## LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD 9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443 (225) 925-6291

| IN THE MATTER OF:  | ) | CASE NO. 2021-60      |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| A&A ENGINEERING, CIVIL AND<br>STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, LTD. LLC | ) | Received              |
| RESPONDENT   | ) | APR 07 2022           |
|  | ) | By LAPELS Enforcement |

## **CONSENT ORDER**

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and A&A Engineering, Civil and Structural Engineers, Ltd. LLC [hereinafter "Respondent"], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF-3719; however, its license was in an expired status from October 1, 2019 through October 14, 2021. Respondent contends that its license went into an expired status by mistake due to an administrative error.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of information and/or documents which suggested that Respondent may have committed violations of the Board's laws and/or rules. Information obtained via cooperation with Respondent disclosed that between October 1, 2019 and October 14, 2021, Respondent admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on nineteen (19) projects in Louisiana.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice engineering with an expired license. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) and La. R.S. 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) at all times material hereto Respondent was licensed in Louisiana as a professional engineering firm; however, its license was in an expired status from October 1,

2019 through October 14, 2021 and (b) during this time period Respondent admittedly practiced and offered to practice engineering in Louisiana.

By letter dated December 22, 2021, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice engineering with an expired license.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent accepts to (a) that it will pay a fine of One Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 (\$1,500.00) Dollars, (b) that it will pay administrative costs of Three Hundred Forty Two and 46/100 (\$342.46) Dollars, (c) that it will pay past unpaid renewal fees of One Hundred Twenty and No/100 (\$120.00) Dollars, (d) that each of its supervising professionals will successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, (e) that each of its supervising professionals will successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz, (f) the immediate suspension of its Louisiana professional engineering firm license if it fails to comply with any portion of this Consent Order, with said suspension continuing until it so complies, and (g) the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of its right to an informal conference, to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law. Respondent further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order,
Respondent does hereby waive its right to an informal conference, to a hearing before the Board,
to the presenting of evidence and witnesses on its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of
Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that (a) it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument and (c) the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

- Respondent shall pay a fine of One Thousand Five Hundred and No/100
   (\$1,500.00) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
- 2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of Three Hundred Forty Two and 46/100 (\$342.46) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
- 3. Respondent shall pay past unpaid renewal fees of One Hundred Twenty and No/100 (\$120.00) Dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and
- 4. Respondent shall have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
- 5. Respondent shall have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and

- Respondent's Louisiana professional engineering firm license, number EF-3719,
   shall be immediately suspended <u>if</u> it fails to comply with any portion of this Consent Order, with
   said suspension continuing until it so complies; and
- 7. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the *Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal*, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and
- 8. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATE: 23 May 2022

DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

A&A ENGINEERING, CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, LTD. LLC, Respondent

DATE: 4/4/2022

OMAR A. ABU-YASEIN, P.E., Manager

Witnesses to the signature of A&A Engineering, Civil and

Structural Engineers, Ltd. LL

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Print Name: A man Ala