

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FLAVIO GARCIA, *Applicant***

**vs.**

**JCM ENGINEERING GROUP; INS CO OF THE WEST, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Numbers: ADJ10348614, ADJ10348615, ADJ10575723  
San Bernardino District Office**

**OPINION AND ORDER  
DENYING PETITION FOR  
REMOVAL**

We have considered the allegations of the Petition for Removal and the contents of the report of the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ) with respect thereto. Based on our review of the record, and based upon the WCJ's analysis of the merits of petitioner's arguments in the WCJ's report, we will deny removal.

Removal is an extraordinary remedy rarely exercised by the Appeals Board. (*Cortez v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.* (2006) 136 Cal.App.4th 596, 599, fn. 5 [71 Cal.Comp.Cases 155]; *Kleemann v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.* (2005) 127 Cal.App.4th 274, 280, fn. 2 [70 Cal.Comp.Cases 133].) The Appeals Board will grant removal only if the petitioner shows that substantial prejudice or irreparable harm will result if removal is not granted. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10955(a); see also *Cortez, supra*; *Kleemann, supra*.) Also, the petitioner must demonstrate that reconsideration will not be an adequate remedy if a final decision adverse to the petitioner ultimately issues. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10955(a).) Here, based upon the WCJ's analysis of the merits of petitioner's arguments, we are not persuaded that substantial prejudice or irreparable harm will result if removal is denied and/or that reconsideration will not be an adequate remedy if the matter ultimately proceeds to a final decision adverse to petitioner.

While we are sympathetic to applicant's attorney's frustration with respect to his efforts to proceed with discovery, under WCAB Rule 10782(c) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10782(c)), the WCJ has discretion to determine that a "case is not appropriate for expedited decision." Once the

parties proceed to trial, they will have an opportunity to raise all relevant issues, and to submit relevant evidence and otherwise create a record. The trial WCJ can then consider the evidence and the legal arguments raised by the parties and determine how best to proceed.

Accordingly, we deny the petition for removal.

For the foregoing reasons,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Petition for Removal is **DENIED**.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD**

**/s/ MARGUERITE SWEENEY, COMMISSIONER**

I CONCUR,

**/s/ ANNE SCHMITZ, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**

**/s/ JOSÉ H. RAZO, COMMISSIONER**



**DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**OCTOBER 11, 2022**

**SERVICE MADE ON THE ABOVE DATE ON THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW AT THEIR ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE CURRENT OFFICIAL ADDRESS RECORD.**

**FLAVIO GARCIA  
LAW OFFICES OF ARNULFO F. GUTIERREZ  
MICHAEL SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES**

**AS/ara**

I certify that I affixed the official seal of  
the Workers' Compensation Appeals  
Board to this original decision on this date.  
CS