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Jury Awards \$34 Million in Punitive Damages to Park Tenants

An L.A. County jury (Long Beach) just awarded \$5.5 million in compensatory damages and \$34 million in punitive damages to approximately 50 tenants residing in a 181 space mobilehome park located in Long Beach, California.

Plaintiffs alleged that the Park was originally built on a former city landfill which caused the ground upon which the infrastructure and individual coaches were situated to become unstable. This, in turn, allegedly caused a variety of problems including sinkholes, sewer back-ups, structural damage and electrical blackouts.

After a number of years of receiving tenant complaints, the Park owner allegedly collected several million dollars from the Park residents to address the infrastructure problems in the Park, but those problems persisted, resulting in the filing of the Failure to Maintain lawsuit.

Approximately 120 more tenants in the Park are reportedly scheduled to go to trial on similar claims in 2019.

Failure to Maintain cases in California remain both prevalent and dangerous for Park owners. Hart King is seeing an increase in the number of competent and well-funded law firms pursuing cases on behalf of Park tenants around the State. If you would like to know more about how Hart King can help your ownership and management avoid this significant potential liability, please contact one of our partners below and we will be pleased to set up an introductory meeting with you at your convenience.

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Hart King represents publicly held corporations, mid-sized businesses and entrepreneurs in all state and federal courts within California. The firm offers a wide range of civil litigation and transactional services in the areas of business, commercial real estate, manufactured housing, professional design & construction, and trust and estate matters.

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