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November 17, 2026

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: LILIANA CAMPOS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Lucas Alvarez v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV14767

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, Case Summary, and Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

LC:tf

Attachments

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Lucas Alvarez v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV14767, in the amount of $350,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget.

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained when struck by a broken tree that fell at Athens Park.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Lucas Alvarez vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER		23STCV14767
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		June 26, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	350,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		MARK GIANNAMORE, ESQ. Vaziri Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This is a dangerous condition lawsuit which arises from a tree branch that fell in Athens Park on July 24, 2022. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the falling branch. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	47,884
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	75,887

Case Name: Alvarez, Lucas vs. County of Los Angeles

Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	7/24/2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Patron was at Athens Park when a large tree branch fell onto his head and hand. Plaintiff claims the tree constituted a dangerous condition of public property.

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

The incident was attributed to the inherent unpredictability of tree limb failure, including sudden limb drop or other failures that may occur without visible warning signs, the scale of the Department's tree population relative to available inspection resources, and the fact that tree inventory and inspection tracking systems were not fully implemented at the time of the incident.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Department completed a department-wide tree inventory and condition assessment to improve tracking of tree assets and support risk-based tree management. The inventory supports prioritization of ongoing inspection and maintenance activities based on observed tree conditions. Trees identified as high-risk were prioritized for mitigation and addressed as appropriate through the use of in-house staff, contractors, and partner organizations. A priority-based inspection and maintenance approach has been implemented to focus resources on high-use public areas. Forestry operations utilize ArborPro to support tree inventory, condition assessment, and maintenance activities, with work activity recorded in the IBM Maximo system. Additionally, staff training has been enhanced to improve hazard identification, reporting, and work order documentation. Following the incident, Forestry staff evaluated the subject tree, removed the failed limb, evaluated surrounding trees within the immediate area, and completed additional tree maintenance, including contracted tree work within the park. The Department continues to refine its tree management program through ongoing monitoring, field observation, and data-informed decision-making.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

X Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Vicky Santana	
Signature:	Date: 9/17/2026

Name: (Department Head) Alina Bokde	
Signature: Alina Bokde	Date: 9/23/2026

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.

☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian	
Signature: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 9/23/26