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**DATE:** February 21, 2019

**TO:** Alameda County Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Patricia Reavey, Deputy Executive Director of Finance and Administration

**SUBJECT:** FY2018-19 Second Quarter Report of Claims Acted Upon Under the Government Claims Act

## Recommendation

This item is to provide the Commission with an update on the FY2018-19 Second Quarter Report of Claims Acted upon under the Government Claims Act. This item is for information only.

## Summary

There were no actions taken by staff under the Government Claims Act during the second quarter of FY2018-19.

## Background

Tort claims against Alameda CTC and other California government entities are governed by the Government Claims Act (Act). The Act allows the Commission to delegate authority to an agency employee to review, reject, allow, settle, or compromise tort claims pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Commission. If the authority is delegated to an employee, that employee can only reject claims or allow, settle, or compromise claims \$50,000 or less. The decision to allow, settle, or compromise claims over \$50,000 must go before the Commission for review and approval.

California Government Code section 935.4 states:

“A charter provision, or a local public entity by ordinance or resolution, may authorize an employee of the local public entity to perform those functions of the governing body of the public entity under this part that are prescribed by the local public entity, but only a charter provision may authorize that employee to allow, compromise, or settle a claim against the local public

entity if the amount to be paid pursuant to the allowance, compromise or settlement exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). A Charter provision, ordinance, or resolution may provide that, upon the written order of that employee, the auditor or other fiscal officer of the local public entity shall cause a warrant to be issued upon the treasury of the local public entity in the amount for which a claim has been allowed, compromised, or settled.”

On June 30, 2016, the Commission adopted a resolution which authorized the Executive Director to reject claims or allow, settle, or compromise claims up to and including \$50,000.

There have only been a handful of small claims filed against Alameda CTC and its predecessors over the years, and many of these claims were erroneously filed, and should have been filed with other agencies (such as Alameda County, AC Transit, and Caltrans). As staff moves forward with the implementation of Measure BB, Alameda CTC may experience an increase in claims against the agency as Alameda CTC puts more projects on the streets and highways of Alameda County and as Alameda CTC’s name is recognized as a funding agency on these projects. Staff works directly with the agency’s insurance provider, the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), when claims are received so that responsibility may be determined promptly and they might be resolved expediently or referred to the appropriate agency. This saves Alameda CTC money because when working with the SDRMA directly, much of the legal costs to address these claims are covered by insurance.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested action.