Steven L. Raffaelli Construction Inc.

PO Box 102

Rimforest, CA 92378

(909) 273-9929

Re: Notice of Probable Violation - Case No. N2425571

Dear Members of the Underground Safety Board:

Steven L. Raffaelli Construction Inc. acknowledges that we began excavation without first contacting the regional notification center as required by Government Code section 4216.2. We are not contesting that the violation occurred, and we sincerely regret our mistake.

This is our first violation of California's underground excavation requirements. We take the safety of our employees, our customers, and the public very seriously. When the gas line was damaged, we immediately recognized the seriousness of the situation and contacted the Fire Department for emergency assistance.

We have learned from this incident and understand the importance of contacting 811 before any excavation work, including work performed by hand. We will ensure that the required notification is made before excavation on all future projects.

In determining the appropriate penalty, we respectfully ask the Board to consider that this is our first violation, our prompt response to the incident, our cooperation following the incident, and our commitment to preventing a similar violation in the future.

We accept responsibility for our mistake and respectfully request that the Board exercise leniency in determining the financial penalty in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Raffaelli

Steven L. Raffaelli Construction Inc.

Mandatory completion of the Underground Safety Board's education course. Please see https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/underground-safety-board/education-course/ **for more information.**

A financial penalty, the amount to be determined by the Board.

A corrective action to be determined by the Board.

The proposed penalties are merited, 0n August 14, 2024, Steven L. Raffaelli Construction dug with a shovel to install a fence post without first contacting the regional notification center and damaged an ½-inch plastic natural gas facility. In the emergency response to the incident, the San Bernardino County Fire Department notified the surrounding homeowners to shelter in place.

Response to this Notice

Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document titled *RESPONSE TO A NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION*. Please carefully review this document and note the response options. All materials you submit in response to this enforcement action are subject to public disclosure. You have 30 business days from August 13, 2026 to submit your written response to the Board. Your response to this Notice must be received by the Board no later than September 28, 2026.

If you do not respond within 30 business days, this constitutes a waiver of your right to contest the Board's determination on whether there is Probable Violation in this case and to refer the case to the Enforcement Agency with the Board's recommendation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Anona Bonner

Anona Bonner
Chief of Investigations |Underground Safety Board

Proposed hearing date: **November 16, 2026**

RESPONSE TO A NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION

Case Number: N2425571
Name: Steven L Raffaelli Construction

The provisions of California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 4, Chapter 3, governs the Notice of Probable Violation (Notice) proceeding before the California Underground Safety Board (Board). Specifically, 19 CCR section 4252 provides your response options upon the receipt of a Notice.

Be advised that all material submitted by you in response to a Notice are subject to public disclosure.

Please select from one of the response options listed below. You have 30 business days to submit your written response to the Underground Safety Board. Failure to submit a written response will be considered by the Board as a "No Contest" response. Please attach this form with your selection to your response. If you choose "Contest in Writing" or "Contest in Writing and Request Informal Hearing," please also include you written explanation and documents that may be referenced in your written explanation or informal hearing. For all options, Board investigators may present the basis for your probable violation on the date of the public meeting as provided in your Notice, and the Board will review your case and vote to determine whether a probable violation exist and whether the corrective action and/or penalty proposed by the Board staff is appropriate at the meeting.

Response Options

___ **No Contest**
You do not contest the violations or the penalty. If you choose to not contest the violations or the penalty, you will waive your right to request the Board to reconsider its decision or recommendation issued.

X **Contest in Writing**
You wish to contest either the violation, the penalty, or both by providing the Board with written explanations and other records supporting the explanation. You will submit the written explanations and records, if any, with your written response within 30 business days of receiving this Notice. Your response must not exceed 10 pages (excluding exhibits) in length and must be on 8.5" x 11" white paper, double-spaced, and in a font size no smaller than 11-point. You must submit the original and 12 physical copies of the written explanation and records to the address below or submit one (1) copy electronically to enforcement.dig@energysafety.ca.gov. You may request an extension to the page limit by submitting a request to the Board staff within 5 days of receiving this Notice. The Board staff will notify you of its determination with respect to the page

limit extension request within 10 days of you submitting the request. The Board will review and vote on your case on the date of the public meeting provided in the Notice.

___ Contest in Writing and Request Informal Hearing
You wish to contest either the violation, the penalty, or both with oral argument at an informal hearing during a public Board meeting. You will submit with your written response, written explanations, information, or other materials you wish to reference in your oral hearing. Your response must not exceed 10 pages (excluding exhibits) in length and must be on 8.5" x 11" white paper, double-spaced, and in a font size no smaller than 11-point. You must submit the original and 12 physical copies of the written explanation and records to the address below or submit one (1) copy electronically to enforcement.dig@energysafety.ca.gov.

Your hearing would be during the public meeting noted in the Notice, on November 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., and the location of the meeting will be in Sacramento, California.

California Natural Resources Agency Building
Auditorium -First Floor
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Please note that your oral hearing may not start exactly at the time provided as there may be multiple hearings during one Board meeting. You may request to reschedule your hearing no later than 15 business days from your hearing date. Your request to reschedule a hearing may be granted no more than once and only for good cause.

You may participate in person or through a virtual meeting platform. You will have 15 minutes to present your reasons for contesting the allegation or reasons that may support a modification or elimination of the penalty or corrective action. During your hearing, conducted pursuant to Section 4253 of Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations, board investigators may present the basis for your Notice of Probable Violation. You will be granted up to 15 minutes to respond to the Notice and up to 5 minutes to respond to any Board staff rebuttal. You may arrange, at your expense, for a stenographer or court reporter to transcribe the informal hearing. You must provide a copy of any transcription to the Board.

The Board will issue a decision at,

- The informal hearing;
- Thereafter within 45 business days of the informal hearing; or
- At a subsequent Board public meeting where a quorum of the Board is present.

The Board will adopt the issued written decision at the hearing or a subsequent public meeting. The Board's decision is effective upon the adoption of the written decision.

___ Reservation of Rights to Contest Violation with the Enforcement Agency
You contest the violation, the penalty, or both, but do not wish to present your comments to the Board. You request that the Board refer the case to the appropriate state or local agency that would conduct the enforcement of the probable violation pursuant to Government Code section 4216.6(c) (Enforcement Agency), and you will reserve the right to contest the violation, the penalty, or both before the Enforcement Agency. The Board will review and vote on your case to determine whether a probable violation exists and whether the corrective action and/or penalty proposed by the Board staff is appropriate at the public meeting noted in your Notice. Should the Board determine a probable violation exists, the Board will refer your case to the Enforcement Agency.

Board Contact Information:

Please direct all formal correspondence, including your written response to the Notice, to the Board either via email at enforcement.dig@energysafety.ca.gov or via mail to the following address:

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
Underground Safety Board
715 P St., 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please provide your written response within 30 business days of receiving this Notice. If a response is provided via mail, the mailed response must be received by the Board within 30 business day.

Penalties
Any penalties, including corrective actions, are only proposals by Board staff, and do not require any current corrective action or payment at this time. Your Enforcement Agency will provide the final determination to and instructions for any penalty. Please do not include any proof of compliance with proposed corrective actions or payment of a proposed penalty with your written response.

ADA Compliance
The California Underground Safety Board complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") by ensuring that the facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, and providing this Notice and information given to the members of the California Underground Safety Board in appropriate alternate formats when requested. If you need further assistance, including disability-related modifications or accommodations, you may contact the Underground Safety

Board no later than seven (7) calendar days before a scheduled hearing at (916) 902-6000. California Relay Service is available by dialing 711.