

**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. 2017-28
)	
THE MAP GROUP, INC.)	Received
)	DEC 22 2020
RESPONDENT)	By LAPELS Enforcement
)	
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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 The MAP Group, Inc. [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-3226; however, its license was in an expired status from April 1, 2017 through August 22, 2018.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of an Affidavit of Complaint and documents which suggested that Respondent may have committed violations of the Board’s laws and/or rules. The investigation disclosed that between April 1, 2017 and August 22, 2018 Respondent admittedly offered to provide engineering services in Louisiana and provided engineering services on approximately seventeen (17) projects in Louisiana, approximately sixteen (16) of which were prior to May 14, 2018.

The investigation also disclosed that on or about May 14, 2018 Respondent submitted to the Board an Application to Reinstate Expired Firm License, confirming thereon that (a) it had not practiced or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana during the period in which its license was expired, (b) to the best of its knowledge, information and belief the statements and information on the application were true and correct in substance and effect and were made in good faith, (c) it had not omitted any information requested on the application and (d) an omission or untrue response on the application could constitute fraud, deceit, material

misstatement, perjury or the giving of false or forged evidence under La. R.S. 37:698 and 37:700.

Additionally, the investigation disclosed that on June 30, 2020 the Board sent a letter to Respondent by certified mail (return receipt requested) and by email requesting that it provide to the Board certain information and documents relative to potential violations of the Board's laws and/or rules. Respondent has never responded to this letter.

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1) prohibits any fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2501(E), require licensees to timely respond to all inquiries and correspondence from the Board. 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(A)(10) requires licensees to provide, within thirty calendar days of receipt of notice by certified mail, information or documents requested by the Board relating to any alleged violation of the Board's laws. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2501(E), La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), and La. R.S. 37:698(A)(10), 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)(1), (6), (9), (10) and (16), La. R.S. 37:698(H) and LAC Title 46:LXI§2501(E) 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 April 1, 2017 through August 22, 2018, **(b)** between April 1, 2017 and August 22, 2018 Respondent admittedly practiced and offered to practice engineering in Louisiana without proper licensure, **(c)** on or about May 14, 2018 Respondent submitted to the Board an Application to Reinstate Expired Firm License which falsely stated that it had not practiced or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana during the period in which its license was expired and **(c)** Respondent has failed to respond to a certified mail and emailed letter from the Board on June 30, 2020 requesting that it provide certain information and documents related to potential violations of the Board's laws and/or rules.

By letter dated November 13, 2020, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that Respondent may have violated **(a)** La. R.S. 37:698(A)(1), relative to fraud, deceit, material misstatement or perjury, or the giving of any false or forged evidence, in applying for a renewal license with the Board; **(b)** La. R.S. 37:698(A)(6), *to wit* LAC Title 46:LXI§2501(E), relative to the failure to timely respond to inquiries and correspondence from the Board; **(c)** La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16), relative to practicing and/or offering to practice engineering with an expired license; and **(d)** La. R.S. 37:698(A)(10), relative to the failure to provide, within thirty calendar days of receipt of notice by certified mail, information or documents requested by the Board relating to any alleged violation of the Board's laws.

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 agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of Three Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 (\$3,500.00) Dollars, **(b)** pay administrative costs of One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty and 68/100 (\$1,420.68) Dollars, **(c)** pay past unpaid renewal fees of One Hundred Twenty and No/100 (\$120.00) Dollars, **(d)** provide to the Board the information and documents requested by the Board in its June 30, 2020 certified mail and emailed letter to Respondent, **(e)** pay an additional fine of Five Hundred and No/100 (\$500.00) Dollars, along with any administrative costs incurred in collecting said additional fine, if it fails to provide to the Board the requested information and documents, **(f)** have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz, **(g)** have each of its supervising professionals successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz, **(h)** the immediate suspension of its Louisiana professional engineering firm license if it fails to comply with any part of this Consent Order, with such suspension continuing until it so complies, and **(i)** 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 admits that its conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. 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:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of Three Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 (\$3,500.00) 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 One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty and 68/100 (\$1,420.68) 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 provide to the Board within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Order the information and documents requested by the Board in its June 30, 2020 certified mail and emailed letter to Respondent; and

5. Respondent shall pay an additional fine of Five Hundred and No/100 (\$500.00) Dollars, along with any administrative costs incurred in collecting said additional fine, if it fails to provide to the Board within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Order the information and documents requested by the Board in its June 30, 2020 certified mail and emailed letter to Respondent, which additional fine and administrative costs shall be then immediately tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board; and

6. 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

7. 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

8. Respondent's Louisiana professional engineering firm license, number EF-3226, shall be immediately suspended if it fails to comply with any part of this Consent Order, with such suspension continuing until it so complies; and

9. 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

10. 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: 11 January 2021


BY: 
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

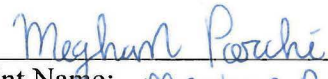
THE MAP GROUP, INC., Respondent

DATE: 12-15-20

BY: 
MERREL A. PORCHE, JR., President

Witnesses to the signature of
The MAP Group, Inc.


Print Name: Inger Chambers


Print Name: Meghan Porche