1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General MICHELLE NIJM Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 297168 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6049 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 E-mail: Michelle.Nijm@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant BEFOR BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGLIGHTE	INEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA
12		LC N 1040 A
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 1240-A
1415	ROBERTO GERRARDO MARTINEZ 908 Waverly Place West Covina, CA 91790	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION
16	Land Surveyor License No. L 6966	
17	Civil Engineer License No. C 54360	
18	Respondent.	
19		
20	PART	TIES
21	Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainant)) brings this Accusation solely in his official
22	capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for	Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and
23	Geologists, Department of Consumer Affairs.	
24	2. On or about July 16, 1993, the Board	for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors,
25	and Geologists issued Land Surveyor License Nur	mber L 6966 to Roberto Gerrardo Martinez
26	(Respondent). The Land Surveyor License was in	full force and effect at all times relevant to the
27	charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2021, unless renewed.	
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1	3. On or about July 14, 1995, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors,		
2	and Geologists issued Civil Engineer License Number C 54360 to Roberto Gerrardo Martinez		
3	(Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the		
4	charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2021, unless renewed.		
5	<u>JURISDICTION</u>		
6	4. This Accusation is brought before the Board for Professional Engineers, Land		
7	Surveyors, and Geologists (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the		
8	following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless		
9	otherwise indicated.		
10	5. Section 8790 of the Code states:		
11	The board shall enforce all of the provisions of this chapter and cause the prosecution of all		
12	violations coming to its notice.		
13	6. Section 8705 of the Code provides:		
14	"Board" refers to the Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.		
15	STATUTORY PROVISIONS		
16	7. Section 8703 of the Code provides:		
17 18	the use of initiative, skill, and independent judgment, of the observations, measurements, and descriptions involved in land surveying work. The phrase does not refer to the concept of		
19	financial liability.		
20	8. Section 8704 of the Code states:		
21	Any person practices land surveying when he professes to be a land surveyor or is in responsible charge of land surveying work.		
22	9. Section 8726 of the Code states, in pertinent part:		
23	A person, including any person employed by the state or by a city, county, or city and		
24			
25	following:		
26	(c) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces any property line or		
27	boundary of any parcel of land, right-of-way, easement, or alignment of those lines of boundaries.		
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2	(e) By the use of the principles of land surveying determines the position for any monument or reference point which marks a property line, boundary, or corner, or	
3	sets, resets, or replaces any monument or reference point.	
4		
5	(g) Determines the information shown or to be shown on any map or document prepared or furnished in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).	
67	(h) Indicates, in any capacity or in any manner, by the use of the title "land surveyor" or by any other title or by any other representation that he or she practices or offers to practice land surveying in any of its branches.	
8	(i) Procures or offers to procure land surveying work for himself, herself, or others.	
9		
10	(l) Determines the information shown or to be shown within the description of any deed, trust deed, or other title document prepared for the purpose of describing the	
11	limit of real property in connection with any one or more of the functions described in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive.	
12 13	(m) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the	
14	and (1).	
15	(n) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data.	
16	10. Section 8762 of the Code states:	
17 18	(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), after making a field survey in conformity with the practice of land surveying, the licensed surveyor or licensed civil engineer may file	
19	with the county surveyor in the county in which the field survey was made, a record	
20	(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), after making a field survey in conformity with the practice of land surveying, the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall	
21	file with the county surveyor in the county in which the field survey was made a record of the survey relating to land boundaries or property lines, if the field survey discloses	
22	any of the following:	
23	(1) Material evidence or physical change, which in whole or in part does not appear or any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or	
24	properly filed in the office of the county recorder or county surveying department, or map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States.	
25		
26	(2) A material discrepancy with the information contained in any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or filed in the office of the county recorder or the county surveying department, or any map or survey record	
27	maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States. For purposes of this subdivision, a "material discrepancy" is limited to a material discrepancy in	
28		

	map, and north arrow.		
1	(c) Name and legal designation of the property in which the survey is located, and the dat or time period of the survey.		
2	(d) The relationship to those portions of adjacent tracts, streets, or senior conveyances		
3	which have common lines with the survey. (e) Memorandum of oaths.		
	(f) Statements required by Section 8764.5.		
5	(g) Any other data necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor, as may be determined by the civil engineer or land surveyor preparing the record of		
6	survey. The record of survey shall also show, either graphically or by note, the reason or reasons, i any, why the mandatory filing provisions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) o		
7	Section 8762 apply. The record of survey need not consist of a survey of an entire property.		
8	12. Section 8780 of the Code states, in pertinent part:		
9	22. Section 6700 of the Code States, in pertinent part.		
10	The board may, upon its own initiative or upon the receipt of a complaint, investigate the actions of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or any civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700)		
11	who is legally authorized to practice land surveying and make findings thereon.		
12	By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the license or certificate of any land surveyor licensed		
13	under this chapter or civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying		
14	on any of the following grounds:		
15			
16	(b) Any negligence or incompetence in his or her practice of land surveying.		
17			
18	(d) Any violation of any provision of this chapter or of any other law relating to		
19	or involving the practice of land surveying.		
20			
21	(h) A violation in the course of the practice of land surveying of a rule or regulation of unprofessional conduct adopted by the board.		
22	REGULATORY PROVISIONS		
23			
24	13. Title 16, section 404.2 of the California Code of Regulations states, in pertinent part		
25	(a) The term "responsible charge" directly relates to the extent of control a licensed land surveyor or civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying (hereinafter		
26	referred to as "legally authorized civil engineer") is required to maintain while exercising independent control and direction of land surveying work or services and the land		
27	surveying decisions which can be made only by a licensed land surveyor or legally authorized civil engineer.		
28	(1) Extent of Control. The extent of control necessary to be in responsible charge		

COST RECOVERY

14. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee 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, with failure of the licensee 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

- 15. At all times alleged herein, homeowners G.P. and J.P. owned a parcel of land on Stoneridge Drive in Pasadena, California (GP Parcel). Homeowner J.A. owned an adjacent parcel of land to the north of the GP Parcel (JA Parcel).
- 16. In or around 1948, Tract No. 14851 was recorded in Book 315 of Maps at Pages 19-20. This map subdivided a portion of a pre-existing parcel into approximately fourteen residential parcels. These parcels included three consecutive lots along Stoneridge Drive, two of which eventually became the GP Parcel and the JA Parcel. Stoneridge Drive and a four foot wide walk (4 ft. Walk) were offered for dedication and accepted by the City of Pasadena (City) on behalf of the public.
- 17. In or around 1949, the City adopted Resolution No. 7527, which vacated a westerly portion of Arlington Drive (1949 Vacation). The City retained the southerly four feet of Arlington Drive as an extension of the 4 ft. Walk. Subsequent maps showed the vacated lands merged with what became the GP Parcel.
- 18. At some point, the southerly three feet of the parcel that became the JA Parcel was merged with the parcel that became the GP Parcel. The boundary between the parcels was thus offset by three feet (3 ft. Offset Boundary).
- 19. In or around January of 2010, Respondent conducted a survey of the GP Parcel (2010 Survey).

- 20. On or about October 30, 2013, Land Surveyor Y.L. filed a Record of Survey which showed that a driveway, fence, and garage serving the GP Parcel encroached northerly across the 3 ft. Offset Boundary (Encroachments).
- 21. In or around November of 2013, Respondent updated the 2010 Survey and prepared a plat entitled "Topographic Survey" (2013 Plat). The 2013 Plat showed several found monuments, boundaries, and topography. The Encroachments were shown along the 3 ft. Offset Boundary, along with other encroachments into the 4 ft. Walk, Arlington Drive and other parcels.

 Respondent overlooked two other surveys (RS 243-81 and RS 244-77) when he prepared his 2013 Plat. The 3 ft. Offset Boundary had already been shown on previous surveys. However, the 1949 Vacation had not been shown on any previous recorded maps and thus required Respondent to file a Record of Survey.
- 22. In or around 2015, G.P. sought to resolve his encroachment issues with J.A. In order to do so, Homeowner G.P. agreed to pay Homeowner J.A. for the disputed land (Encroachment Lands) and applied to the City for its concurrence on the lot line adjustment (LLA). Respondent prepared related land surveying documents, including legal descriptions and exhibits.
- 23. On or about August 11, 2015, Respondent filed a Record of Survey for his survey of the then-existing GP Parcel in book 273 of Land Surveys at Page 71 (RS 273-71).
- 24. On or about September 3, 2015, the City approved the LLA. The City issued Certificates of Compliance for the resulting new parcels. On or about September 8, 2015, the City recorded the Certificates of Compliance, including the new legal descriptions.
- 25. On or about November 13, 2015, Homeowner J.A. signed documents to convey the Encroachment Lands to Homeowner G.P. A grant deed and legal description were recorded to create the new GP Parcel. A new boundary was created between Homeowner J.A.'s property and the GP Parcel (Adjusted Boundary). The Adjusted Boundary was created with a metes-and-bounds legal description and was not initially shown on a record map.
- 26. At some time during the first six months of 2017, Homeowner G.P. sought to clear title to a four-foot walk on the southern border of the GP Parcel and a portion of Arlington Drive which he and his predecessors in title had long occupied but on which public easements

remained. Homeowner G.P. petitioned the City to abandon and vacate those public easements. Homeowner G.P. retained Respondent to prepare related documents, including a drawing and legal description. Homeowner G.P. submitted an Application for Vacation of Public Right-of-Way on or about June 7, 2017.

- 27. On or about August 29, 2017, Respondent set monuments along the Adjusted Boundary (Respondent's Pins). Respondent prepared a draft Record of Survey but did not submit it to the County of Los Angeles (County). The draft Record of Survey showed record data plus the Adjusted Boundary and Respondent's Pins.
- 28. On or about November 9, 2018, a deed was recorded conveying the new GP Parcel from Homeowner G.P. to Homeowner G.P. Respondent signed and stamped the attached legal description.
- 29. On or about February 25, 2019, Respondent sent a letter to the County. In that letter, Respondent stated that he had been asked to monument the Adjusted Boundary but had held off on filing the map because his client, Homeowner G.P., had entered into negotiations with the City to obtain additional property through a proposed street vacation. Respondent stated that he had been waiting for the process to be finalized before proceeding. Respondent further stated that he could not say how much longer it would take for his client to accomplish the modifications but that he would move forward with the filing and recordation if the modifications continued to be delayed.
- 30. On or about February 27, 2019, the County advised Respondent that it had received his letter regarding the reason for the delay in submitting the Record of Survey map for the GP Parcel. The correspondence requested that Respondent keep the County informed of developments.
- 31. In an email to Homeowner J.A. dated on or about August 26, 2019, a representative of the County confirmed that the County had not recorded a Record of Survey for the GP Parcel since RS 273-71, which had been recorded on or about August 11, 2015.

- 32. On or about December 10, 2019, the Board sent a letter to Respondent reminding him that, as the licensed land surveyor in responsible charge for the GP Parcel, he had the burden to fulfill his filing requirements in a timely manner.
- 33. On or about January 31, 2020, the Board sent Respondent a letter advising him that his client's negotiations with the City regarding the acquisition of additional land had no bearing on Respondent's duty to timely file the Record of Survey related to the Adjusted Boundary.
- 34. The County did not receive the Record of Survey related to the Adjusted Boundary from Respondent until on or about July 23, 2020.
- 35. Homeowner J.A. subsequently retained Licensed Land Surveyor N.H. to perform a boundary survey. Land Surveyor N.H. discovered that Respondent had mischaracterized three of Respondent's Pins in the Record of Survey filed by Respondent on or about August 24, 2020. On or about September 23, 2020, N.H. filed a Corner Record (Corner Record) accurately describing the monuments found on the Adjusted Boundary.
- 36. Following the filing of the Corner Record, Respondent prepared a Certificate of Correction, which largely restated the information contained in the Corner Record. In the Certificate of Correction, Respondent admitted that the Record of Survey filed by Respondent on or about August 24, 2020 had mischaracterized three of the monuments placed by Respondent.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Negligence in the Practice of Land Surveying)

37. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 8780, subdivision (b), in conjunction with Code section 8762, subdivisions (b), (c), and (d), and Code section 8764, in that Respondent failed to maintain a professional standard of care on the GP Parcel project. Pursuant to Code section 8703 and title 16, section 404.2 of the California Code of Regulations, Respondent was the land surveyor in responsible charge of the GP Parcel project. Respondent failed to conduct thorough research and field surveys to locate controlling monuments in the 2010 Survey and as shown on the 2013 Plat. Respondent failed to resolve boundaries in conformance with conventional methods on the 2013 Plat. Respondent failed to timely file Records of Survey after the 2010 Survey, after the 2013 Plat, and after setting Respondent's Pins in 2017.

Respondent also failed to comply with the requirements of Code section 8762, subdivision (d)(1). Furthermore, the Record of Survey filed by Respondent in 2020 mischaracterized monuments placed by Respondent in violation of Code section 8764, subdivision (a). Complaint realleges paragraphs 15 through 36.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Law Relating to the Practice of Land Surveying)

38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 8780, subdivision (d), in conjunction with Code section 8762, subdivisions (b), (c), and (d), and Code section 8764, in that Respondent failed to timely file the required Records of Survey. In addition, Respondent also failed to comply with the requirements of Code section 8762, subdivision (d)(1). Furthermore, the Record of Survey filed by Respondent mischaracterized monuments placed by Respondent in violation of Code section 8764, subdivision (a). Complaint realleges paragraphs 15 through 36.

PRIOR CITATIONS

- 39. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges the following:
- 40. On or about August 9, 2011, in a prior action, Modified Citation Order 10032-L against Respondent became final. Modified Citation Order 10032-L required Respondent to pay a \$1,000 fine for the violation of Code sections 8759, 8761, and 8762, subdivision (b)(5). Respondent was ordered to cease and desist from violating said Code sections in the future, to file a Record of Survey for the subject project, and to ensure that all future Records of Surveys are filed within the requisite timeframe.
- 41. On or about September 8, 2014, in a prior action, Citation Order 10363-L against Respondent became final. Citation Order 10363-L required respondent to pay a \$1,000 fine for the violation of Code sections 8759 and 8762, subdivision (c). Respondent was ordered to cease and desist from violating said Code sections in the future.
- 42. On or about April 9, 2015, in a prior action involving the Stoneridge Drive Parcel, Citation Order 10403-L against Respondent became final. Citation Order 10403-L required

1	respondent to pay a \$2,500 fine for the violation of Code sections 8759, subdivision (a), and		
2	8762, subdivisions (b)(1), (b)(4), (c), and (d). Respondent was ordered to cease and desist from		
3	violating said Code sections in the future, to file a Record of Survey to document the work		
4	Respondent performed in or around January 2010 related to the Stoneridge Drive Parcel, and to		
5	complete the map recordation process in accordance with the law.		
6	PRIOR DISCIPLINE		
7	43. Effective on or about December 11, 2015, in Case No. 1049-A, Respondent's Land		
8	Surveyor License was revoked, with the revocation stayed and Respondent's license placed on		
9	probation for three (3) years upon terms and conditions. In a Stipulated Settlement and		
10	Disciplinary Order, Respondent admitted that he had failed to timely record the Record of Survey		
11	required by Modified Citation Order 10032-L and had failed to timely pay the related fine.		
12	Respondent also admitted that he had failed to timely record the Record of Survey required by		
13	Citation 10403-L and had failed to pay the related fine.		
14	<u>PRAYER</u>		
15	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,		
16	and that following the hearing, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and		
17	Geologists issue a decision:		
18	1. Revoking or suspending Land Surveyor License Number L 6966, issued to Roberto		
19	Gerrardo Martinez;		
20	2. Ordering Roberto Gerrardo Martinez to pay the Board for Professional Engineers,		
21	Land Surveyors, and Geologists the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this		
22	case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,		
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27	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.		
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(ROBERTO GERRARDO MARTINEZ) ACCUSATION

1	DATED: <u>6/23/2021</u>	Original Signed
2		RICHARD B. MOORE, PLS Executive Officer
3		Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
4		Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
5		Complainant
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		(ROBERTO GERRARDO MARTINEZ) ACCUSATION