

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

STEVEN RICHARD BOND
P.O. Box 7023
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-7023

Professional Geologist License No. 5411
Certified Engineering Geologist License No.
1843
Certified Hydrogeologist License No. 238

Respondent.

Case No. 1294-A

OAH No. 2023120860

DECISION AND ORDER

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

This Decision shall become effective on November 21, 2024.

It is so ORDERED October 17, 2024.

Original Signed

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

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 DIANN SOKOLOFF
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU
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BEFORE THE
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13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

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17 **Professional Geologist License No. 5411**
18 **Certified Engineering Geologist License No.**
19 **1843**
20 **Certified Hydrogeologist License No. 238**

21 Respondent.

Case No. 1294-A

OAH No. 2023120860
STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC
REPROVAL

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 495]

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

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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 Aspasia A. Papavassiliou, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Steven Richard Bond (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Jacob G. Reinhardt whose address is: Gould, Hahn, & Reinhardt PLC, 2550 Ninth Street, Suite 101, Berkeley, CA 94710-2551

JURISDICTION

3. On or about June 2, 1992, the Board issued Professional Geologist License No. 5411 to Steven Richard Bond (Respondent). The Professional Geologist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1294-A and will expire on February 28, 2026, unless renewed.

4. On or about September 1, 1993, the Board issued Certified Engineering Geologist License Number 1843 to Respondent. The Certified Engineering Geologist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1294-A and will expire on February 28, 2026, unless renewed.

5. On or about September 29, 1995, the Board issued Certified Hydrogeologist License Number 238 to Respondent. The Certified Hydrogeologist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 1294-A and will expire on February 28, 2026, unless renewed.

6. Accusation No. 1294-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 June 29, 2023. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 1294-A is attached as exhibit A and incorporated here by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

7. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1294-A. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval.

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 Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at

1 his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to
2 present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel
3 the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and
4 court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California
5 Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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

8 **CULPABILITY**

9 10. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
10 No. 1294-A, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Professional
11 Geologist License, Certified Engineering Geologist License and Certified Hydrogeologist
12 License.

13 11. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of
14 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual
15 basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest
16 those charges.

17 12. Respondent agrees that his Professional Geologist License, Certified Engineering
18 Geologist License and Certified Hydrogeologist License are subject to discipline and he agrees to
19 be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.

20 **CONTINGENCY**

21 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board for Professional Engineers,
22 Land Surveyors, and Geologists. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for
23 Complainant and the staff of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and
24 Geologists may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement,
25 without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation,
26 Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the
27 stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this
28 stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public

Reproval 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 for Public Reproval, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

15. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval 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 for Public Reproval 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 Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Professional Geologist License No. 5411, Certified Engineering Geologist License No. 1843, and Certified Hydrogeologist License No. 238, issued to Respondent Steven Richard Bond (Respondent), shall be publicly reproved by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists under Business and Professions Code section 495 in resolution of Accusation No. 1294-A, attached as exhibit A.

Cost Recovery. No later than ONE YEAR from the effective date of the Decision, Respondent shall pay \$2,500.00 to the Board for its costs associated with the investigation and enforcement of this matter pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 125.3. If Respondent fails to pay the Board costs as ordered, Respondent shall not be allowed to renew his Professional Geologist License until Respondent pays costs in full. In addition, the Board may

1 enforce this order for payment of its costs in any appropriate court, in addition to any other rights
2 the Board may have.

3 **Full Compliance.** As a resolution of the charges in Accusation No. 1294-A, this stipulated
4 settlement is contingent upon Respondent's full compliance with all conditions of this Order. If
5 Respondent fails to satisfy any of these conditions, such failure to comply constitutes cause for
6 discipline, including outright revocation, of Respondent's Professional Geologist License No.
7 5411, Certified Engineering Geologist License No. 1843, and Certified Hydrogeologist License
8 No. 238.

9 **ACCEPTANCE**

10 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public
11 Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Jacob G. Reinhardt. I understand the
12 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Professional Geologist License, Certified
13 Engineering Geologist License, and Certified Hydrogeologist License. I enter into this Stipulated
14 Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,
15 and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
16 Surveyors, and Geologists.

17 DATED: 08 / 22 / 2024

Original Signed

19 STEVEN RICHARD BOND
Respondent

20 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Steven Richard Bond the terms and
21 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order
22 for Public Reproval. I approve its form and content.

24 DATED: 8/22/24

Original Signed

25 JACOB G. REINHARDT
Attorney for Respondent

27 **ENDORSEMENT**

28 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby

1 respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
2 Surveyors, and Geologists of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

3 DATED: August 23, 2024

4 Respectfully submitted,

5 ROB BONTA
6 Attorney General of California
7 DIANN SOKOLOFF
8 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

9 *Original Signed*

10 ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU
11 Deputy Attorney General
12 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1294-A

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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:
STEVEN RICHARD BOND
P.O. Box 7023
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Professional Geologist License No. 5411;
Certified Engineering Geologist License No.
1843; Certified Hydrogeologist License No.
238

Case No. 1294-A

ACCUSATION

Respondent.

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 . Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On or about June 2, 1992, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists issued Professional Geologist License Number 5411 to Steven Richard Bond (Respondent). The Professional Geologist License was in full force and effect at all times

1 relevant to the charges brought in this Accusation and will expire on February 29, 2024, unless
2 renewed.

3 3. On or about September 1, 1993, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
4 Surveyors, and Geologists issued Certified Engineering Geologist License Number 1843 to
5 Steven Richard Bond (Respondent). The Certified Engineering Geologist License was in full
6 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in this Accusation and will expire on
7 February 29, 2024, unless renewed.

8 4. On or about September 29, 1995, the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
9 Surveyors, and Geologists issued Certified Hydrogeologist License Number 238 to Steven
10 Richard Bond (Respondent). The Certified Hydrogeologist License was in full force and effect at
11 all times relevant to the charges brought in this Accusation and will expire on February 29, 2024,
12 unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

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

17 6. Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender,
18 or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a
19 disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued
20 or reinstated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

22 7. Code section 7835 states:

23 All geologic plans, specifications, reports, or documents shall be prepared by a
24 professional geologist or licensed certified specialty geologist, or by a subordinate
25 employee under his or her direction. In addition, they shall be signed by the
professional geologist or licensed certified specialty geologist and stamped with his
or her seal, both of which shall indicate his or her responsibility for them.

26 8. Code section 7839.2, subdivision (a), states in pertinent part:

27 A professional geologist or professional geophysicist shall use a written
28 contract when contracting to provide geological or geophysical services to a client
pursuant to this chapter. The written contract shall be executed by the professional

1 geologist or professional geophysicist and the client or the client's representative
2 prior to the professional geologist or professional geophysicist commencing work,
3 unless the client states in writing that work may be commenced before the contract is
4 executed.

5 9. Code section 7860 states, in pertinent part:

6 (a) The board may, upon its own initiative or upon the receipt of a complaint,
7 investigate the actions of any professional geologist or geophysicist, and make
8 findings thereon.

9 (b) By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period
10 not to exceed two years, or revoke the certificate of any geologist or geophysicist
11 registered hereunder, on any of the following grounds:
12
13 ...

14 (3) Negligence or incompetence by a geologist or geophysicist in his or her
15 practice.
16 ...

17 (c) By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period
18 not to exceed two years, or may revoke the certificate of any geologist or geophysicist
19 registered under this chapter, for unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct
20 includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:
21
22 ...

23 (2) Violating this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board pursuant to
24 this chapter.

COST RECOVERY

25 10. Code section 125.3 provides, in relevant part, that the Board may request the
26 administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of
27 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
28 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 BACKGROUND

29 11. On or about September 18, 2020, Respondent sent an environmental adverse impact
30 report to the City of Pacifica regarding the proposed development of eight townhouses (Vistamar
31 Townhouse Project). On or about January 4, 2021, an attorney for the Vistamar Townhouse
32 Project filed a complaint with the Board regarding Respondent's report.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Negligence or Incompetence)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 7860, subdivision (b)(3), in that he was negligent or incompetent in his report. He erroneously claimed that the project's retaining walls would create a dam that would back water up causing it to surface or create buoyant forces that would lift buildings, and he also erroneously claimed that the subsurface could produce thousands of gallons of water per minute.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Sign and Seal Report)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 7860, subdivision (c)(2), in that he failed to sign and seal a report in violation of 7835. His report to the City of Pacifica failed to include a seal.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Have a Written Contract)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 7860, subdivision (c)(2), in that he failed to have a written contract. Respondent stated that he only had an oral contract to provide his assessment and report to the City of Pacifica.

PRAAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Professional Geologist License Number 5411, issued to Steven Richard Bond:

2. Revoking or suspending Certified Engineering Geologist License Number 1843, issued to Steven Richard Bond:

3. Revoking or suspending Certified Hydrogeologist License Number 238, issued to Steven Richard Bond:

1 4. Ordering Steven Richard Bond to pay the Board for Professional Engineers, Land
2 Surveyors, and Geologists the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,
3 pursuant to Code section 125.3; and,

4 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

5
6 DATED: 6/29/2023

Original Signed

7 RICHARD B. MOORE, PLS
8 Executive Officer
9 Board for Professional Engineers, Land
10 Surveyors, and Geologists
11 Department of Consumer Affairs
12 State of California
13 *Complainant*

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