# BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

3 In the Matter of: 4 James Samer Land Surveyor 5 Registration No. 16193 Arizona ALTA Specialists Registration No. 18700 6

Case No.: P17-044

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER for VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Respondents

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, James Samer ("Respondent"), holder of Registration No. 16193, Arizona ALTA Specialists (Respondent Firm), holder of Registration No. 18700, 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

- Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had 1. the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 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.
  - Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be 3.

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irrevocable.

- 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 (as defined in A.R.S. § 41-158.18) 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 P17-044 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 the Board's Executive Director, 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 Land Surveying in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Professional Land Surveyor Registration No. 16193.
- 3. Respondent firm was not registered with the Board at the time of project engagements in 2013 and early 2014. Subsequently, Respondent firm was registered with the Board on March 13, 2014, and issued firm registration No. 18700.
- 4. On or about December 23, 2013, Respondent firm engaged in the practice of Professional Land Surveying by performing ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey for a property located at 2660 & 2680 E. Mohawk Ln., Phoenix, AZ, without Board registration. Respondent signed and sealed professional documents for an ALTA Land Title Survey for the aforementioned property, prepared by Timothy Spangler, who is not

registered with the Board.

- 5. On or about February 21, 2014, Respondent firm engaged in the practice of Professional Land Surveying by performing an ALTA Land Title Survey for a property located at 17271 N. 87th Ave., Peoria, AZ, without Board registration. Respondent signed and sealed professional documents for an ALTA Land Title Survey for the aforementioned property, prepared by Timothy Spangler, who is not registered with the Board.
- 6. On or about February 26, 2014, Respondent firm engaged in the Practice of Professional Land Surveying by performing an ALTA Land Title Survey for a property located at 10815 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ, without Board registration. Respondent signed and sealed professional documents for an ALTA Land Title Survey for the aforementioned property, prepared by Timothy Spangler, who is not registered with the Board.
- 7. On or about March 3, 2016, Board staff received a copy of a contract for two projects, dated July 25, 2013, that Respondent firm engaged in without Board registration.
- 8. On March 3, 2016, Board staff interviewed Timothy Spangler, a non-registrant. During the interview, Mr. Spangler stated that he was the owner of Arizona ALTA Specialists and that he is contracted with CRESurvey to perform ALTA surveys. Mr. Spangler stated that he performed the surveys located at the addresses listed. These surveys were done through an unregistered firm.
- 8. On or about August 19, 2016, Board staff received copies of contracts between CreSurveys and Respondent firm as well as contracts between CreSurveys and Samer & Associates between the years 2012 and 2016. Staff also received copies of professional documents for projects performed by Respondent and Respondent firm for CreSurveys. Three surveys performed in 2013 were done through Respondent firm while it was unregistered.
  - 9. On or about August 19, 2016, Board staff received copies of contracts and

professional documents for six ALTA surveys performed by Respondents in July and August of 2016. The surveys were stamped and signed by Respondent, whose registration had expired on June 30, 2016.

### **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)(3), in that Respondent aided and abetted the practice of an unregistered person.
- 3. 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(16), in that Respondent signed and sealed professional documents that were prepared by Timothy Spangler, a Non-Registrant, not a bona fide employee of Respondent firm.
- 4. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-145(1) and A.R.S. § 32-125(C), in that Respondent signed and sealed ALTA surveys during July and August of 2016, during which time his registration was expired (June 30, 2016).
- 5. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-141 and A.R.S. § 32-121, in that Respondent and Respondent Firm practiced land surveying in 2013 and early 2014 through a firm that was not registered with the Board until March of 2014.

#### ORDER

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

- 1. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**. Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender his Registered Land Surveyor Registration No. 16193 in lieu of a formal hearing.
- VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FIRM REGISTRATION CARD.
  Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender his Firm Registration Card identifying
  Arizona ALTA Specialists.

1	3. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the
2	date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the
3	effective date is the later of the two dates.
4	ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 24 day of Jan., 2017.
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6	Immedia Immedia
7	Arizona State Board of
8	Technical Registration
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10	Consent Agreement and Order, No. P17-044 accepted this 10 day of Linuary, 2016.
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12	James Samer, and on behalf of Arizona
13	ALTA Specialists, Respondents
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16	ORIGINAL filed this 24 day of
17	JANUARY , 2017, with:
18	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration 1110 W. Washington, Suite 240 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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20	COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail
21	No. <u>9214 8901 9434 4600 0076 63</u> and First Class mail this <u>27</u> day of <u>JANUALY</u> , 2017, to:
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23	James Samer Arizona ALTA Specialists
24	1668 W Glendale Ave Phoenix, AZ 85021
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27	By: J. Braeme
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