

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCEL CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 11:00 AM**

**LOCATION:
TELECONFERENCE**

Link: <https://alliantinsurance.zoom.us/j/96439577386?pwd=WWiHUHb8ZsKm92SlUo9HG6PvKm1RL4.1>

Meeting ID: 964 3957 7386

Passcode: 295369

Dial: (669) 900-6833

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jena Covey, City of Bakersfield

Matthew Braley, City of Modesto

Samhitha Cutshaw, City of Mountain View (*Joined at 11:05 AM*)

Ross Brandon, City of Santa Cruz

Oles Gordeev, City of Santa Monica

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUESTS AND CONSULTANTS:

Ben Oram, George Hills Company

Samantha Morgan, George Hills Company

Conor Boughey, Alliant Insurance Services

Lorissa Huey, Alliant Insurance Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

Jena Covey called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

B1. Approval of Minutes for the May 12th, 2025, Claims Committee Meeting

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar.

MOTION: Oles Gordeev

SECOND: Ross Brandon

MOTION CARRIED

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Oles Gordeev	Ross Brandon	Samhitha Cutshaw
Aye	X	X	X	X	
Nay					
Abstain					

C. REPORTS

C1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

C1a. Election of Claims Committee Chair

Lorissa Huey reported that the Claims Committee annually elects a Committee Chair.

A motion was made to elect Jena Covey as the Claims Committee Chair.

MOTION: Oles Gordeev **SECOND:** Ross Brandon **MOTION CARRIED**

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Oles Gordeev	Ross Brandon	Samhitha Cutshaw
Aye		X	X	X	X
Nay					
Abstain	X				

C1b. George Hills Service Team Update

Ben Oram introduced Samantha Morgan to the Claims Committee. A copy of her resume was included in the agenda packet. The Committee welcomed her.

C1c. Litigation Update

Every quarter, Ben Oram provides the Claims Committee a litigation update. The litigation update was posted on the ACCEL Website in the Members' Only Section.

Members asked questions, which were addressed.

C1d. Member Attorney Rates

Lorissa Huey stated that ACCEL's Claims Handling Policy and Procedure requires Members to notify the Claims Committee (CC) when their attorney rates are in excess of \$400 per hour.

The Cities of Bakersfield and Burbank have submitted letters regarding their contract with their respective law firms. This is the fourth year for Bakersfield with Marderosian and Cohen, and the second year for Burbank with Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni.

A motion was made to approve the letters and the Committee found that the Attorney Rates for both law firms were reasonable. The CC has requested the Members to continue to submit their attorney rates annually if they are in excess of \$400 per hour.

MOTION: Ross Brandon **SECOND:** Matthew Braley **MOTION CARRIED**

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Oles Gordeev	Ross Brandon	Samhitha Cutshaw
Aye		X		X	X
Nay					
Abstain	X		X		

C1e. CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to Gov't Code 54956.95

A motion was made to enter into Closed Session at 11:30 AM.

MOTION: Ross Brandon **SECOND:** Jena Covey **MOTION CARRIED**

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Oles Gordeev	Ross Brandon	Samhitha Cutshaw
Aye	X	X	X	X	X
Nay					
Abstain					

A motion was made to come out of Closed Session at 11:40 AM.

MOTION: Oles Gordeev **SECOND:** Ross Brandon **MOTION CARRIED**

	Jena Covey	Matthew Braley	Oles Gordeev	Ross Brandon	Samhitha Cutshaw
Aye	X	X	X	X	X
Nay					
Abstain					

RECONVENE - DISPOSITION OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Lorissa Huey reported out of Closed Session that direction was given to the Claims Administrators.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Lorissa Huey adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.