



LITIGATION SUPPORT SERVICES FAILURE ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cotton, Shires and Associates (CSA) is often called upon to function as the neutral or independent consultant in large litigation cases, where the court-appointed settlement judge or mediator is forced to contend with a large number of opposing parties and experts. In our role as the independent consultant, we are required to carry out detailed geotechnical investigations in order to determine the type and extent of damage, and the likely contributing causes of damage. In many cases, CSA is asked to design engineering solutions and provide construction cost estimates to repair the damage. We have been successful in assisting the court in a large number of cases where geotechnical issues have been identified as the probable cause of failure. Some examples of these types of cases include:



Rancho Solano Residential Subdivision is a large hillside residential community in Fairfield, California that is exposed to poor soil and foundation conditions, unstable slopes and fill settlement.

Knockash Hill Development is a residential project constructed within an urban quarry in San Francisco, California that was subject to numerous and very dangerous rock slides.

Partridge Knolls is a hillside residential development that was constructed downslope and adjacent to the Buck Center medical research facility in Novato, California. The residential development has suffered considerable damage to public streets and individual houses.



In the attempt to help resolve cases like these, CSA has developed a successful process that allows our staff to quickly identify technical issues that can be easily resolved and then focus our investigative energies on the remaining issues. We have a sufficient level of experience that enables us to assist the court in resolving most technical issues at the mediation level or as the result of settlement discussions. Successful mediation or settlement efforts require us to bring opposing experts together and to arrive at a consensus position. In this way, the mediation or litigation parties can concentrate on a narrowly defined set of problems.