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

In the Matter of the Accusation against:	)	
	)	
BAHMAN GHASSEMZADEH	)	Case No. 1327-A
50 Sandra Road	)	
Hillsborough, CA 94010	)	
	)	
Civil Engineer License, No. C 75941	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

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 above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on May 7, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED April 3, 2025.

Original Signed

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

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
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Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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BEFORE THE
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **BAHMAN GHASSEMZADEH** **50 Sandra Road** **Hillsborough, CA, 94010.** **Civil Engineer License No. C 75941** Respondent.	Case No. 1327-A **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

PARTIES

1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Joshua D. Johnson, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Bahman Ghassemzadeh (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney M. Bradley Wishek, Esq. of Rothschild Wishek & Sands LLP, whose address is: 765 University Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825.

3. On or about January 11, 2010, the Board issued Civil Engineer License No. C 75941 to Bahman Ghassemzadeh (Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1327-A, and will expire on June 30, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 1327-A was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 8, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of Accusation No. 1327-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. 1327-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

9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1327-A, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Civil Engineer License.

10. For the purpose of resolving the 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 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

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

RESERVATION

12. 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

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall constitute the Board's determination of the appropriate professional discipline based upon Respondent's conviction as alleged in Accusation No. 1327-A, including and considering the underlying facts. The Board shall not seek to impose additional discipline solely upon the basis that Respondent is later subject to any administrative discipline or penalty by any government entity if such action is based upon the same conviction or the facts which led to the conviction.

17. 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 75941 issued to Respondent Bahman Ghassemzadeh is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed, and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Obey All Laws.** The Respondent shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practices of professional engineering and professional land surveying.

2. **Submit Reports.** The Respondent shall submit such special reports as the Board may require, including criminal probation reports related to United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 23-CR-00418-SI.

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 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. **Completion of Probation.** Upon successful completion of all of the probationary conditions and the expiration of the period of probation, the Respondent's license shall be unconditionally restored.

6. **Cost Recovery.** The Respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board the amount of $3,636.00 within 90 days from the effective date of this decision for its investigative and prosecution costs. Payments may be made in installments.

7. **Examination.** Within 60 days of 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.

8. **Ethics Course.** The Respondent shall successfully complete and pass a course in professional ethics, approved in advance by the Board or its designee, within one year of the effective date of the decision.

9. **Notification.** Within 30 days of 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 such that the relationship is in the area of practice of professional engineering and/or professional land surveying in which the violation occurred 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 of each new person or entity with whom he has a contractual or employment relationship such that the relationship is in the area of practice of professional engineering and/or land surveying in which the violation occurred 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, M. Bradley Wishek, Esq. 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: 2/24/25 *Original Signed*

BAHMAN GHASSEMZADEH
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Bahman Ghassemzadeh the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 2/24/25 *Original Signed*

M. BRADLEY WISHEK, ESQ.
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: February 4, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
CHAR SACHSON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Original Signed

JOSHUA D. JOHNSON
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1327-A

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against**:** **BAHMAN GHASSEMZADEH** 50 Sandra Road Hillsborough, CA, 94010. Civil Engineer License No. C 75941 Respondent.	Case No. 1328-A **ACCUSATION**

PARTIES

1. Richard B. Moore, PLS (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On or about January 11, 2010, the Board issued Civil Engineer License Number C 75941 to Bahman Ghassemzadeh (Respondent). The Civil Engineer License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 490 of the Code states:

> (a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
>
> (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.
>
> (c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. An action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
>
> (d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section has been made unclear by the holding in Petropoulos v. Department of Real Estate (2006) 142 Cal.App.4th 554, and that the holding in that case has placed a significant number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Chapter 33 of the Statutes of 2008 do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law.

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

> [T]he board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the certificate of any professional engineer licensed under this chapter on any of the following grounds:
>
> (a) Any conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensed professional engineer, in which case the certified record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof.
>
> …

///

COST RECOVERY

6. 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.

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(2024 Criminal Conviction - Conspiracy to Commit Honest Services Wire Fraud)

7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 6775, subdivision (a), and/or section 490, in that on or about April 22, 2024, in a criminal proceeding entitled *United States of America v. Bahman Ghassemzadeh,* in the United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case Number CR23-00418VC, Respondent was convicted by his guilty plea of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1349 (conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud), a felony. Respondent was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay a $25,000 fine.

8. The circumstances that led to the arrest resulting in the conviction are that beginning in or about January 2014 and continuing through in or about February 2021, Respondent conspired with others to commit wire fraud to defraud the City and County of San Francisco, and the citizens of San Francisco, of their right to the honest and faithful services through bribery and kickbacks.

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 or suspending Civil Engineer License Number C 75941, issued to Bahman Ghassemzadeh;

2. Ordering Bahman Ghassemzadeh 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; and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and,

3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 8/07/2024

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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