

News Release

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GALLERY COLLECTION HOMEOWNERS COMPLETE SOILS DAMAGE SETTLEMENT

Individual owners of several dozen homes in the Gallery Collection, joined by the Homeowners Association, have completed lengthy negotiations with the developer and subcontractors, and have reached a multi-million dollar settlement. Both architectural issues and soils movement issues caused damage to many homes in the development, which is located at State College and Bastanchury in Fullerton and was built in the 1990's.

Architectural issues included leaky roofs, leaky windows, leaky bathroom tile and mold to name a few, according to Clayton Anderson, senior partner with Anderson & Kriger, the law firm that represented the homeowners in the matter, known as the Chu Case. The case was filed in 2003 in Orange County Superior Court.

The soils damage settlement for a number of homes followed within a year after the completion of substantial slope repairs on the east side of the Gallery Collection development. Anderson said the soils repairs were funded by a separate lawsuit filed by the Homeowners' Association because of substantial grading and soil compaction problems with the development of over a hundred high-end homes.

Compensation for the owners included both damages from the soil creep affecting pools and backyard improvements along the east slope. It also included compensation for homes built on landfill in at least two deep canyons. The canyons were filled up with dirt but the soils subsided over time, causing cracks and leaks, Anderson said.

Compensation for soils damages to homes on the eastern slope was primarily paid for by Mesa Contracting, the grading contractor, and Pacific Soils Engineering, who were the soils engineers during construction.

Anderson added, "With this settlement money it is anticipated that owners of the affected properties will initially make cosmetic repairs both inside their homes and in their backyards where the surface soil has subsided, and they will continue to consult with their soils engineer as to further repairs that might be necessary."

Anderson & Kriger, which specializes in construction defect litigation in California, has six offices in the state, including the Orange County office at 1231 E. Dyer Road, Suite 250, in Santa Ana. For more information call 714-424-5100 or go online at www.a-k.com.

GALLERY COLLECTION

SOIL DAMAGES



Slope Repairs



Fence Separation



Pool Damage



Mold Remediation
Bathroom