



Department of Development Services

Administrative Division

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Ronald L. Lynn, CBO, Director/Building Official

July 22, 2009

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST CONVERSE
CONSULTANTS SOUTHWEST INC.

Dear Sirs and Madam:

Enclosed for your review is the Hearing Officer's Recommendations to the Building Official. Also enclosed is the proposed Building Official's Final Report.

Pursuant to Section 22.02.560(5)(B) and (C), you have 10 calendar days to file an appeal of the Hearing Officer's Recommendations. If you do not file an appeal, the proposed Building Official's Final Report will be adopted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Lynn", is written over a horizontal line.

RONALD L. LYNN
Director/Building Official

RLL:gjs

Attachments:

Attachment A – Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations
Building Official's Recommendations

cc: Charles Thomas
Clifford Jeffers, Deputy District Attorney
Gregory J. Franklin, Assistant Director, Building Division
Theodore L. Droessler, P.E., Manager of Engineering Services
David L. Durkee, P.E.

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3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 1000
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Melissa A. Orien, Esq.
Holland & Hart LLP
3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 1000
Las Vegas, NV 89169

CLARK COUNTY BUILDING DIVISION
In the Matter of a Complaint Filed Against

Converse Consultants Southwest, Inc.,
Scott T. Edberg, and
Joseph G. Laurente;
By
David L. Durkee, PE
Principal Engineer for the Clark County Building Division

BUILDING OFFICIAL'S FINAL REPORT

This matter came before the Hearing Officer, Charles M. Thomas, P.E., on June 30, 2009, for a hearing of the complaint filed by David Durkee, P.E., principal engineer for the Clark County Building Division, against Converse Consultants Southwest, Inc. (Converse), and special inspectors Scott T. Edberg, and Joseph G. Laurente. Converse was represented by Greg S. Gilbert, Esq., and Melissa A. Orien, Esq., of the law firm Holland & Hart LLP. Clark County was represented by Clifford M. Jeffers, Deputy District Attorney.

The complaint was filed and the hearing was conducted pursuant to the Clark County Building Administrative Code, Section 22.02.560. The Hearing Officer received evidence from the Building Division and from Converse. After considering the evidence and the arguments of counsel, the Hearing Officer prepared and submitted to the Building Official a report entitled "Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Hearing Officer."

A copy of the Hearing Officer's report is attached to this Final Report as Exhibit A. The Hearing Officer's report is adopted by reference except as modified below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The evidence is ambiguous concerning Mr. Laurente's ability to read structural plans.
2. Many of the non-conformances identified as LBR-NCR-CR-1 through LBR-NCR-CR-276 are already in a condition for resolution.

REMEDIES

1. The Hearing Officer's recommendation concerning special inspector Scott Edberg is affirmed. His qualification as an approved special inspector is revoked.
2. The Hearing Officer's recommendation to suspend the approved status of special inspector Joseph Laurente is affirmed. He may become re-approved upon the following conditions:
 - a. Mr. Laurente must take and successfully pass an accredited structural plans review class approved by the Clark County Development Services – Building Division.

b. Mr. Laurente must retake and successfully pass the International Code Council certification examination for Reinforced Concrete.

c. Upon completion of these conditions and the appropriate administrative submittals pursuant to the Clark County Building Administrative Code, Mr. Laurente will be reconsidered for listing as an approved concrete special inspector.

3. The Hearing Officer's recommendation to suspend Converse as an approved quality assurance agency is modified as follows:

a. Converse's qualification as an approved quality assurance agency is suspended for a period not to exceed six months.

b. Converse may continue to work projects on which it is already actively engaged to complete its contractual obligations. Converse must notify the Building Official of each of these projects, allowing for increased monitoring by the Building Official.

c. Converse's status will be reviewed at the following points:

i. Upon the resolution of the non-conformances identified as LBR-NCR-CR-1 through LBR-NCR-CR-276;

ii. The satisfactory review by the Building Official of the relevant portions of the City Center verification report;

iii. The satisfactory review by the Building Official of Converse's operational and managerial functions for its special inspection program.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2009.



RONALD L. LYNN
Director/Building Official

RLL:gjs

Attachment: Exhibit A, Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations

cc: Don Christiansen, Converse Consultants Southwest Inc.
Eugene Miller, Converse Consultants Southwest Inc.
Scott T. Edberg
Joseph G. Laurente
Greg S. Gilbert, Esq.

Melissa A. Orien, Esq.
Charles Thomas, Hearing Officer
Clifford Jeffers, Deputy District Attorney
Phil Rosenquist, Assistant County Manager
Gregory J. Franklin, Assistant Director
Theodore L. Droessler, Manager of Engineering Services
David L. Durkee, P.E.