

**BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. LA 2016-14

**THOMAS KARL DOCZI
71-711 San Jacinto Drive, Ste. C
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**

Landscape Architect License No. LA 2370


Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical Committee, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on January 17, 2019.

It is so ORDERED December 13, 2018



FOR THE CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 JAMES M. LEDAKIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 DAVID E. HAUSFELD
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 110639
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9437
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061
Attorneys for Complainant

9 **BEFORE THE**
10 **CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD**
11 **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. LA 2016-14

15 **THOMAS KARL DOCZI**
16 **71-711 San Jacinto Drive, Ste. C**
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

17 **Landscape Architect License No. LA 2370**

18 Respondent.

19
20
21 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
22 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. Laura Zuniga (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Landscape Architects
25 Technical Committee (Committee). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is
26 represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by
27 David E. Hausfeld, Deputy Attorney General.

28 ///

1 2. Respondent Thomas Karl Doczi (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by
2 attorney David L. Baron of Slovak Baron Empey Murphy & Pinkney LLP, whose address is:
3 1800 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

4 3. On or about December 30, 1983, the California State Board of Landscape Architects
5 issued Landscape Architect License Number LA 2370 to Respondent. The Landscape Architect
6 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No.
7 LA 2016-14 and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 4. Accusation No. LA 2016-14 was filed before the California Architects Board
10 (Board), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily
11 required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 29, 2017. Respondent
12 timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A copy of Accusation No. LA 2016-14 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated
14 herein by reference.

15 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

16 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
17 charges and allegations in Accusation No. LA 2016-14. Respondent has also carefully read, fully
18 discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
19 Order.

20 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
21 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine
22 the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right
23 to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of
24 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other
25 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

26 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
27 every right set forth above.

28 ///

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation
3 No. LA 2016-14.

4 10. Respondent agrees that his Landscape Architect License is subject to discipline and
5 he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order
6 below.

7 CONTINGENCY

8 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the California Architects Board.
9 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Landscape
10 Architects Technical Committee may communicate directly with the Board regarding this
11 stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By
12 signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his
13 agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it.
14 If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and
15 Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible
16 in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action
17 by having considered this matter.

18 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
19 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
20 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

21 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an
22 integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.
23 It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions,
24 negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
25 Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a
26 writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

27 ///

28 ///

1 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
2 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following
3 Disciplinary Order:

4 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Landscape Architect License No. LA 2370 issued to
6 Respondent Thomas Karl Dóczi is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is
7 placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

8 1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws and
9 regulations governing the practice of landscape architecture in California.

10 2. **Submit Quarterly Reports.** Respondent, within ten (10) days of completion of the
11 quarter, shall submit quarterly written reports to the Board on a Quarterly Report of Compliance
12 form obtained from the Board.

13 3. **Personal Appearances.** Upon reasonable notice by the Board, Respondent shall
14 report to and make personal appearances at times and locations as the Board may direct.

15 4. **Cooperate During Probation.** Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Board, and
16 with any of its agents or employees in their supervision and investigation of his compliance with
17 the terms and conditions of this probation. Upon reasonable notice, Respondent shall provide the
18 Board, its agents or employees, with the opportunity to review all plans, specifications, and
19 instruments of service prepared during the period of probation.

20 5. **Tolling for Out-of-State Practice, Residence or In-State Non-Practice.** In the
21 event Respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State or for any
22 reason stop practicing landscape architecture in California, Respondent shall notify the Board or
23 its designee in writing within ten (10) days of the dates of departure and return, or the dates of
24 non-practice or the resumption of practice within California. Non-practice is defined as any
25 period of time exceeding thirty (30) days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities
26 defined in Section 5615 of the Business and Professions Code. All provisions of probation other
27 than the quarterly report requirements, examination requirements, and education requirements,
28 shall be held in abeyance until Respondent resumes practice in California. All provisions of

1 probation shall recommence on the effective date of resumption of practice in California. Periods
2 of temporary or permanent residency or practice outside California or of non-practice within
3 California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.

4 6. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board,
5 after giving Respondent notice and opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out
6 the disciplinary order which was stayed. If an accusation or a petition to revoke probation is filed
7 against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter
8 is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

9 7. **Completion of Probation.** Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's
10 license will be fully restored.

11 8. **Notification to Clients.** Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Decision,
12 Respondent shall provide all clients with whom he has a current contractual relationship in the
13 practice of landscape architecture with a copy of the Decision and Order of the Board and provide
14 the Board with evidence of such notification, including the name and address of each person or
15 entity required to be notified.

16 9. **Cost Reimbursement.** Respondent shall reimburse the Board \$4,517.50 for its
17 investigative and prosecution costs. The payment shall be made as follows: in equal monthly
18 payments, the final payment being due one year before probation is schedule to terminate. The
19 first payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of the date the Board's decision is final.

20 ACCEPTANCE

21 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
22 discussed it with my attorney, David L. Baron. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will
23 have on my Landscape Architect License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
24 Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order
25 of the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical Committee.

26
27 DATED:


10/10/18



28 THOMAS KARL DOCZI
Respondent

1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Thomas Karl Doczi the terms and
2 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
3 I approve its form and content.

4
5 DATED: 12.10.18


6 DAVID L. BARON
7 Attorney for Respondent

8 **ENDORSEMENT**

9 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
10 submitted for consideration by the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical
11 Committee.

12 Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

13
14 XAVIER BECERRA
15 Attorney General of California
16 JAMES M. LEDAKIS
17 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

18 DAVID E. HAUSFELD
19 Deputy Attorney General
20 Attorneys for Complainant

21
22 SD2017705633
23 71642386.docx
24
25
26
27
28

1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Thomas Karl Doczi the terms and
2 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
3 I approve its form and content.

4
5 DATED: _____

6 DAVID L. BARON
7 *Attorney for Respondent*

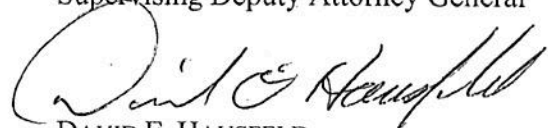
8 **ENDORSEMENT**

9 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
10 submitted for consideration by the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical
11 Committee.

12 Dated: 12/11/18

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 XAVIER BECERRA
15 Attorney General of California
16 JAMES M. LEDAKIS
17 Supervising Deputy Attorney General



18 DAVID E. HAUSFELD
19 Deputy Attorney General
20 *Attorneys for Complainant*

21
22 SD2017705633
23 71642386.docx
24
25
26
27
28