



ENGINEERS &  
GEOSCIENTISTS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE *PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT*,  
S.B.C. 2018, CHAPTER 47**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF ALFONSO MANUEL SOTRES, P.ENG. (LICENCE #: 15110)**

**ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS BC FILE NO. T19-065**

**CONSENT ORDER**

**Background**

1. On January 25, 2024, pursuant to section 66(1) of the *Professional Governance Act*, S.B.C. 2018, c. 47 (the “PGA”), the appointed Investigators of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia, doing business as Engineers and Geoscientists BC, issued an investigation report (the “Report”) regarding Mr. Alfonso Manuel Sotres, P.Eng. The Report was provided to the Investigation Committee pursuant to section 9.7.6(1) of the Bylaws of Engineers and Geoscientists BC.
2. The Report concerns Mr. Sotres’ engineering services in relation to a counterweight lifting beam (the “CLB”) which failed during the lifting and removal of an industrial furnace in a plant in Trail, BC during scheduled maintenance (the “Project”).
3. Mr. Sotres was retained to review and authenticate design drawings and the load testing report for the counterweight lifting beam utilized in the Project.
4. Engineers and Geoscientists BC and Mr. Sotres wish to resolve this matter by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the *PGA* to avoid the need for a disciplinary hearing.
5. Mr. Sotres consents to the disposition set out below.

## Legislation

6. On February 5, 2021, the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the “EGA”) was repealed and replaced by the PGA.
7. The conduct of Mr. Sotres took place at a time when the EGA was in force. As a result, the conduct in question is considered pursuant to sections 30(9)(b) and 30(9)(c) of the EGA, and the Bylaws and Code of Ethics under the EGA.
8. Pursuant to sections 35(2) and 36(1)(c) of the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 238, investigations commenced under the EGA carry on procedurally under the PGA.

## Admissions

9. Mr. Sotres admits that he demonstrated unprofessional conduct in relation to the engineering services he provided for the Project. In particular, Mr. Sotres admits that he failed to:
  - a. adequately design and review the CLB, including by preparing adequate calculations;
  - b. ensure safety and redundancy in the design of the CLB, including by failing to provide for the following:
    - i. an auxiliary braking system;
    - ii. a winch and cable system to move the counterweight trolley;
    - iii. a documented process to identify and minimize the risks associated with probable failure modes for the counterweight moving system; and
    - iv. a fail-safe system to ensure that the operator of the CLB would not be able to move the counterweight and tilt the beam excessively.
10. The conduct set out above in paragraph 9 is contrary to Principle 1 of the Code of Ethics, as it stood at the time, which required that all members and licensees shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace.

## Disposition

11. By consent, this Consent Order is made pursuant to section 73 of the *PGA*.
12. Mr. Sotres’ registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC is suspended for a period of two months commencing on March 16, 2026 (the “Suspension Period”).
13. During the period from the date of the execution of this Consent Order to the Suspension Period, Mr. Sotres will:

- a. limit his practice to those project files that he is currently engaged on and will not take on any new project files or other engineering work; and
  - b. make reasonable arrangements for the orderly transfer of his ongoing professional engineering project files to other professional engineers.
14. Prior to the end of the Suspension Period, Mr. Sotres must provide confirmation to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has, at his own expense, completed the Professional Engineering and Geoscience Practice in BC Online Seminar.
15. Effective immediately, Mr. Sotres is prohibited from performing any engineering work related to the design, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of below-the-hook lifting devices, including CLB devices (the "Practice Restriction").
16. If Mr. Sotres wishes to lift or modify the Practice Restriction, he must provide written proof to Engineers and Geoscientists BC that he has completed, at his own expense, an educational course that covers the following standards:
  - a. ASME B30.20-2010 Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices; and
  - b. ASME BTH-1-2017 Design of Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices.
17. If Mr. Sotres successfully lifts the Practice Restriction set out in paragraph 15 by completing the requirement set out in paragraph 16, all of his work related to the Practice Restriction must be subject to peer review pursuant to the *Discipline Committee Ordered Peer Review Policy* and the *Peer Review Guidelines* of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, as may be amended from time to time (the "Peer Review"), subject to the following conditions:
  - a. the peer reviewer must be a professional engineer who is a registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC and who is approved in writing by the Registrar of Engineers and Geoscientists BC (the "Approved Peer Reviewer");
  - b. the Peer Review will continue for a minimum period of 12 months, and the Approved Peer Reviewer must review a minimum of two projects, whichever comes later (the "Peer Review Period");
  - c. following the Peer Review Period, the Approved Peer Reviewer will provide Engineers and Geoscientists BC with confirmation in writing that Mr. Sotres has completed the Peer Review process and that, in the opinion of the Approved Peer Reviewer, Mr. Sotres has demonstrated competence such that he should be prepared to perform engineering work related to the Practice Restriction without oversight;
  - d. following the Peer Review Period, if the opinion of the Approved Peer Reviewer is that Mr. Sotres has not demonstrated competence such that he should be permitted to perform work related to the Practice Restriction without oversight and requires further peer review, the Peer Review Period must continue for an additional 12 month period, or the completion of two additional projects whichever comes later (the "Extended Peer Review"), following which the Approved Peer

Reviewer must provide confirmation in writing that Mr. Sotres has completed the Extended Peer Review and has demonstrated competence such that he should be permitted to perform work related to the Practice Restriction without oversight; and

- e. Mr. Sotres will pay the costs associated with the Peer Review.
- 18. Mr. Sotres will pay \$5,000 to Engineers and Geoscientists BC as a contribution towards the legal and investigative costs incurred in this matter.
- 19. In the event that Mr. Sotres fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, his registration with Engineers and Geoscientists BC will be suspended until every default has been remedied in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order.

**Consequences of this Consent Order**

- 20. The full text of this Consent Order will be published on the website of Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and a summary will be published in print and electronic publications, including in public communications.
- 21. This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an Order made under section 75 of the *PGA*.
- 22. Mr. Sotres agrees that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has recommended that he receive independent legal advice regarding this Consent Order and that Engineers and Geoscientists BC has given him the opportunity to obtain independent legal advice.

*[INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]*

23. Mr. Sotres and Engineers and Geoscientists BC agree that this Consent Order may be executed in counterparts and delivered as an electronic document.

This Consent Order is approved and accepted by Mr. Sotres and the Discipline Resolution Panel this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026.

<original signed by>  
Alfonso Manuel Sotres, P.Eng.

<original signed by>  
Name of Witness

<original signed by>  
Signature of Witness

<original signed by>  
Chris Arthur, P.Eng.  
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>  
Frank Denton, P.Eng., FEC, FGC (Hon)  
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel

<original signed by>  
Pierre Gallant, Retired Architect, AIBC  
Member, Discipline Resolution Panel