

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

WHITNEY SULLIVAN, *Applicant*

vs.

TESLA MOTORS, INC.; administered by ZURICH NORTH AMERICA, *Defendants*

**Adjudication Number: ADJ16734260
Oakland 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.

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. As part of that process, defendant will have an opportunity to raise the issue of whether further discovery is appropriate.

The trial WCJ can then consider the evidence and the legal arguments raised by the parties and determine how best to proceed.

For the foregoing reasons,

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER

I CONCUR,

/s/ ANNE SCHMITZ, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

/s/ CRAIG SNELLINGS, COMMISSIONER



DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 5, 2023

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

**WHITNEY SULLIVAN
VALENCIA, WILBERDING & ROMERO
COLANTONI, COLLINS, MARREN, PHILLIPS & TULK, LLP**

AS/mc

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