BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Claims and Actions Against the District

Unless otherwise provided by law, prior to filing a lawsuit against the district for money or damages, a written claim shall be filed in accordance with the following administrative regulation.

Time Limitations

The following time limitations apply to claims against the district:

1. Claims for money or damages relating to any cause of action which is governed by a statute or regulation, including childhood sexual abuse and other causes of action specifically excepted from the Government Claims Act by Government Code 905, shall be filed in accordance with the governing statute or regulation. (Government Code 905, 935)

2. In accordance with the Board's authority pursuant to Government Code 935, claims for money or damages which relate to any cause of action specifically excepted from the Government Claims Act by Government Code 905 but which are not governed by any other claims presentation statute or regulation shall be filed not later than six months after the accrual of the cause of action. (Government Code 905, 935)

3. Claims for money or damages relating to a cause of action for death or for injury to person, personal property, or growing crops shall be presented to the Governing Board not later than six months after the accrual of the cause of action. (Government Code 911.2)

4. Claims for money or damages relating to any other cause of action shall be filed not later than one year after the accrual of the cause of action. (Government Code 911.2)

Receipt of Claims

A claim, any amendment thereto, or an application to present a late claim shall be deemed presented and received when delivered to the district office or deposited in a post office, mailbox, sub-post office, substation, ~~or~~ mail chute, or other similar facility maintained by the U.S. government, in a sealed envelope properly addressed to the district office with postage paid or when otherwise actually received in the district office or by the Board secretary or clerk. (Government Code 915, 915.2)

Upon receipt of a claim against the district pursuant to the Government Claims Act, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly provide written notice to the district's joint powers authority or insurance carrier in accordance with the applicable conditions of coverage.

Review of Contents of the Claim

The Superintendent or designee shall review any claim received to ensure that the claim contains all of the following information as specified in Government Code 910 and 910.2:

1. The name and post office address of the claimant

2. The post office address to which the person presenting the claim desires notices to be sent

3. The date, place, and other circumstances of the occurrence or transaction which gave rise to the claim asserted

4. A general description of the indebtedness, obligation, injury, damage, or loss incurred insofar as it may be known at the time of presentation of the claim

5. The name(s) of the public employee(s) causing the injury, damage, or loss if known

6. The amount claimed if it totals less than $10,000 including the estimated amount of any prospective injury, damage, or loss, insofar as it may be known at the time of the claim, together with the basis of computation of the amount claimed. If the amount claimed exceeds $10,000, the dollar amount shall not be included in the claim and the claimant shall indicate whether the claim is a "limited civil case."

7. The signature of the claimant or the person acting on his/her behalf

Notice of Claim Insufficiency

If a claim is found insufficient or not to satisfy the form requirements under Government Code 910 and 910.2, the Board or its designee shall, within 20 days of receipt of the claim, personally deliver or mail to the claimant, at the address stated in the claim or application, a notice that states the particular defects or omission in the claim. (Government Code 910.8, 915.4)

The Board shall not act upon the claim until at least 15 days after such notice is given. (Government Code 910.8)

Amendment to Claims

Within the time limits provided under the section entitled "Time Limitations" above or prior to final action by the Board, whichever is later, a claim may be amended if, as amended, it relates to the same transaction or occurrence which gave rise to the original claim. (Government Code 910.6)

Late Claims

For claims under items #2 and #3 in the section "Time Limitations" above, any person who presents a claim later than six months after the accrual of the cause of action shall present, along with the claim, an application to present a late claim. Such claim and the application to present a late claim shall be presented not later than one year after the accrual of the cause of action. (Government Code 905, 911.4)

If the claim is presented late and is not accompanied by an application to present a late claim, the Board or its designee may, within 45 days, give written notice that the claim was not presented timely and that it is being returned without further action. (Government Code 911.3)

The Board shall grant or deny the application to present a late claim within 45 days after it is presented. This 45-day period may be extended by written agreement of the claimant and the Board provided that such agreement is made before the expiration of the 45-day period. (Government Code 911.6)

The Board shall grant the application to present a late claim where one or more of the following conditions are applicable: (Government Code 911.6)

1. The failure to present the claim was through mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect and the district was not prejudiced in its defense regarding the claim by the claimant's failure to present the claim within the time limit.

2. The person who sustained the alleged injury, damage, or loss was a minor during all of the time specified for presentation of the claim.

3. The person who sustained the alleged injury, damage, or loss was physically or mentally incapacitated during all of the time specified for presentation of the claim and the disability was the reason he/she failed to present the claim.

4. The person who sustained the alleged injury, damage, or loss died before the expiration of the time specified for the presentation of the claim.

If the application to present a late claim is denied, the claimant shall be given notice in substantially the same form as set forth in Government Code 911.8. (Government Code 911.8)

If the Board does not take action on the application to present a late claim within 45 days, the application shall be deemed to have been denied on the 45th day unless the time period has been extended, in which case it shall be denied on the last day of the period specified in the extension agreement. (Government Code 911.6)

Action on Claims

Within 45 days after the presentation or amendment of a claim, the Board shall take action on the claim. This time limit may be extended by written agreement between the district and the claimant before the expiration of the 45-day period. If the 45-day period has expired, the time limit may be extended if legal action has not commenced or been barred by legal limitations. (Government Code 912.4)

The Board may act on the claim in one of the following ways: (Government Code 912.4, 912.6)

1. If the Board finds that the claim is not a proper charge against the district, the claim shall be rejected.

2. If the Board finds that the claim is a proper charge against the district and is for an amount justly due, the claim shall be allowed.

3. If the Board finds that the claim is a proper charge against the district but is for an amount greater than is justly due, the Board shall either reject the claim or allow it in the amount justly due and reject it as to the balance.

4. If legal liability of the district or the amount justly due is disputed, the Board may reject or compromise the claim.

5. If the Board takes no action on the claim, the claim shall be deemed rejected.

If the Board allows the claim in whole or in part or compromises the claim and the claimant accepts the amount allowed or offered to settle the claim, the Board may require the claimant to accept it in settlement of the entire claim. (Government Code 912.6)

The Board or its designee shall transmit to the claimant written notice of action taken or of inaction which is deemed rejection. The notice shall be in the form set forth in Government Code 913 and shall either be personally delivered or mailed to the address stated in the claim or application. (Government Code 913, 915.4)