



**MINUTES OF THE
ACCEL CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 08, 2025, at 1:30 PM**

**LOCATION:
TELECONFERENCE**

Link: <https://alliantinsurance.zoom.us/j/95125796512?pwd=C6V9HBSEdFRbevhQEdVwmwvRbWrip4.1>

Meeting ID: 951 2579 9512

Passcode: 818596

Dial: (669) 900-6833

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jena Covey, City of Bakersfield
Matthew Braley, City of Modesto (*Joined at 1:31 PM*)
Samhitha Cutshaw, City of Mountain View
Oles Gordeev, City of Santa Monica (*Joined at 1:33 PM*)
Ross Brandon, City of Santa Cruz

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUESTS AND CONSULTANTS:

Donna Starr, City of Anaheim Alternate (*Left at 2:37 PM*)
Rob Powers, R. E. Powers Company, LLC
Craig Schweikhard, R. E. Powers Company, LLC
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 1:31 PM.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

B1. Approval of Minutes for the September 11, 2025 Claims Committee Meeting

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar.



MOTION: Ross Brandon SECOND: Samhitha Cutshaw MOTION CARRIED

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

C. REPORTS

C1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE’S REPORT

C1a. 2025 ACCEL Claims Audit Draft

Rob Powers and Craig Schweikhard, ACCEL’s Claims Auditor walked through a draft of the 2025 Claims Audit that includes the executive summary, narratives for each Member, and ACCEL’s Claims Administrator, George Hills Company. Rob and Craig will be at the January 2026 Board Meeting to Present the final version of the 2025 Claims Audit.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board to accept the Claims Audit as final.

MOTION: Jena Covey SECOND: Ross Brandon MOTION CARRIED

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



C1bi. ACCEL’s Policies and Procedures Review and Proposed Changes: Claims Reporting and Handling

Lorissa Huey presented the Claims Reporting and Handling Policy and Procedure’s proposed changes to Section VII. Settlement Authority Process as requested by the Board from the October 2025 Board Meeting. The Committee reviewed the redlined changes included in the agenda packet and had a roundtable discussion.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board to adopt the proposed changes as presented subject to amending the following: present Option 1, “\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 - Claims Committee Chair or the President if the claim involves the Chair’s own city,” and amend item 6 to state, “Where the Board has approved a reserve amount, the Board may take action to delegate authority to an Executive Committee Member or any Committee Chair and the Claims Litigation Manager to settle a claim where it determines that the circumstances of a claim warrant delegation of such authority to effect timely and efficient resolution of the claim.”

MOTION: Oles Gordeev **SECOND:** Samhitha Cutshaw **MOTION CARRIED**

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

C1bii. ACCEL’s Policies and Procedure Review and Proposed Changes: Closed Session Confidentiality

Lorissa Huey presented the Closed Session Confidentiality Policy and Procedure to the Committee and stated that this is reviewed every even numbered year by the January Board Meeting.

A motion was made to administratively change the review date to December 8th, 2025.

MOTION: Jena Covey **SECOND:** Samhitha Cutshaw **MOTION CARRIED**

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



C1c. Litigation Update

Ben Oram provided the Committee the quarterly litigation update. He discussed cases about Police Pursuit – Vehicle Code Immunity, Employment – Meals and Rest Breaks, Age Discrimination regarding pension calculations.

Members asked questions, which were addressed.

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

A motion was made to enter into Closed Session at 2:37 PM.

MOTION: Oles Gordeev **SECOND:** Jena Covey **MOTION CARRIED**

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

A motion was made to come out of Closed Session at 3:37 PM.

MOTION: Jena Covey **SECOND:** Matthew Braley **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Lorissa Huey reported out of Closed Session that no reportable action took place.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Lorissa Huey adjourned the meeting at 3:39 PM