# BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

In the Matter of:	Case No.: P24-018
Jeremy Laipple Professional Civil Engineer Registration No. 47509	CONSENT AGREEMENT and ORDER OF DISCIPLINE
Respondent	

In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq., and A.A.C. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned party, Jeremy Laipple ("Respondent"), holder of Registration No. 47509, and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

#### **RECITALS**

- 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 2. Respondent understands that he has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case. He further acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives his right to such an administrative hearing, as well as rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.
- 3. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable.

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- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part of the agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board against him.
- 5. The Consent Agreement, any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board and all related exhibits and materials, are public records upon acceptance by the Board of this Consent Agreement and may be retained in the Board's files pertaining to this matter.
- 6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case number P24-018 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would subject him to discipline under the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement.
- 7. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.
- 8. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this document to Board staff, he may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.
- 10. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its authority to hold a

formal administrative hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.

- 11. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 12. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of the registration under A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 13. Respondent agrees that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of Professional Engineering in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Professional Engineer (Civil) Registration No. 47509.
- 3. On or about April 6, 2023, Respondent sealed retaining wall permitting documents for Lot 36, Lot 37 and Lot 38 for Pinnacle at Prescott Lakes in Prescott, Arizona.
- 4. On or about August 30, 2023, the Board received a complaint alleging that Respondent designed retaining walls for multiple lots for Pinnacle at Prescott Lakes which included deficiencies regarding lack of specifications, active pressure, sliding, cover, lap, development length, spacing and concrete strength.
- 5. On or about March 28, 2024, an Enforcement Advisory Committee ("EAC") meeting convened to review the complaint. At the conclusion of the EAC meeting, the

#### Committee determined:

- A. Respondent failed to apply the appropriate technical knowledge and skill through the following aspects of the plans for Lot 36, Lot 37, and Lot 38:
  - I. The basis for design notates the coefficient of base friction is 0.45 when used independent of passive pressure and .30 when used in conjunction with passive pressure. However, the calculations use 0.45 in conjunction with passive pressure which is too high. The wall stability ratio for sliding is 1.08, which is below the 1.5 required.
  - II. The plans do not detail how the wall drain is intended to open grade; specifically the 6" of earth cover over the top of the footings interfere with a clear opening of a 4" pipe.
  - III. The cover shown for the vertical reinforcing for the design is 1.5". However the basis for design states it shall be 2.5", which reduces the depth of the force couple and therefore the resisting moment capacity of the wall. The 2.5" is not acceptable at the bottom of the concrete footing for concrete cast against and permanently in contact with the ground. This issue pertains to ground water exposure.
  - IV. The lap lengths specified in A2, B2, and C2 masonry details are smaller than the required values in the calculations.
  - V. The 2' development length shown within the walls is less than the development length of the vert reinforcing in the calculations. Additionally, the hooked dowels do not have a minimum embedment shown and is graphically not shown near the bottom reinforcing in the foundation, which was acknowledged by the Respondent during the meeting.
  - VI. The spacing of longitudinal bars shall in cast-in-place

concrete shall not exceed 3h (3\*6"=18") or 18" but the plans had 24". ACI1 318-19 section 11.7.2.1. Respondent acknowledged this during the meeting.

- VII. The concrete is specified as 2500 psi in the upper right material specifications on the plans. However the strength used in the design report is 3000 psi, which means that the actual wall constructed would be weaker than the designed wall and could potentially fail.
- VIII. The Design Reports (Technical Memoranda) were issued and sealed after the sealed dates on the plans. The normal practice would be for the design report to be sealed prior to the production of the plans.
- B. Additionally, the Committee determined that Respondent failed to demonstrate appropriate technical knowledge in this project and accepted a professional engagement outside of his registered branch of engineering.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq.
- 2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128 (C)(4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301(6), in that Respondent may have failed to apply the appropriate technical knowledge and skill in the practice of a Board regulated profession.
- 3. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact also constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128 (C)(4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301(18), in that Respondent may have accepted a professional engagement outside of his professional registered branch of engineering while lacking the technical knowledge to perform the engagement.

#### <u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues

### the following Order:

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- 1. LETTER OF REPRIMAND. Respondent is hereby issued a Letter of Reprimand.
- 2. STAYED SUSPENSION AND PROBATION. As of the effective date of this Order, Respondent's registration as a Professional Arizona Engineer, No. 47509, shall be suspended for Twelve (12) Months; however, the suspension shall be stayed for as long as Respondent remains in compliance with this Order. During the period of stayed suspension, Respondent's registration as a Professional Engineer shall be placed on probation. If Respondent is non-compliant with any term of this Order during the probationary period, the stay of suspension shall be lifted and Respondent's registration as a Professional Engineer shall be automatically suspended without formal hearing, and remain suspended until Respondent is compliant with all terms of this Order.
- 3. PEER REVIEW. Within Twelve (12) months of the effective date of this consent agreement, Respondent shall submit his next three (3) Structural Engineering projects for peer review. Respondent shall furnish to Board staff, the name of an Arizona registered Professional Structural Engineer ("Peer Reviewer") who agrees to review and report on Respondent's work. The proposed Peer Reviewer shall have at least five years of actual engagement as a Structural Engineer with expertise in Structural Engineering, shall be registered and in good standing with the Board and shall not have received any disciplinary action from the Board within the last three years. Respondent shall provide Board staff with the name, registration number, contact information, and a current resume detailing the qualifications of the proposed Peer Reviewer. Upon approval by Board staff of the Peer Reviewer, Respondent shall ensure that the Peer Reviewer provides a written report directly to Board staff after each peer reviewed project describing any deficiencies in Respondent's practice, and certifying that the peer reviewed project provided to the client by the Respondent is in compliance with Board rules and statutes. Respondent shall not give final approval on any projects to a client, contractor, any regulatory or review body or any other person until the project has been reviewed and approved by the

Peer Reviewer. Respondent shall retain the Peer Reviewer at his own expense.

- 4 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Within Six (6) Months from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 5. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within Six (6) Months from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this case to the Board in the amount of Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$99.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).
- 6. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, as well as, all rules governing the practice of Engineering in the State of Arizona. The Board shall consider any violation of this paragraph to be a separate violation of the rules and statues governing the Arizona Board of Technical Registration. The Board may also consider Respondent's non-compliance with this Order as a separate violation of A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 7. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION. During the probationary period, Respondent shall timely renew his Arizona registration as an Engineer, and timely pay all required registration fees.
- 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the effective date is the later of the two dates.
- 9. COSTS OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with complying with this Consent Agreement.
- 10. NONCOMPLIANCE. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board, after giving notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke, suspend or take other disciplinary actions against the registration. The issue at such a hearing will be limited solely to whether this Order has

1	been violated.	
2	ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 25th day of June, 2024	
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4	White folk	
5	Michael Kolejka, R.A., Chairman Arizona State Board of	
6	Technical Registration	
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8	Consent Agreement and Order, No. P24-018 accepted this21_day of	
9	JUNE, 2024.	
10	In the	
11	Jeremy Laipple, Respondent	
12	ORIGINAL filed this 25 <sup>th</sup> day of	
13	June , 2024, with:	
14		
15	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration 1110 W. Washington, Suite 240	
16	Phoenix, AZ 85007	
17	COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail	
18	No. 9214 8901 9434 4600 0975 65 and	
19	First Class mail this 25 <sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, to:	
20	Jeremy Laipple	
21	5227 N. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Phoenix, AZ 85014	
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23	By: Kaulyn Campal	
24	By: Karager	
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