

ATTACHMENT A

RESPONDENT'S PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Via FAX 916 795-3972

April 22, 2014

Cheree Swedensky, Assistant to the Board
Executive Office
California Public Employees Retirement system
P.O. Box 942701
Sacramento, Ca 94229-2701



Reference No. 9703

Dear Ms. Swedensky,

My name is Maria Rosa Rivera. I was employed by Los Angeles Unified School District on October 29, 1986.

For me, it was a blessing working with children, unfortunately I had the accident on August 10, 2005. I continued working with pain for 3 years. I missed many days of work during those 3 years.

On February 2008, I was ordered to help in Physical Education class. The pain in my lower back and neck became more intense.

On March 29, 2008, I was supervising the students on the playground, a student came running towards me and hugged me tightly, wrapping his arms around my waist and his legs around my calves. He put all his weight on me, and this event exacerbated the pain.

Since that day, I have to be very careful if I feel that I have to move my bowels. I have to run to the bathroom quickly. If I don't arrive quickly to the restroom, the situation becomes embarrassing and painful.

On September 1, 2008 the student who I worked with one-to-one entered the third grade. The classroom is located on the second floor of the school. The principal refused to give me an elevator key. My condition worsened and I felt very ill with the daily strain on my body.

Due to my neck problem, every time I lay down to sleep or to relax or when I get up I feel dizzy. Also, when I try to reach for something above my head I have headaches on the left side of my head. I have not been able to walk in two occasions, in October 2006 and February 2010.

It is very sad and difficult for me to think that someday I am not going to be able to walk due to my back problems. I have numbness in my legs and arms.

On December 2009 and continuing into 2010, I was very depressed and considered suicidal three times.

On top of everything now I have ulcerative colitis, diabetes, and my heart arrhythmias returned which had been treated by a mechanical heart valve implant on March 28, 1997.

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Unfortunately, the pain heightened my blood pressure and the pain arrhythmias returned, also the pain makes my blood sugar elevated.

How could I have returned to work with all these health problems? When the principal saw all the restrictions that Dr. Scott gave me, the principal told me to go home.

Please Ms. Swedensky reconsider my petition for disability. I do not know what to do or what else to say, and this situation is not good for my health.

Social Security gave me the disability. Dr. Perelman said that 90 percent of the cervical and lumbar spine permanently disability was caused by injury occurring in the course of my employment with LAUSD.

Although Dr. Bleeker and Dr. More are saying that I do not have disability, there are ex-rays and scans of my spine to say differently.

I am the one who is suffering pain and sadness with the feeling that sometimes my life has no value especially when I am unable to do so many things I use to enjoy.

I have fulfilled all my requisites since the moment I made my retirement application on November 2008.

I did not appear in Court on January 30, 2014 because when I spoke with the attorney on December 2013, he told me not to worry and that I did not have any court appointment.

One week before the Board of Administration meeting, on March 12, 2014 I went to see the attorney Thiago Olivera Shields and he told me that he is no long handling my case. After so many years of handling my case, he left me hanging. I currently do not have an attorney.

Please whoever is in charge, my future is in your hands. I know you have a job to fulfill but I hope my request touches your heart and that you can feel that I am telling you the truth.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Rosa Rivera". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Maria Rosa Rivera