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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation against:	)
KOLADI MUTHERI KRIPANARAYANAN P.O. Box 223 2710 Alpine Blvd Alpine, CA 91901  Civil Engineer License, No. C 34055,  Respondent.	) Case No. 1233-A ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )
DECIS	<u>SION</u>
The attached Stipulated Surrender	and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the
Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyo	rs, and Geologists as its Decision in the above-
entitled matter.	
This Decision shall become effecti	ve on <u>December 9, 2021</u>
IT IS SO ORDERED ${\cal N}o$	vember 9, 2021 .

Original Signed

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

1	ROB BONTA	
2	Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RITA M. LANE	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 171352	
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266	
6	San Diego, CA 92186-5266	
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9421 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 Attorneys for Complainant	
8	Anorneys for Complainani	
9	BEFOR	
10	BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENG GEOLO	GISTS
11	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C	
12		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 1233-A
14	KOLADI MUTHERI KRIPANARAYANAN	OAH No. 2021020170
15	2710 Alpine Blvd, PMB #223 Alpine, CA 91901	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER
16	Civil Engineer License No. C 34055	
17	Respondent.	
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20		EED by and between the parties to the above-
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	
22	PART	
23		t) is the Executive Officer of the Board for
24	Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geo	•
25	his official capacity and is represented in this mat	
26	of California, by Rita M. Lane, Deputy Attorney	General.
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- Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Gregg Carlucci, whose address is: 3505 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 337, San Diego, CA 92108.
- 3. On or about March 17, 1982, the Board issued Civil Engineer License No. C 34055 to Respondent. The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1233-A and expired on June 30, 2021, and has not been renewed.
- 4. On or about February 17, 1984, the Board issued Structural Engineer License No. S 2654 to Respondent.
- 5. In a disciplinary action titled "In the Matter of the Accusation Against Kolandi Mutheri Kripanarayanan," Case No. Case No. 1143-A, the Board issued a Decision and Order effective October 12, 2018, 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 four (4) years with certain terms and conditions. In addition, Respondent voluntarily surrendered his Structural Engineer License.

## **JURISDICTION**

6. First Amended Accusation No. 1233-A was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 12, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 1233-A is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

## **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 7. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 1233-A. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 8. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended 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.

9. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 10. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 1233-A, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Civil Engineer License.
- 11. For the purpose of resolving the First Amended Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 12. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the voluntary surrender of his Civil Engineer License without further process.

## **CONTINGENCY**

13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, 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 Surrender 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.

- 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 Surrender of License and 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.
- 16. 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 Order:

## **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Civil Engineer License No. C 34055 issued to Respondent Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan, is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Civil Engineer License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a licensed civil engineer in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. Respondent agrees not to petition for reinstatement of the surrendered license.

  Respondent agrees not to apply for any license issued by the Board for three years from the effective date of this surrender. Respondent understands and agrees that if he ever applies for any license issued by the Board, the Board shall treat it as a new application for licensure.

  Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations, and procedures for licensure in effect at the time the application is filed, including but not limited, to submitting a completed application

1	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
2	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
3	for consideration by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists of the
4	Department of Consumer Affairs.
5	DATED: October 22, 2021 Respectfully submitted,
6	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California
7	GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General
8	Supervising Deputy Automey General
9	Original Signed
10	RITA M. LANE
11	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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# Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 1233-A

1	ROB BONTA
2	Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RITA M. LANE
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 171352
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9421 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061
8	Attorneys for Complainant
9	BEFORE THE
10	BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
13	
14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1233-A
15	KOLADI MUTHERI KRIPANARAYANAN P.O. Box 223
16	2710 Alpine Blvd Alpine, CA 91901
17	Civil Engineer License No. C 34055
18	Respondent.
19 20	DADTHEC
20	PARTIES  1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely
22	in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
23	Surveyors, and Geologists (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs.
24	2. On or about March 17, 1982, the Board issued Civil Engineer License Number C
25	34055 to Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan (Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full
26	force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and expired on June 30,
27	2021, and has not been renewed.
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the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 9. On or about February 1, 2018, the Board opened an investigation into Respondent's civil engineering work on a number of projects with Concorde Consulting Group, LLC. The investigation was later expanded to include Respondent's work on projects with Concorde Enterprises. According to documents filed with the California Secretary of State, Respondent was the manager of Concorde Consulting Group, LLC, and an officer of Concorde Consulting Group, Inc. doing business in California as N.K. Concorde Consulting Group.
- 10. As described more fully below, Respondent performed civil engineering work on each of the following projects undertaken by Concorde Consulting Group, LLC, or Concorde Enterprises, and demonstrated negligence or incompetence in the practice of civil engineering.

# 3817 BEN STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- 11. On or about July 20, 2017, Respondent stamped and signed final architectural and structural drawings for the property at 3817 Ben Street. The project at 3817 Ben Street involved a new enclosed space created for a single-family residence, requiring a new wall and other structural elements over an existing patio slab. The plans were submitted to the City of San Diego and approved on or about January 25, 2018.
- 12. On or about August 28, 2018, Respondent prepared, stamped, and signed structural calculations titled "DESIGN CALCULATIONS FOR Plan Check Corrections at 3817 Ben Street Remodel" that were submitted to the City of San Diego.
- 13. On or about November 8, 2018, Respondent stamped and signed final project
  drawings indicating field changes Delta 1 (a new beam) and Delta 2 (change of wall openings)
  to the City of San Diego for the property at 3817 Ben Street.

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14. In his "Response to Board Letter Dated 11-9-2019," Respondent claimed that the original calculations for roof framing were done by others on November 30, 2016. Respondent stated he reviewed the plan check comments and drawings around January 19, 2017, and that he provided structural calculations to support the use of Ram Jack piles because the owner wanted to repair the foundation.

#### **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

## (Negligence in the Practice of Engineering – 3817 Ben Street)

- 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent was negligent in his practice of engineering for the project at 3817 Ben Street, as set forth in paragraphs 11 through 14 above, which are incorporated herein by reference, and as follows:
- 16. Drawing A-4 of the original construction documents states "concrete stem wall to match (E)," but there was nothing related to the foundation required to support the stem wall. Although field change documents were later issued to identify a new foundation system, the original documents lacked sufficient information to identify whether the support system met code requirements, demonstrating a lack of care in assessing the existing structure.
- 17. Structural calculations done to determine the effect of wind on weak-axis bending of wood beams used nominal dimensions (4 inches) instead of actual dimensions (3.5 inches). This demonstrates a lack of care in structural analysis procedures.

## 3833 BEN STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- 18. On or about April 12, 2017, Respondent prepared, signed, and stamped drawings that were submitted to the City of San Diego for the addition of two new roof-support beams as part of a residential remodel at 3833 Ben Street.
- 19. In his "Response to Board Letter Dated 11-9-2019," Respondent claimed that calculations for the roof framing were completed by others. Respondent stated he reviewed the calculations and drawings.

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# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Negligence in the Practice of Engineering – 3833 Ben Street)

- 20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent was negligent in his practice of engineering for the project at 3833 Ben Street, as set forth in paragraphs 18 and 19 above, which are incorporated herein by reference, and as follows:
- 21. Drawing S-2 indicates that the inner Beam "RB-1" carries roof loads as a concentrated force (Detail 5), whereas this force is missing from Respondent's beam design calculations.
- 22. Beam supports impose concentrated forces that require some type of evaluation to assure adequate transfer to supporting soils. The calculations do not include a review of the existing slab or footing, demonstrating a lack of care in assessing the existing structure.

# 3653 PRINCETON AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- 23. On or about May 24, 2010, Respondent signed and stamped structural design calculations submitted to the City of San Diego for the remodel of an existing single-family residence at 3653 Princeton Avenue, including construction of a new deck and replacement of part of the roof.
- 24. On July 12, 2010, Respondent stamped and signed final (punched) drawings for the project that were submitted to the City of San Diego and approved on July 14, 2010.
- 25. In his "Response to Board Letter Dated 11-9-2019," Respondent claimed he did no work for the project.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Negligence in the Practice of Engineering – 3653 Princeton Avenue)

26. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent was negligent in his practice of engineering for the project at 3653 Princeton

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Both engineered beams were given the same designation, even though they are different sizes and carry different loads.

32. A four-foot tall free-standing wall for pool equipment is called out in the drawings, but no details are included to indicate the means of construction or foundation support requirements.

## 7220 TRADE STREET, SUITE 120, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- 33. On or about March 24, 2016, the City of San Diego issued a building permit to Concorde Enterprises for tenant improvement work at 7220 Trade Street, Suite 120. "K.M Kripa" was identified on the permit application as the design professional for the project, although he was described as an architect and no license number was provided. Respondent prepared and stamped final (punched) drawings for the project, which were submitted to the City of San Diego. The undated drawings included tenant improvements for a commercial building, including the removal and addition of partition walls, flooring, and other work.
- 34. In his "Response to Board Letter Dated 11-9-2019," Respondent claimed he did no work on the project and did not sign any drawings.

# FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Negligence in the Practice of Engineering – 7220 Trade Street)

- 35. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent was negligent in his practice of engineering for the project at 7220 Trade Street, Suite 120, as set forth in paragraphs 33 and 34 above, which are incorporated herein by reference, and as follows:
- 36. Drawing A-4 includes a suspended ceiling support and bracing detail that is far out of date. It makes reference to the "U.B.C." (Uniform Building Code), which was discontinued in January 2000.

## 1032 SYLARK DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- 37. On or about January 19, 2017, Respondent stamped resubmittal (plan check) calculations for 1032 Skylark Drive. The original project, which was designed by others, included a general remodel, a new deck, and foundation repair.
- 38. On July 10, 2017, Respondent signed and stamped foundation repair calculations for the project that were submitted to the City of San Diego.

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#### SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Incompetence in the Practice of Engineering – 1032 Skylark Drive)

- 39. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent demonstrated incompetence in the practice of engineering for the project at 1032 Skylark Drive, as set forth in paragraphs 37 and 38 above, which are incorporated herein by reference, and as follows:
- 40. Structural plan check response calculations identify anchorage of a guardrail for 50 PLF applied to the top rail. The correct moment is calculated at the base of the system, but the specification of fasteners is inadequate. Horizontal parallel-to-grain resisting shear values for lag screws are noted (an incorrect application), and the moment arm is not resolved in such a way that the base moment is adequately transferred into the supporting floor system. Proper resolution of applied forces is a necessary part of the structural design process, and Respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge in this regard.

# 500 & 506 SMILAX AVENUE, WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

- 41. Concorde Enterprises was hired by a contractor to provide structural plans and building department review documents for two (2) single family homes with the same floor and front roof elevation located at 500 and 506 Smilax Avenue in West Sacramento (Smilex Avenue project). The scope of services offered included two (2) sets of stamped structural drawings and calculations, to oversee plan corrections, RFIs during construction, stamped inspection letters as needed, and truss compliance letter.
- 42. Concorde Enterprises hired a drafting consultant, G.A., to work on the project drawings.
- 43. On or about May 15, 2020, project drawings and calculations were provided from Concorde Enterprises to the contractor for submission to the city building department. The drawings were stamped and signed by Respondent and are dated May 1, 2020. The calculations were stamped and signed by Respondent and are dated May 5, 2020.
  - 44. The drawings and calculations were submitted to the city building department.

- 45. On or about June 15, 2020, the contractor received the city's plan check corrections of 16 items specifically addressed to the structural drawings and requiring correction by an engineer. Concorde Enterprises failed to make the corrections.
- 46. On or about September 11, 2020, when contacted by the Board regarding his involvement in the Smilax Avenue project, Respondent emailed the Board and insisted that he had not worked on the project in any capacity.
- 47. Later in the day on September 11, 2020, the Board emailed Respondent and informed Respondent that the Smilex Avenue plans and calculations included his stamp and signature. Respondent responded by email to the Board and stated that "I am 100% sure that I never worked on this project."
- 48. By email dated September 18, 2020, Respondent informed the Board that he looked in his files and spoke with Concorde Enterprises and stated that he had nothing to do with the Smilex Avenue project
- 49. By email dated September 21, 2020, Respondent informed the Board that the Smilex Avenue project was Concorde Enterprises project, not his project, and he did not know who had placed his stamp and signature on the Smilex Avenue documents.
- 50. On or about October 20, 2020, Respondent met with a Board investigator and reviewed the Smilex Avenue project documents. Respondent again denied that he did any work on the Smilex Avenue project and denied that he stamped or signed the project documents, and that he did not know who did. Respondent stated that Rajesh Narayanan is the president and owner of Concorde Enterprises and is not a licensed engineer. Respondent admitted that Rajesh Narayanan is his son. Respondent refused to sign a statement that he did not work on the Smilex Avenue project.
- 51. By letter to the Board dated October 21, 2020, Respondent stated that his scope of work on the Smilex Avenue project was to only review the calculations and drawings, and that he did not prepare the calculations. Respondent stated that he gave Concorde Enterprises authorization to use his electronic stamp on the Smilex Avenue documents.

#### SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Negligence in the Practice of Engineering – 500 Smilax Avenue Project)

- 52. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(c) in that Respondent was negligent in his practice of engineering for the project at 500 Smilax Avenue, as set forth in paragraphs 41 through 51, above, which are incorporated herein by reference, and as follows:
- 53. In the calculations, Respondent appears to provide an engineering analysis and design for the prefabricated wood trusses. The analysis lacks consideration of required connection plates and includes a snow load that is not identified elsewhere in the calculations.
- 54. In the calculations, two allowable foundation pressures are assumed (3500 PSF and 5000 PSF), both of which are too high to assume without the assistance of a geotechnical report. No justification was provided as to why there would be two applicable design values for the same lot.
- 55. The calculations include two different footing conditions that do not appear on the drawings: (1) Footing depth = 20" with 24" of soil over the top; (2) footing depth = 12" with 18" of soil over the top.
- 56. The structural calculations assume a roof dead load of 10 PSF, but the drawings identify a roof dead load of 15 PSF, which means the supporting elements are under-designed and the seismic demand load is too low.
- 57. The drawings indicate shorter shear wall segments than were used in the calculations for design, therefore holdown forces will be higher, potentially requiring a larger holdown device or foundation.
- 58. Drag trusses appear to be required, but these are not identified on the roof framing plans. Drag truss notes are included on Drawing S-1.
- 59. Construction notes include masonry and structural steel, but neither of these materials are evident in the plans or details.

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#### NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Aiding and Abetting the Unlicensed Practice of Engineering)

69. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(f) in that Respondent aided and abetted Rajesh Narayanan in the unlicensed practice of engineering when he gave Rajesh Narayanan and Concorde Enterprises authorization to use his electronic stamp bearing his license information on the Smilex Avenue project documents, and as more specifically set forth in paragraphs 41 through 51, above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

## **TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### (Deceit and Misrepresentation)

70. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Code section 6775(b) in that on several occasions Respondent was deceitful and misrepresented to the Board his involvement in the Smilex Avenue project as more specifically set forth in paragraphs 41 through 51, above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 71. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that:
- 72. On or about November 25, 2009, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan* before the Board, in Case Number 850-A, Respondent stipulated to revocation of his Civil Engineer License and Structural Engineer License, with the revocation stayed, and Respondent's licenses placed on three years probation with various terms and conditions for multiple violations of Code section 6775. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.
- 73. On or about October 12, 2018, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan* before the Board, in Case Number 1143-A, Respondent stipulated to revocation of his Civil Engineer License, with the revocation stayed, and Respondent's licenses placed on four years probation with various terms and conditions for multiple violations of Code section 6775. In addition, Respondent voluntarily surrendered his

1	Structural Engineer License. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if
2	fully set forth.
3	<u>PRAYER</u>
4	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged in this
5	First Amended Accusation, and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers,
6	Land Surveyors, and Geologists issue a decision:
7	1. Revoking or suspending Civil Engineer License No. C 34055, issued to Koladi
8	Mutheri Kripanarayanan;
9	2. Ordering Koladi Mutheri Kripanarayanan to pay the Board for Professional
10	Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists the reasonable costs of the investigation and
11	enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and
12	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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14	DATED: 7/9/2021 Original Signed
15	RICHARD B. MOORE, PLS Executive Officer  Residual Engineers Land
16	Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists
17	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
18	Complainant
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