

Settlement Sets Record for Case in Long Beach

SOUTHEAST

LONG BEACH — A \$1.85 million settlement has been awarded to a construction worker who received permanent injuries from a fall in 1975.

Tom Roche, 40, of Lakewood, won what was said to be the largest settlement ever made within the jurisdiction of Long Beach Superior Court.

Settlement was reached during the third week of a trial in which Roche was suing the contractors and the city of Los Angeles. He has been a paraplegic since the accident, which occurred at a sewage plant that was under construction in San Pedro.

The settlement calls for the contracting firm of Pascal and Ludwig to pay \$1.2 million, the city of Los Angeles to pay \$500,000, and Workmen's Compensation, \$150,000.

Roche's attorney, Lawrence Booth, said Roche was left a paraplegic after suffering damage to his lower spine in a 37-foot fall. He claimed the company failed to install proper guard rails.

Booth and a court employe who asked not to be identified, said it was a record settlement here.

Roche is married and has two teen-aged children.