

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

JOSEFINA MILLAN CHAVEZ, *Applicant*

vs.

**EMPLOYBRIDGE;
XL INSURANCE OF AMERICA; admin by BROADSPIRE, *Defendants***

Adjudication Numbers: ADJ14751755; ADJ14301718

Anaheim 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.

We note that applicant filed a subsequent Petition for Removal on May 14, 2024, in response to the PWCJ's order changing venue of April 24, 2024. On May 22, 2024, the PWCJ rescinded the order.

WCAB Rule 10961 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10961) provides that jurisdiction remains with the district office for 15 days after the timely filing of a petition for reconsideration and sets forth the following actions that a WCJ may take in response: (1) The WCJ may prepare a report and transfer jurisdiction to the Appeals Board to address the merits of the petition (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10961(a); see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10962); (2) The WCJ may rescind the entire order, decision or award and initiate proceedings within 30 days (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10961(b)); or (3) The WCJ may rescind the order, decision or award and issue an amended order, decision or award, and a new petition for reconsideration must be filed in response to the amended order, decision or award (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10961(c)).

Consequently, if the order, decision or award is rescinded pursuant to subdivision (b) or subdivision (c) within the 15-day period wherein the WCJ retains jurisdiction, the original petition is deemed moot because the order, decision or award that is the subject of the petition no longer exists.

Here, the PWJ rescinded the original order vacating within the 15-day period, rendering the Petition moot, and we need not address it.

For the foregoing reasons,

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

/s/ KATHERINE A. ZALEWSKI, CHAIR

I CONCUR,

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER

/s/ JOSÉ H. RAZO, COMMISSIONER



DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

August 7, 2024

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

**JOSEFINA MILLAN CHAVEZ
LAW OFFICES OF ARNULFO F. GUTIERREZ
BONDY LAW**

AS/mc

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