# BEFORE THE

# BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against:	) )	
TERRY CHARLES STURGIS 900 Fitzroy Court	) Case No. 1120-A	
Roseville, CA 95647	OAH No. 2021080383.1	
Civil Engineer License, No. C 30909,	) )	
Respondent.	) _)	
DECIS	ION	
Pursuant to Government Code section Land Surveyors, and Geologists of the State of Control Decision of the Administrative Law Judge as its D	• 1	
In adopting this Proposed Decision as its Decision, the Board for Professiona		

In adopting this Proposed Decision as its Decision, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists has reduced the penalty order pursuant to Government Code section 11517(c)(2)(B) as follows:

The condition in the Order relating to providing a list of engineering projects in progress is removed and shall not be enforced.

This Decision shall become effective on	June 2, 2022
IT IS SO ORDERED <u>May 2,</u>	<i>2022</i>

Original Signed

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS Department of Consumer Affairs State of California

# **BEFORE THE**

# BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against:

**TERRY CHARLES STURGIS, Respondent** 

Agency Case No. 1120-A

OAH No. 2021080383.1

# PROPOSED DECISION

Jessica Wall, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), State of California, heard this matter by videoconference on March 15, 2022, from Sacramento, California.

Complainant Richard B. Moore, PLS, Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board) was represented by Deputy Attorney General Mabel Lew.

Respondent Terry Charles Sturgis was present and represented himself.

Testimony and documentary evidence was received, the record closed, and the matter was submitted for decision on March 15, 2022.

# **FACTUAL FINDINGS**

# **License History**

1. On August 15, 1979, the Board issued Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 (license) to respondent. The license was in effect at all times relevant and expired on March 31, 2022.

# **A**CCUSATION

- 2. On October 28, 2015, complainant filed an Accusation, alleging that respondent's license was subject to discipline on the following grounds:
- (1) negligence, pursuant to Business and Professions Code<sup>1</sup> section 6775, subdivision (c); and (2) incompetence, pursuant to section 6775, subdivision (c). Specifically, the Accusation alleged that in July 2009, respondent prepared bridge plans that failed to meet the standards required of a licensed civil engineer because of errors and missing components in the analyses and calculations.
  - 3. On June 22, 2016, respondent signed a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order (Stipulated Settlement) in which respondent acknowledged that complainant could establish a factual basis for the allegations and waived his right to contest those charges. Under the Stipulated Settlement, respondent's license was revoked, the revocation was immediately stayed, and the Board placed respondent on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All further references will be to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

probation for five years subject to certain terms and conditions. The Board adopted the Stipulated Settlement, effective September 23, 2016.

4. The terms and conditions of respondent's probation include:

 $[\P] \dots [\P]$ 

**4. Violation of Probation.** If the respondent violates the probationary conditions in any respect, the Board, after giving him notice and the opportunity to be heard, may vacate the stay and reinstate the disciplinary order which was stayed. If, during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to vacate stay is filed against the respondent, or if the matter has been submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for the filing of such, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until all matters are final, and the period of probation shall be extended until all matters are

[¶] . . . [¶]

**6. Engineering Courses.** Within four and one-half ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall successfully complete and pass three (3) college-level civil engineering courses, which must be related to the areas of violation alleged in the Accusation. Said courses shall be approved in advance by the Board or its designee. The respondent shall provide the Board with official proof of completion of the requisite courses. For purposes of this

condition, "college-level course" means a course offered by a community college or a four-year university of three semester units or the equivalent; it does not include seminars.

**7. Ethics Course.** Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent must successfully complete and pass a course in professional ethics, approved in advance by the Board or its designee.

 $[\P] \dots [\P]$ 

# **Petition to Revoke Probation**

5. On June 9, 2021, complainant, in his official capacity, filed the Petition to Revoke Probation (Petition) based on respondent's failure to comply with Conditions 6 and 7. Respondent did not file a defense or request an administrative hearing. The Board issued a Default Decision and Order on the Petition (Default Decision) on November 9, 2021. Respondent submitted a timely Petition for Reconsideration, which the Board granted on January 11, 2022. The Board set aside the Default Decision and this administrative hearing followed.

# **COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATION**

6. Angela Smith works as an Enforcement Analyst for the Board and has been respondent's probation monitor since September 2016. She testified at hearing about her communications with respondent. On September 27, 2016, Ms. Smith sent respondent a letter detailing each term of probation and setting forth specific dates by which the conditions must be fulfilled. The letter provided that respondent must complete and pass: three college-level courses related to the areas of violation in the

Accusation and one course in professional ethics. All courses need to be pre-approved by the Board. The letter also said, in bold type, that respondent's failure to timely complete approved college-level and professional ethics courses by March 24, 2021, would constitute a violation of probation.

- 7. On January 30, 2019, Ms. Smith emailed respondent about a Boardapproved professional ethics course offered by Texas Tech University via Distance Learning. She informed respondent that he could choose another professional ethics course, but all courses needed to be pre-approved by the Board. The next day, respondent responded that he would pursue the Texas Tech University course for his professional ethics requirement and inquired about whether "there might be an online option" for his college-level civil engineering courses. Ms. Smith clarified that respondent could complete online/correspondence courses from community or fouryear colleges, but she could not make any specific recommendations.
- 8. On June 10, 2019, respondent emailed Ms. Smith that he had registered for two courses at Sierra College, "Introduction to Earth Science" and "Physical Geology," which he believed related to the Accusation's soil stability allegations. Ms. Smith informed respondent that these courses did not meet the requirements of his probation because the three college-level courses needed to be civil engineering courses. Respondent disputed that his probation required civil engineering courses and asked if he could appeal her determination.
- 9. On March 19, 2021, respondent wrote Ms. Smith about his efforts to complete the college-level courses. He stated that the Board had approved his requested courses at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) on August 19, 2019, but he subsequently learned those courses would require him to take additional prerequisites. For respondent, "[t]his was inevitably a hill too high to climb with the

intensive 'caregiving' and ultimate passing of [his] wife, during this period." He concluded that "it was [his] burden to carry" and he "accept[ed] that the Board may deem to revoke [his] license."

10. On March 26, 2021, Ms. Smith sent respondent a letter informing him that he had violated his probation by failing to complete his three college-level courses and professional ethics course. The letter also notified respondent that the Board would be submitting the matter to the Office of the Attorney General to pursue further action against his license.

# **Respondent's Evidence**

- 11. Respondent has practiced as a civil engineer for 43 years. In 1979, he qualified for the professional examination based on his combination of lower division courses and seven years of work experience. Respondent does not have a bachelor's degree. The Accusation is his only license discipline.
- 12. Respondent contested the facts alleged in the Accusation. He agreed to the Stipulated Settlement because he could not afford the legal cost of contesting it. At the time, his wife was terminally ill, and respondent was her full-time caretaker. Respondent's wife died on September 14, 2017.
- 13. After the Board approved respondent's August 2019 request to take civil engineering courses at CSUS, he learned the approved courses required prerequisite courses in physics, mathematics, and chemistry. CSUS would not waive these prerequisites. Respondent admitted not looking for any alternative courses to satisfy Condition 6. Similarly, he did not complete the professional ethics course, because he thought it would be "a specious attempt to curry favor" if he completed Condition 7 and

not Condition 6. Thereafter, respondent chose "to run out the clock in the hope that [he] could mount some sort of personal and professional defense" at the hearing.

14. At hearing, respondent shared that he did not attempt any of the prerequisite courses because he feared he would not pass them. If he failed the prerequisites, he would have to retake them, which would prevent him from finishing all the courses before his probation ended. He felt it was overly burdensome to complete 32 units (23 units of prerequisites and 9 units for Condition 6) and that he needed to spend his time on caretaking tasks and work. He hoped the hearing would yield "an equitable solution" to the problem, such as a greater financial payment in lieu of coursework. He agrees that he violated the terms of his probation, and his license could be revoked.

# **Analysis**

- 15. Respondent was aware he had four and a half years to complete three college-level courses in civil engineering (Condition 6) and one course in professional ethics (Condition 7). There is no dispute that he failed to complete those four courses. Rather than seek alternative courses or an extension of time to complete the courses, respondent chose inaction.
- 16. Respondent presented little in mitigating circumstances to consider. He could not complete the courses after August 2019 because of the time needed to care for his ill wife; however, his wife had passed away nearly two years before. Similarly, his reasoning for not completing the professional ethics course was misplaced.

  Completing Condition 7, even without completing Condition 6, would have been seen as a good faith effort towards compliance with his probationary terms.

17. The Board has legitimate concerns about respondent's fitness to practice, given the facts underlying the 2015 Accusation and respondent's failure to follow the terms of his probation. The reasonable time for respondent to meet his probationary requirements has come and gone. Respondent did not seek an extension or modification of the probationary terms. Instead, he asks to pay a fine instead of completing remedial education, which would not address the purpose underlying the requirement. Accordingly, because respondent did not follow his probation's terms and conditions, his license should be revoked.

# **LEGAL CONCLUSIONS**

- 1. The burden of proof in this matter is on complainant to show by a preponderance of evidence that respondent's license should be revoked. (Sandarg v. Dental Board of California (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 1434, 1441.) A preponderance of the evidence means "more likely than not." (Sandoval v. Bank of Am. (2002) 94 Cal.App.4th 1378, 1388.)
- 2. Pursuant to Condition 4 of the Stipulated Settlement, the Board may vacate the stay and reinstate the stayed disciplinary order if, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, it is determined that respondent has violated any of the Stipulated Settlement's conditions of probation. As provided in Factual Findings 3 through 14, respondent violated Conditions 6 and 7 of his probation. Accordingly, cause exists to vacate the stayed revocation of respondent's license.
- 3. The matters set forth in Factual Findings, as a whole, have been considered. The evidence established respondent failed to comply with the terms and

conditions of his probation. Under all the facts and circumstances herein, it would be

contrary to the public interest to permit respondent to retain his license at this time.

**ORDER** 

The Petition to Revoke Probation is granted, the order staying the revocation of

Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 issued to respondent Terry Charles Sturgis is vacated,

and Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 is revoked.

Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, Terry Charles Sturgis shall

provide the Board with a list of all engineering projects in progress and the anticipated

completion date of each project.

DATE: April 8, 2022

Original Signed

JESSICA WALL

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California DAVID E. BRICE		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MABEL LEW		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 158042		
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255		
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-6104 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFOR	DE THE	
9	BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENG	SINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND	
10	GEOLOGISTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12			
13	In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against:	Case No. 1120-A	
14	TERRY CHARLES STURGIS	PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION	
15	900 Fitzroy Court Roseville, California 95647		
16	Civil Engineer License No. C 30909		
17	Respondent.		
18			
19	Complainant alleges:		
20		TIES	
21 22	PARTIES  1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainant) brings this Petition to Revoke Probation solely		
23			
24	in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land		
25	Surveyors, and Geologists, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).  2. On or about August 15, 1979, the Board issued Civil Engineer License		
		<u> </u>	
26	Number C 30909 to Terry Charles Sturgis (Respondent). Respondent's Civil Engineer License		
27	was in effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2022, unless renewed.		
28	2022, unicss icheweu.	1	
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# PRIOR DISCIPLINE

3. In a disciplinary action titled "In the Matter of the Accusation Against Terry Charles Sturgis," Case Number 1120-A, the Board issued a decision, effective September 23, 2016, in which Respondent's Civil Engineer License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's Civil Engineer License was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.

# **JURISDICTION**

4. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 4 stated:

If the Respondent violates the probationary conditions in any respect, the Board after giving the Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may vacate the stay and reinstate the disciplinary order which was stayed. If, during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to vacate stay is filed against the respondent, or if the matter has been submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for the filing of such, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until all matters are final, and the period of probation shall be extended until all matters are final.

5. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 6 stated:

Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall successfully complete and pass three (3) college-level civil engineering courses, which must be related to the areas of violation alleged in the Accusation. Said courses shall be approved in advance by the Board or its designee. The respondent shall provide the Board with official proof of completion of the requisite courses. For purposes of this condition, "college-level course" means a course offered by a community college or a four-year university of three semester units or the equivalent; it does not include seminars.

6. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 7 stated:

Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent must successfully complete and pass a course in professional ethics, approved in advance by the Board or its designee.

7. Grounds exist to revoke Respondent's probation and impose the order of revocation of his Civil Engineer License, in that Respondent has violated the terms and conditions of his probation as follows:

# FIRST CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

# (Failure to Comply With Probation Condition 6–Take and Pass Three College-Level Civil Engineering Courses)

- 8. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 6, referenced above. The facts and circumstances regarding this violation are as follows:
- a. Respondent was required to complete and pass, with a grade of "C" or better, three (3) college-level civil engineering courses related to the areas of violation alleged in the Accusation by March 24, 2021. Respondent failed to submit coursework for approval and failed to take and pass three college-level courses related to the area of violation alleged in the Accusation by March 24, 2021.

# SECOND CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

# (Failure to Comply With Probation Condition 7-Professional Ethics Course)

- 9. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 7, referenced above. The facts and circumstances regarding this violation are as follows:
- a. Respondent was required to complete a professional ethics course by March 24, 2021.
   Respondent failed to submit a course for approval and he did not take and pass the ethics course as required.

# **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists in Case Number 1120-A and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 issued to Terry Charles Sturgis;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Civil Engineer License No. C 30909, issued to Terry Charles Sturgis;

1	3. Taking such other and	further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3		
4	DATED: <u>6/9/2021</u>	Original Signed
5		RICHARD B. MOORE, PLS Executive Officer Poord for Professional Engineers, Land
6		Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
7		State of California  Complainant
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# Exhibit A

Decision and Order (eff. September 23, 2016)

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists Case No. 1120-A

# BEFORE THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

)
) Case No. 1120-A
)
)

# **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists as its Decision in the aboveentitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on Septender 23, 2016

IT IS SO ORDERED August 18, 2016
Original Signed

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS Department of Consumer Affairs State of California

KAMALA D. HARRIS	
Attorney General of California KENT D. HARRIS	
Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
DAVID E. BRICE	
Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 269443	
1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255	
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550	
Telephone: (916) 324-8010 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643	
E-mail: David.Brice@doj.ca.gov	
Attorneys for Complainant	
	RE THE
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EN	GINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND OGISTS
DEPARTMENT OF	CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 1120-A
ΓERRY CHARLES STURGIS	OAH No. 2016030084
000 Fitzroy Court	
Roseville, California 95647	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
Civil Engineer License No. C 30909	DISCH LINARY ORDER
Respondent.	
IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AG	REED by and between the parties to the above-
entitled proceedings that the following matters a	
PAR	RTIES
1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complaina	int) is the Executive Officer of the Board for
Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Ge	eologists. He brought this action solely in his
official capacity and is represented in this matter	r by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the
State of California, by David E. Brice, Deputy A	Attorney General.
2. Respondent Terry Charles Sturgis ("	'Respondent") is represented in this proceeding by
ttorney LaDon G. Bader, whose address is: La	w Office of LaDon G. Bader, 1124 West Tokay
Street, Lodi, CA 95240.	
The state of the s	

3. On or about August 15, 1979, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists issued Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 to Terry Charles Sturgis (Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1120-A, and will expire on March 31, 2018, unless renewed.

# JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 1120-A was filed before the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 9, 2015. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- A copy of Accusation No. 1120-A is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

# ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1120-A. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

# **CULPABILITY**

Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
 No. 1120-A, if proven at hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Civil Engineer

License No. C 30909. For the purpose of resolving the entire Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the allegations in the accusation. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

10. Respondent agrees that his Civil Engineer License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

# RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

# **CONTINGENCY**

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.

It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Civil Engineer License No. C 30909 issued to Respondent Terry Charles Sturgis is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. **Obey All Laws.** The respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to the practices of professional engineering and land surveying.
- 2. **Submit Reports.** The respondent shall submit such special reports as the Board may require.
- 3. **Tolling of Probation.** The period of probation shall be tolled during the time the respondent is practicing exclusively outside the state of California. If, during the period of probation, the respondent practices exclusively outside the state of California, the respondent shall immediately notify the Board in writing.
- 4. **Violation of Probation.** If the respondent violates the probationary conditions in any respect, the Board, after giving him notice and the opportunity to be heard, may vacate the stay and reinstate the disciplinary order which was stayed. If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to vacate stay is filed against the respondent, or if the matter has been submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for the filing of such, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until all matters are final, and the period of probation shall be extended until all matters are final.

- Completion of Probation. Upon successful completion of all of the probationary conditions and the expiration of the period of probation, the respondent's Civil Engineer License, No. C 30909, shall be unconditionally restored.
- 6. **Engineering Courses.** Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall successfully complete and pass three (3) college-level civil engineering courses, which must be related to the areas of violation alleged in the Accusation. Said courses shall be approved in advance by the Board or its designee. The respondent shall provide the Board with official proof of completion of the requisite courses. For purposes of this condition, "college-level course" means a course offered by a community college or a four-year university of three semester units or the equivalent; it does not include seminars.
- 7. **Ethics Course.** Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent must successfully complete and pass a course in professional ethics, approved in advance by the Board or its designee.
- 8. **Cost Recovery.** Within four and one-half (4 ½) years from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall reimburse the Board for its investigative and enforcement costs in this matter in the amount of \$7,461.80. Said reimbursement may be paid in installments.
- 9. **Examination.** Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall successfully complete and pass the California Laws and Board Rules examination, as administered by the Board.
- 10. **Notification.** Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the decision, the respondent shall provide the Board with evidence that he has provided all persons or entities with whom he has a contractual or employment relationship relating to professional civil engineering services with a copy of the decision and order of the Board and shall provide the Board with the name and business address of each person or entity required to be so notified. During the period of probation, the respondent may be required to provide the same notification to each new person or entity with whom he has a contractual or employment relationship relating to professional civil engineering services and shall report to the Board the name and address of each person or entity so notified.

# **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, LaDon G. Bader. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Civil Engineer License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

DATED: June 22, 20/6 Original Signed TERRY CHARLES STURGIS / Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Terry Charles Sturgis the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

I approve its form and content.

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DATED: 6-72-70/6

Original Signed

LADON G. BADER Attorney for Respondent

# ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

Dated: 6 20 2016

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California KENT D. HARRIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Original Signed

DAVID E. BRICE Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1120-A

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS		
2	Attorney General of California KENT D. HARRIS		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
	DAVID E. BRICE Deputy Attorney General		
4	State Bar No. 269443 1300 I Street, Suite 125		
5	P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550		
6	Telephone: (916) 324-8010	(w)	
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-8643 E-mail: David.Brice@doj.ca.gov		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9		RE THE GINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND	
10	BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS		
	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 1120-A	
13	TERRY CHARLES STURGIS 900 Fitzroy Court		
14	Roseville, California 95647	ACCUSATION	
15	Civil Engineer License No. C 30909		
16	Respondent.		
17			
18	Complainant alleges:		
19	PAR	TIES	
20	1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainar	nt) brings this Accusation solely in his official	
21	capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and		
22	Geologists, Department of Consumer Affairs.		
23	2. On or about August 15, 1979, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors,		
24	and Geologists issued Civil Engineer License Number C 30909 to Terry Charles Sturgis		
25	(Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the		
26	charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2016, unless renewed.		
27	///		
28	///		

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 6775 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that:

"[T]he board may reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the certificate of any professional engineer registered under this chapter:

(c) Who has been found guilty by the board of negligence or incompetence in his or her practice.

...

### COST RECOVERY

5. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

### BACKGROUND

6. Respondent contracted with property owner H.G. to design a bridge across a creek and through an easement located on a neighboring property owned by S.H. Respondent signed and stamped plans and calculations for the bridge and delivered them to G.H. (an engineer hired by S.H. who would also serve as contractor) on or about July 24, 2009. G.H. constructed the bridge using a different set of drawings. The as-built bridge was not built using Respondent's plans.

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# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Negligence)

- 7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 6775, subdivision (c) in that Respondent was negligent in the practice of civil engineering. The circumstances are as follows:
- 8. On or about July 24, 2009, Respondent provided signed and stamped plans and calculations for construction of a bridge to G.H., as set forth more fully in paragraph 6 above. Respondent was negligent in his preparation of the calculations for these plans in the following ways:
  - Respondent used an different span measurement in the calculations than the drawings indicate.
  - In the analysis of the section properties of the deep section of the bridge,
     Respondent indicated a different plate measurement than the drawings indicate.
  - c. In the analysis of the sections properties of the deep section of the bridge,
     Respondent indicated a different channel measurement than the drawings indicate.
  - d. Respondent modeled the bridge as the same structural section throughout but the drawing of the bridge has lesser depth sections at each end and tapered sections.
  - e. Respondent indicated that the analysis was to be done per Caltrans specifications, but the seismic analysis was done per a different code.
  - f. Respondent omitted truck loading information from the drawings.
  - g. Respondent omitted a comment that the speed of a truck on the bridge must not exceed ten miles per hour.
  - h. Respondent omitted calculations for the guard rail supporting cantilever beams and their connection to the existing steel channel.
  - i. Respondent omitted calculations for the retaining walls.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence)

- 9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 6775, subdivision (c) in that Respondent displayed incompetence in the practice of civil engineering. The circumstances are as follows:
- 10. On or about July 24, 2009, Respondent provided signed and stamped plans and calculations for construction of a bridge to G.H., as set forth more fully in paragraph 6 above. Respondent displayed incompetence in his preparation of the calculations for these plans in the following ways:
  - a. Respondent's seismic analysis did not add overturning bearing forces to dead load force for checking allowable soil bearing at center pier.
  - b. In the design calculations for the anchor bolts regarding lateral forces, Respondent listed seismic loads, but not the braking forces.
  - c. Respondent did not include a calculation for the lengthening and shortening of the bridge due to temperature changes and whether the slot length is adequate at the anchor bolts.
  - d. Respondent did not indicate the strength of the steel channel.
  - e. Respondent did not include an analysis of the field weld call-out for connecting the steel channel to the bottom of the existing flatcar structure.

# PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Civil Engineer License Number C 30909, issued to Terry Charles Sturgis;
- Ordering Terry Charles Sturgis to pay the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
  - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: /0/28/15

Original Signed

RICHARD B. MOORE, PLS

**Executive Officer** 

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and

Geologists

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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