



# Board of Administration Agenda Item 8p

December 21, 2016

**Item Name:** Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Cancellation of the Application for Industrial Disability Retirement of GRACE S. HERRERA, Respondent, and CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SONOMA, Real Party In Interest.

**Program:** Benefit Services Division

**Item Type:** Action

### **Parties' Positions**

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

Respondent Grace S. Herrera (Respondent Herrera) argues that the Board of Administration should decline to adopt the Proposed Decision.

### **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 Herrera submitted an application for disability retirement based on bipolar disorder, brain injury, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and schizophrenia. CalPERS cancelled the application for disability retirement because she had been terminated for cause, pursuant to the rationale set forth in *Haywood v. American River Fire Protection District* and its progeny. Respondent Herrera appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on October 3, 2016. A Proposed Decision was issued on November 3, 2016, denying the appeal.

### **Alternatives**

- A. For use if the Board decides to modify and adopt the Proposed Decision, as modified, 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 deleting the word "Industrial" in the caption on page one and in any other place it may appear in the Proposed Decision, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated November 3, 2016, as

modified, concerning the appeal of Grace S. Herrera; 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 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 dated November 3, 2016, concerning the appeal of Grace S. Herrera; 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, 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 November 3, 2016, concerning the appeal of Grace S. Herrera, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision 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 dated November 3, 2016, concerning the appeal of Grace S. Herrera, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision 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 Grace S. Herrera, 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 Grace S. Herrera.

**Budget and Fiscal Impacts:** Not applicable

**Attachments**

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

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Customer Services and Support