated and subject to article XIII B, section 6:

1. Meet with the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
2. Cooperate in inquiries or investigations (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
3. Participate in mediation (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
4. Participate in hearings (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
5. Respond to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (b)).
6. Respond to or make demands for witness lists and/or documents (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1282.2, subdivision (a)(2)~~ 1299.8).<sup>55</sup>
7. Make application and respond to deposition requests (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1283 and 1283.05~~ 1299.8).<sup>56</sup>
8. Conduct discovery or respond to discovery requests (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1283.05~~ 1299.8).<sup>57</sup>

#### Costs of Litigating Interpretation of the Test Claim Statutes

Claimant is seeking “[c]osts of inevitable litigation regarding the interpretation of critical provisions of the law which are ambiguous,” including the fact that the act covers “all other forms of remuneration,” and covers employees performing “any related duties” to firefighting and investigating. The Commission finds that litigating any aspect of the test claim statutes is *not required* by the plain language of the test claim statutes. Therefore, these costs are not state-mandated or subject to article XIII B, section 6.

#### Summary of State-Mandated Activities

In summary, the Commission finds the following activities are state-mandated, and therefore subject to article XIII B, section 6:

1. Selecting an arbitration panel member (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.4, subd. (b)).
2. Submitting the last best final offer of settlement to the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1299.4, subd. (b)~~ 1299.6, subd. (a)).

<sup>55</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1282.2, subdivision (a)(2).

<sup>56</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure sections 1283 and 1283.05.

<sup>57</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1283.05.

3. Once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the following activities required by the arbitration panel or to participate in the arbitration process:
  - a. Meet with the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - b. Participate in inquiries or investigations (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - c. Participate in mediation (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - d. Participate in hearings (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - e. Respond to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (b)).
  - f. Respond to or make demands for witness lists and/or documents (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1282.2~~, subdivision (a)(2) 1299.8).
  - g. Make application and respond to deposition requests (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1283~~ and ~~1283.05~~ 1299.8).
  - h. Conduct discovery or respond to discovery requests (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1283.05~~ 1299.8).

These activities are only state-mandated for the time period in which the test claim statutes were presumed constitutional, January 1, 2001 through April 21, 2003.

**Do the Mandated Activities Constitute a Program?**

The courts have held that the term "program" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 means a program that carries out the governmental function of providing a service to the public, or laws which, to implement a state policy, impose unique requirements on local governments and do not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state.<sup>58</sup> Only one of these tests must be met in order to find that the test claim statutes constitute a "program."

Here, the test claim statutes establish new binding arbitration activities for local public agency employers who employ peace officers and firefighters. The Department of Finance asserts that the costs alleged do not stem from the performance of a requirement unique to local government. The Commission disagrees with the Department, since the test claim statutes are *only* applicable to local public agency employers who employ peace officers and firefighters, and there is no other requirement statewide for employers to engage in binding arbitration with employee organizations. Hence the test claim statutes do not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state.

Moreover, based on the plain language of the test claim statutes, the Legislature's intent in enacting the statutes was to "protect the health and welfare of the public by providing impasse remedies necessary to afford public employers the opportunity to safely alleviate the effects of labor strife that would otherwise lead to strikes by firefighters and law enforcement officers."<sup>59</sup> Although strikes by law enforcement officers and firefighters are illegal, there is evidence in the

---

<sup>58</sup> *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 46, 56 (*County of Los Angeles*).

<sup>59</sup> Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.

record indicating that such strikes nevertheless occur.<sup>60</sup> Thus, the intent of these statutes is to prevent strikes by local safety officers thereby providing a service to the public.

Therefore, the Commission finds that the activities mandated by the test claim statutes constitute a "program," within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6, under either of the tests set forth in *County of Los Angeles*.

**Issue 3: Do the test claim statutes constitute a "new program or higher level of service" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?**

A test claim statute or executive order imposes a "new program or higher level of service" when the mandated activities: a) are new in comparison with the pre-existing scheme; and b) result in an increase in the actual level or quality of governmental services provided by the local public agency.<sup>61</sup> The first step in making this determination is to compare the mandated activities with the legal requirements in effect immediately before the enactment of the test claim statute and regulations.

Prior to the enactment of the test claim statutes, local public agency employers were required to meet and confer in good faith with recognized employee organizations under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. The test claim statutes added new state-mandated activities relating to binding arbitration. Thus, the program is new in comparison with the pre-existing scheme.

Because the Legislature's intent in enacting test claim statutes was to prevent strikes by local firefighters and peace officers, and the statutes require local public agencies that employ these local safety officers to engage in new activities to prevent such strikes, the statutes result in an increase in the actual level or quality of services provided by the local public agency.

Therefore, the Commission finds that the activities mandated by the test claim statutes constitute a "new program or higher level of service" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6.

**Issue 4: Do the test claim statutes impose "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514?**

For the test claim statutes to impose a reimbursable, state-mandated program, the new activities must impose costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code section 17514. Government Code section 17514 defines "costs mandated by the state" as any increased cost a local agency is required to incur as a result of a statute that mandates a new program or higher level of service.

The claimant City of Palos Verdes Estates stated in the test claim that "[t]he activities necessary to comply with the mandated activities cost well in excess of \$200.00 per year ..."<sup>62</sup> Thus, the

<sup>60</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings, July 28, 2006, pages 98-99.

<sup>61</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 877; *Lucia Mar*, *supra*, 44 Cal.3d 830, 835.

<sup>62</sup> At the time the test claim was filed, Government Code section 17564, subdivision (a), stated that the no test claim or reimbursement claim shall be made unless the claim exceeds \$200. That section was subsequently modified in Statutes 2002, chapter 1124, to increase the minimum to \$1,000. If this test claim is approved, any reimbursement claims must exceed \$1,000.

claimant City initially provided evidence in the record, signed under penalty of perjury, that there would be increased costs as a result of the test claim statutes. However, new evidence was provided at the July 25~~28~~, 2006, Commission hearing for this test claim, under oath, that the claimant City of Palos Verdes Estates did not get to a stage in negotiations where binding arbitration was triggered.<sup>63</sup> Since no activities are reimbursable prior to the point at which binding arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the claimant City of Palos Verdes Estates did not in fact incur any costs mandated by the state to comply with the mandated activities during the limited reimbursement period in question (January 1, 2001 through April 21, 2003).

On January 23, 2007, co-claimant County of Napa provided a declaration stating that the binding arbitration process was triggered in that county, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 1299 et. seq., and County staff participated in the process during the reimbursement period by: 1) engaging in mediation; 2) designating an arbitration panel member; 3) meeting with the arbitrators; 4) gathering and exchanging requested information, exhibits, and witness lists; 5) conducting discovery; and 6) participating in a three-day arbitration hearing.<sup>64</sup> Therefore, the County of Napa did engage in some of the state-mandated activities. The County further stated that its costs to participate in these activities exceeded \$10,000. Thus, there is now evidence in the record, signed under penalty of perjury, that there are increased costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code sections 17514 and 17564 of at least \$1,000.

Government Code section 17556 lists several exceptions which preclude the Commission from finding costs mandated by the state. The Commission finds that none of the exceptions are applicable to deny this test claim.

Accordingly, the Commission finds that the activities mandated by the test claim statutes do impose "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission finds that the prior Statement of Decision adopted on July 28, 2006, was contrary to law, and, in applying the appropriate law to the test claim, the test claim statutes mandate the following activities:

1. Selecting an arbitration panel member (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.4, subd. (b)).
2. Submitting the last best final offer of settlement to the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc., § ~~1299.4, subd. (b)~~ 1299.6, subd. (a)).
3. Once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the following activities required by the arbitration panel or to participate in the arbitration process:
  - a. Meet with the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - b. Participate in inquiries or investigations (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - c. Participate in mediation (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).

<sup>63</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings, July 28, 2006, pages 115-116.

<sup>64</sup> Declaration of Jacqueline M. Gong, Deputy County Counsel, Office of County Counsel, County of Napa, page 3.

- d. Participate in hearings (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
- e. Respond to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (b)).
- f. Respond to or make demands for witness lists and/or documents (Code Civ. Proc., ~~§ 1282.2, subdivision (a)(2)~~ 1299.8).<sup>65</sup>
- g. Make application and respond to deposition requests (Code Civ. Proc., ~~§ § 1283 and 1283.05~~ 1299.8).<sup>66</sup>
- h. Conduct discovery or respond to discovery requests (Code Civ. Proc., ~~§ 1283.05~~ 1299.8).<sup>67</sup>

These activities constitute a "program" as well as a "new program or higher level of service." Furthermore, the activities impose "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, and Government Code section 17514. Because the test claim statutes were declared unconstitutional on April 21, 2003, however, the reimbursement period is limited to January 1, 2001 through April 20, 2003.

---

<sup>65</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1282.2, subdivision (a)(2).

<sup>66</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure sections 1283 and 1283.05.

<sup>67</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1283.05.



## DRAFT PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1299, 1299.2,  
1299.3, 1299.4, 1299.5, 1299.6, 1299.8 and 1299.9

Statutes 2000, Chapter 906

*Binding Arbitration*,  
01-TC-07

County of Napa, Claimant

### I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE

On March 29, 2007, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a Statement of Decision on the *Binding Arbitration* test claim, finding that the prior Statement of Decision adopted on July 28, 2006, was contrary to law, and, in applying the appropriate law to the test claim, the test claim statutes mandate the following activities:

1. Selecting an arbitration panel member (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.4, subd. (b)).
2. Submitting the last best final offer of settlement to the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.6, subd. (a)).
3. Once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the following activities required by the arbitration panel or to participate in the arbitration process:
  - a. Meet with the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - b. Participate in inquiries or investigations (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - c. Participate in mediation (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - d. Participate in hearings (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - e. Respond to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (b)).
  - f. Respond to or make demands for witness lists and/or documents (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>1</sup>
  - g. Make application and respond to deposition requests (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>2</sup>
  - h. Conduct discovery or respond to discovery requests (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>3</sup>

The Commission found that these activities constitute a “program” as well as a “new program or higher level of service.” Furthermore, the Commission found that the activities impose “costs

---

<sup>1</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1282.2, subdivision (a)(2).

<sup>2</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure sections 1283 and 1283.05.

<sup>3</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1283.05.

mandated by the state" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, and Government Code section 17514.

## **II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS**

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.2, any city, county, and city and county employing firefighters and/or law enforcement officers, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.3, that incurs increased costs as a result of this reimbursable state-mandated program is eligible to claim reimbursement of those costs, except a city, county, or city and county governed by a charter that was amended prior to January 1, 2001, to incorporate a requirement for resolving employment disputes via binding arbitration (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.9, subdivision (a)).

## **III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT**

Government Code section 17557, subdivision (e), states that a test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The City of Palos Verdes Estates filed the test claim on October 24, 2001, establishing eligibility for fiscal year 2000-2001. However, the operative date of the test claim statutes, as enacted by Statutes 2000, chapter 906, is January 1, 2001. Moreover, the test claim statutes were declared unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court on April 21, 2003. Therefore, the reimbursement period for costs incurred pursuant to Statutes 2000, chapter 906, is limited to January 1, 2001, through April 20, 2003.

Actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim. Estimated costs of the subsequent year may be included on the same claim, if applicable. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State Controller within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.

If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

## **IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES**

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, corroborating documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

The claimant is only allowed to claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate.

For each eligible claimant, the following activities are reimbursable:

1. Selecting an arbitration panel member (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.4, subd. (b)).
2. Submitting the last best final offer of settlement to the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.6, subd. (a)).
3. Once arbitration is triggered under Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4, the scope of which is defined in Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.3, subdivision (g), the following activities required by the arbitration panel or to participate in the arbitration process:
  - a. Meet with the arbitration panel (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - b. Participate in inquiries or investigations (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - c. Participate in mediation (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - d. Participate in hearings (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (a)).
  - e. Respond to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum (Code Civ. Proc. § 1299.5, subd. (b)).
  - f. Respond to or make demands for witness lists and/or documents (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>4</sup>
  - g. Make application and respond to deposition requests (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>5</sup>
  - h. Conduct discovery or respond to discovery requests (Code Civ. Proc., § 1299.8).<sup>6</sup>

The following activities are not reimbursable:

- training agency management, counsel, staff and members of governing bodies regarding binding arbitration;
- costs associated with restructuring bargaining units to accommodate binding arbitration;
- discovery activities, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure sections 1281.1, 1281.2 and 1299.8, when such activities are engaged in outside the binding arbitration process triggered by Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4;
- collect and compile comparability data, handle two track negotiations or participation in mediation, when such activities are engaged in outside the binding arbitration process triggered by Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.4;
- negotiating with the employee organization representatives based on the arbitration panel's award, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1299.7, subdivision (a); and

---

<sup>4</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1282.2, subdivision (a)(2).

<sup>5</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure sections 1283 and 1283.05.

<sup>6</sup> Incorporating by reference Code of Civil Procedure section 1283.05.

- costs to litigate interpretation of the test claim statutes.

## V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section IV, Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section IV. Additionally, each reimbursement claim must be filed in a timely manner.

### A. Direct Cost Reporting

Direct costs are those costs incurred specifically for the reimbursable activities. The following direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.

#### 1. Salaries and Benefits

Report each employee implementing the reimbursable activities by name, job classification, and productive hourly rate (total wages and related benefits divided by productive hours). Describe the specific reimbursable activities performed and the hours devoted to each reimbursable activity performed.

#### 2. Materials and Supplies

Report the cost of materials and supplies that have been consumed or expended for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Purchases shall be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates, and allowances received by the claimant. Supplies that are withdrawn from inventory shall be charged on an appropriate and recognized method of costing, consistently applied.

#### 3. Contracted Services

Report the name of the contractor and services performed to implement the reimbursable activities. If the contractor bills for time and materials, report the number of hours spent on the activities and all costs charged. If the contract is a fixed price, report the services that were performed during the period covered by the reimbursement claim. If the contract services are also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the services used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed. Submit contract consultant and attorney invoices with the claim and a description of the contract scope of services.

#### 4. Fixed Assets and Equipment

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets and equipment (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset or equipment is also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

#### 5. Travel

Report the name of the employee traveling for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Include the date of travel, destination point, the specific reimbursable activity requiring travel, and related travel expenses reimbursed to the employee in compliance with the

rules of the local jurisdiction. Report employee travel time according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, for each applicable reimbursable activity.

### **B. Indirect Cost Rates**

Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for a common or joint purpose, benefiting more than one program, and are not directly assignable to a particular department or program without efforts disproportionate to the result achieved. Indirect costs may include both (1) overhead costs of the unit performing the mandate; and (2) the costs of the central government services distributed to the other departments based on a systematic and rational basis through a cost allocation plan.

Compensation for indirect costs is eligible for reimbursement utilizing the procedure provided in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87. Claimants have the option of using 10% of direct labor, excluding fringe benefits, or preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds 10%.

If the claimant chooses to prepare an ICRP, both the direct costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) and the indirect costs shall exclude capital expenditures and unallowable costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B). However, unallowable costs must be included in the direct costs if they represent activities to which indirect costs are properly allocable.

The distribution base may be (1) total direct costs (excluding capital expenditures and other distorting items, such as pass-through funds, major subcontracts, etc.), (2) direct salaries and wages, or (3) another base which results in an equitable distribution.

In calculating an ICRP, the claimant shall have the choice of one of the following methodologies:

1. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) shall be accomplished by (1) classifying a department's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect, and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate which is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected; or
2. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) shall be accomplished by (1) separating a department into groups, such as divisions or sections, and then classifying the division's or section's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect, and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate that is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected.

## **VI. RECORD RETENTION**

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter<sup>7</sup> is subject to the initiation

---

<sup>7</sup> This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

## **VII. OFFSETTING REVENUES AND REIMBURSEMENTS**

Any offsets the claimant experiences in the same program as a result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, service fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds, shall be identified and deducted from this claim.

## **VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS**

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558, subdivision (b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local agencies and school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the test claim decision and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1), issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the local agencies and school districts to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

## **IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

Upon request of a local agency or school district, the Commission shall review the claiming instructions issued by the State Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs pursuant to Government Code section 17571. If the Commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the Commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the Commission.

In addition, requests may be made to amend parameters and guidelines pursuant to Government Code section 17557, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.2.

## **X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES**

The Statement of Decision is legally binding on all parties and provides the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record for the test claim. The administrative record, including the Statement of Decision, is on file with the Commission.

# Commission on State Mandates

Original List Date: 10/25/2001  
Last Updated: 1/4/2007  
List Print Date: 05/10/2007  
Claim Number: 01-TC-07  
Issue: Binding Arbitration

Mailing Information: Notice of adopted SOD

## Mailing List

### TO ALL PARTIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.2.)

---

Mr. Steve Shields

Shields Consulting Group, Inc.  
1536 36th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel: (916) 454-7310

Fax: (916) 454-7312

---

Ms. Bonnie Ter Keurst

County of San Bernardino  
Office of the Auditor/Controller-Recorder  
222 West Hospitality Lane  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0018

Tel: (909) 386-8850

Fax: (909) 386-8830

---

Mr. Tom McMains

California Peace Officers' Association  
1455 Response Road, Suite 190  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Tel: (916) 263-0541

Fax: (916) 263-6090

---

Mr. Leonard Kaye, Esq.

County of Los Angeles  
Auditor-Controller's Office  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 603  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 974-8564

Fax: (213) 617-8106

---

Ms. Susan Geanacou

Department of Finance (A-15)  
915 L Street, Suite 1190  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 445-3274

Fax: (916) 324-4888

---

Mr. Steve Keil

California State Association of Counties  
1100 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3941

Tel: (916) 327-7523

Fax: (916) 441-5507

---

Ms. Annette Chinn  
Cost Recovery Systems, Inc.  
705-2 East Bidwell Street, #294  
Folsom, CA 95630

Tel: (916) 939-7901  
Fax: (916) 939-7801

---

Mr. David Wellhouse  
David Wellhouse & Associates, Inc.  
9175 Kiefer Blvd, Suite 121  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Tel: (916) 368-9244  
Fax: (916) 368-5723

---

Mr. Allan Burdick  
MAXIMUS  
4320 Auburn Blvd., Suite 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95841

**Claimant Representative**  
Tel: (916) 485-8102  
Fax: (916) 485-0111

---

Mr. Jim Spano  
State Controller's Office (B-08)  
Division of Audits  
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 323-5849  
Fax: (916) 327-0832

---

Mr. John Liebert  
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
6033 W Century Blvd. #500  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Tel: (310) 645-6492  
Fax:

---

Mr. James B. Hendrickson  
City of Palos Verdes Estates  
340 Palos Verdes Drive West  
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

**Claimant**  
Tel: (310) 378-0383  
Fax: (310) 378-7820

---

Mr. Steve Smith  
Steve Smith Enterprises, Inc.  
3323 Watt Avenue #291  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Tel: (916) 216-4435  
Fax: (916) 972-0873

---

Ms. Jacqueline M. Gong  
County of Napa  
1195 Third Street, Suite 301  
Napa, CA 94559

Tel:  
Fax:

---

Mr. J. Bradley Burgess  
Public Resource Management Group  
1380 Lead Hill Boulevard, Suite #106  
Roseville, CA 95661

Tel: (916) 677-4233  
Fax: (916) 677-2283

---

Ms. Amy Benton  
California Professional Firefighters  
1780 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 200

Tel: (916) 921-9111  
Fax: (916) 921-1106



---

Ms. Caria Castaneda  
Department of Finance (A-15)  
915 L Street, 11th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 445-3274  
Fax: (916) 323-9584

---

Ms. Donna Ferebee  
Department of Finance (A-15)  
915 L Street, 11th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 445-3274  
Fax: (916) 323-9584

---

Ms. Pam Kindig  
Napa County  
Auditor-Controller's Office  
1195 Third Street, Suite B-10  
Napa, CA 94559

Tel:  
Fax:

---

Ms. Nancy Watt  
County of Napa  
County Executive Office  
1195 Third Street, Suite 310  
Napa, CA 94559

Tel: (707) 253-4421  
Fax: (707) 253-4176

---

Ms. Ginny Brummels  
State Controller's Office (B-08)  
Division of Accounting & Reporting  
3301 C Street, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel: (916) 324-0256  
Fax: (916) 323-6527

---

Mr. Glen Everroad  
City of Newport Beach  
3300 Newport Blvd.  
P. O. Box 1768  
Newport Beach, CA 92659-1768

Tel: (949) 644-3127  
Fax: (949) 644-3339

---

Ms. Beth Hunter  
Centration, Inc.  
8570 Utica Avenue, Suite 100  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Tel: (866) 481-2621  
Fax: (866) 481-2682

---

Ms. Juliana F. Gmur  
MAXIMUS  
4320 Auburn Blvd., Suite 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95841

Tel: (916) 485-8102  
Fax: (916) 485-0111

---

