

# Los Angeles Daily News

**Moorpark settles suit over death**  
Simi electrician killed in train crash  
**By Angie Valencia-Martinez**  
**Staff Writer**

**Saturday, June 18, 2005** - MOORPARK -- The family of a 64-year-old man killed in a freak train crash in Moorpark has received a \$1.3 million settlement from the city, officials said Friday.

Charles Ozal Shere, a municipal electrician, was killed in November 2003 while driving a pickup truck owned by the city of Simi Valley. The man's family filed an \$8 million wrongful-death lawsuit in July 2004 against the city of Moorpark, where the death occurred, and against several other parties.

Their attorney argued that the railroad crossing at West Los Angeles Avenue and Collins Drive is a "concealed death trap for motorists."

The family's attorney could not be reached for comment.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Shere's wife, Paulette, and their children. "No amount of money is going to ever replace him," daughter Jamie Shere said.

Officials said the funds for the settlement would come from an insurance pool, through the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

"I don't think the city was liable," Councilman Clint Harper said. "That crossing is used by a large number of people and not a lot of accidents are reported."

Harper added this was the largest settlement the city has paid in recent memory.

Shere broke both his legs in a head-on collision with a sport utility vehicle. His vehicle also was rear-ended by a third vehicle, leaving his pickup truck stuck on the railroad tracks. He managed to escape the pickup just as a Metrolink commuter train barreled through, but was killed when the train hit his truck and pushed it into him.

The suit also names the county of Ventura, the California Department of Transportation, Union Pacific Corp. and the driver involved in the initial crash.

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