Agenda Item 9a11

April 22, 2020


Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties’ Positions

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision, as modified. Respondent Christian A. Ladd’s (Respondent Ladd) position is included in Attachment C, if any. Respondent California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (Respondent CDFW) 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 CDFW submitted an employer-originated application for disability retirement on Respondent Ladd’s behalf. CalPERS approved the application based on a gastrointestinal (cirrhosis) condition. Respondent Ladd appealed this determination to approve his application and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on September 26, 2019 and December 19, 2019. A Proposed Decision was issued on January 22, 2020, granting Respondent Ladd’s appeal.

Alternatives

A. For use if the Board decides to modify and adopt the Proposed Decision 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 correcting the definition for Government Code section 20026 from “. . . mean disability of permanent or extended and uncertain duration, as determined by the
board . . . on the basis of competent medical opinion” to “. . . mean disability of permanent or extended duration, which is expected to last at least 12 consecutive months or will result in death, as determined by the board . . . on the basis of competent medical opinion” on page 18, in paragraph 3 of the Proposed Decision and deleting the words “and uncertain” before “duration” on page 20, in paragraph 8, line 2 of the Proposed Decision, and hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated January 22, 2020, as modified, concerning the appeal of Christian A. Ladd; 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 January 22, 2020, concerning the appeal of Christian A. Ladd; 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 January 22, 2020, concerning the appeal of Christian A. Ladd, 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 January 22, 2020, concerning the appeal of Christian A. Ladd, 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 Christian A. Ladd, 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 Christian A. Ladd.

**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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Anthony Suine
Deputy Executive Officer
Customer Services and Support