



Board of Administration

Agenda Item 9a5

February 15, 2022

Item Name: Proposed Decision on Remand – In the Matter of the Application for Industrial Disability Retirement of MARIBETH D. ARAGONES, Respondent, and PELICAN BAY STATE PRISON, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION, Respondent.

Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision on Remand, as modified.

Respondent Maribeth D. Aragonés's (Respondent Aragonés) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

Strategic Plan

This item is not a specific product of either the Strategic or Annual Plans. The determination of administrative appeals is a power reserved to the Board of Administration.

Procedural Summary

Respondent Aragonés submitted an application for industrial disability retirement based on orthopedic (cervical and lumbar spine) conditions. CalPERS denied the application. Respondent Aragonés appealed this determination and the matter was heard on January 14, 2021. At its June 16, 2021 meeting, the CalPERS Board of Administration remanded this matter to review and consider additional post-hearing medical information. The case was heard on remand by the Office of Administrative Hearings on December 2, 2021. Respondent Pelican Bay State Prison, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Respondent CDCR) failed to appear at either hearing, and the case proceeded as a default under Government Code section 11520 as to Respondent CDCR only. A Proposed Decision on Remand was issued December 29, 2021, again affirming CalPERS' determination and denying the appeal.

Alternatives

- A. For use if the Board decides to modify and adopt the Proposed Decision on Remand as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, pursuant to Government Code section 11517 (c)(2)(C) which authorizes the Board to "make technical or other minor changes in the proposed decision," hereby modifies the Proposed Decision, by removing "and uncertain duration" from the quotation in the second line of paragraph two on the top of page 17 of the Proposed Decision on Remand, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision on Remand dated December 29, 2021, as modified, concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- B. For use if the Board decides to adopt the Proposed Decision on Remand as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision on Remand dated December 29, 2021, concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- C. For use if the Board decides not to adopt the Proposed Decision on Remand, and to decide the case upon the record:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated December 29, 2021, concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision on Remand and determines to decide the matter itself, based upon the record produced before the Administrative Law Judge and such additional evidence and arguments that are presented by the parties and accepted by the Board; RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board's Decision shall be made after notice is given to all parties.

- D. For use if the Board decides to remand the matter back to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the taking of further evidence:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision on Remand dated December 29, 2021, concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision on Remand and refers the matter back to the Administrative Law Judge for the taking of additional evidence as specified by the Board at its meeting.

- E. Precedential Nature of Decision (two alternatives; either may be used):

1. For use if the Board wants further argument on the issue of whether to designate its Decision as precedential:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System requests the parties in the matter concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés, as well as interested parties, to submit written argument regarding whether the Board's Decision in this matter should be designated as precedential, and that the Board will consider the issue whether to designate its Decision as precedential at a time to be determined.

2. For use if the Board decides to designate its Decision as precedential, without further argument from the parties.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, hereby designates as precedential its Decision concerning the appeal of Maribeth D. Aragonés.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Anthony Suine
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Disability and Survivor Benefits Division