



Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System

DATE: January 25, 2023

Agenda Item # C4

TO: SBCERS BOARD OF RETIREMENT

FROM: Danielle Azoury, Disability Retirement Analyst

RE: **Robert Pischke, Disability Retirement Applicant**

Recommendation

Grant Referee Catherine Harris' request for extension of her jurisdiction to January 26th, 2023, to accommodate an agreed upon hearing of January 26th, 2023.

Attachments

(1) Request from Referee Harris

From: [Catherine Harris](#)
To: [Danielle Azoury](#)
Cc: ["Philip Moncharsh"](#); ["Jane Oatman"](#)
Subject: Request for Extension of Jurisdiction (Application of Robert Pischke)
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 7:43:01 PM

Honorable Board Members:

I am writing to request an extension of my jurisdiction in the above-referenced disability retirement matter that will permit the hearing to be conducted on January 26, 2023.

This case was previously scheduled for a virtual hearing on January 9, 2023. Due to high winds and heavy rains in the Sacramento area, on the date of the hearing, I was without power. Due to the practical difficulties of conducting a hearing without internet, heat, or adequate lighting, I requested that counsel for both parties agree to postpone the hearing to a later date. I also provided dates later on in the month when I would be available.

I would have written earlier but for the fact that my power was not restored until I was about to leave for the airport to conduct a two-day hearing in Orange County on the morning of January 10. My trip to Orange County took an entire day as there were problems with air turbulence around John Wayne Airport and I did not return to Sacramento until last night. Upon my return, I had to deal with issues involving damage to my property from the storms and to make preparations for another round of heavy rain and high winds beginning tomorrow.

Subject to an extension of jurisdiction by the Board of Retirement, counsel for both parties, the retirement office, and the hearing officer have agreed to continue the case until January 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Please let us know if this is acceptable to the Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Harris, Esq.
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Member, National Academy of Arbitrators (www.naarb.org)

Fellow, College of Labor and Employment Lawyers

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