BEFORE THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2010-66

SANDY SUE LEONARD 3212 Willow Avenue Signal Hill, CA 90755

Signal Hill, CA 90755 Field Representative License No. FR 27728, Branches 2 and 3

[Gov. Code, §11520]

DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

Respondent.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about March 22, 2010, Complainant Kelli Okuma, in her official capacity as the Registrar/Executive Officer of the Structural Pest Control Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, filed Accusation No. 2010-66 against Sandy Sue Leonard (Respondent) before the Structural Pest Control Board.
- 2. On or about April 3, 1997, the Structural Pest Control Board issued Field Representative License Number FR 27728, Branch 3, to Sandy Sue Leonard. On or about February 15, 2000, the license was upgraded to include Branches 2 and 3. The license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2011, unless renewed.
- 3. On or about March 29, 2010, Teresa Sutton, an employee of the Department of Justice, served by Certified and First Class Mail a copy of the Accusation No. 20 10-66, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections

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11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is: 3212 Willow Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

A copy of the Accusation is attached as exhibit A, and is incorporated herein by reference.

- 4. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).
- 5. On or about March 30, 2010, the U.S. Postal Service delivered the signed Return Certified Mail Receipt to the Attorney General's Office.
 - 6. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:
 - (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.
- 7. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon her of the Accusation, and therefore waived her right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 2010-66.
 - 8. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:

"[I]f the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent."

- 9. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on the evidence on file herein, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 2010-66 are true.
- 10. The total cost for investigation and enforcement in connection with the Accusation are \$905.00 as of April 12, 2010.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

- 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Sandy Sue Leonard has subjected her Field Representative License No. FR 27728 to discipline.
 - 2. A copy of the Accusation is attached.
 - 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

- 4. The Structural Pest Control Board is authorized to revoke Respondent's Field Representative License based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation:
- a. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code sections 8620, 8593, and 8641, in that Respondent failed to comply with Regulation section 1950, subdivision (a), by failing to provide the Board with verifiable documentation to demonstrate that she completed 32 hours of continuing education requirements for the renewal period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008, as stated in her License Renewal Application, signed under penalty of perjury and dated June 30, 2008.

<u>ORDER</u>

IT IS SO ORDERED that Field Representative License No. FR 27728, heretofore issued to Respondent Sandy Sue Leonard, is revoked.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

This Decision shall become effective on _____ June 5, 2010 _____.

It is so ORDERED

May 6, 2010

FOR THE STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

60532992.DOC DOJ docket number:LA2009604753

Attachment:

Exhibit A: Accusation No.2010-66

1 2	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California ALFREDO TERRAZAS
3	Senior Assistant Attorney General GREGORY J. SALUTE
4	Senior Assistant Attorney General GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 164015 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013
6	Telephone: (213) 897-2520 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804
7	Attorneys for Complainant
8	Thirtheys for Companies
9	BEFORE THE
10	STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12	
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2010–66
14	SANDY SUE LEONARD
15	3212 Willow Avenue Signal Hill, CA 90755 ACCUSATION
16	Field Representative License No. FR 27728
17	Branches 2 and 3
18	Respondent.
19	Complainant alleges:
20	PARTIES
21	1. Kelli Okuma ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as
22	the Registrar/Executive Officer of the Structural Pest Control Board, Department of Pesticide
23	Regulation.
24	Field Representaive License
25	2. On or about April 3, 1997, the Structural Pest Control Board issued Field
26	Representative License Number FR 27728, Branch 3, to Sandy Sue Leonard ("Respondent"). On
27	or about February 15, 2000, the license was upgraded to include Branches 2 and 3. The license
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Accusation

was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Structural Pest Control Board ("Board"), Department of Pesticide Regulation, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code ("Code"), unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Code section 8620 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the holder, while a licensee or applicant, has committed any acts or omissions constituting cause for disciplinary action or in lieu of a suspension may assess a civil penalty.
 - 5. Code section 8624 states:

"If the board suspends or revokes an operator's license and one or more branch offices are registered under the name of the operator, the suspension or revocation may be applied to each branch office."

6. - Code-section 8625 states:

The lapsing or suspension of a license or company registration by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of a license or company registration shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against such licensee or company, or to render a decision suspending or revoking such license or registration.

7. Code section 8654 states:

Any individual who has been denied a license for any of the reasons specified in Section 8568, or who has had his or her license revoked, or whose license is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a member, officer, director, associate, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a company registration has been denied for any of the reasons specified in Section 8568, or whose company registration has been revoked as a result of disciplinary action, or whose company registration is under suspension, and while acting as such member, officer, director, associate, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee had knowledge of or participated in any of the prohibited acts for which the license or registration was denied, suspended or revoked, shall be prohibited from serving as an officer, director, associate, partner, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee of a registered

company, and the employment, election or association of such person by a registered company is a ground for disciplinary action. 2 Code section 8593 states: 8. 3 The board shall require as a condition to the renewal of each operator's 4 and field representative's license that the holder thereof submit proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has informed himself or herself of 5 developments in the field of pest control by completion of courses of continuing education in pest control approved by the board or equivalent 6 activity approved by the board. 7 STATUTORY PROVISION 8 Code section 8641 states: 9 Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, or any rule or 1.0 regulation adopted by the board, ... is a ground for disciplinary action. 11 REGULATORY PROVISION 12 California Code of Regulations, section 1950, subdivision (a), states: 10. 13 Except as provided in section 1951, every licensee is required, as a 14 condition to a renewal of a license, to certify that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements set forth in this article. A licensee who-15 cannot verify completion of continuing education by producing certificates of activity completion, whenever required to do so by the Board, may be subject to 16 disciplinary action under section 8641 of the code. 17 COST RECOVERY 18 Code section 125.3 states, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the 19 administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of 20 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and 21 enforcement of the case. 22 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 23 (Documentation of Continuing Education Requirements) 24 Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code sections 8620, 25 8593, and 8641, in that Respondent failed to comply with Regulation section 1950, subdivision 26 (a), by failing to provide the Board with verifiable documentation to demonstrate that she 27 completed 32 hours of continuing education requirements for the renewal period of July 1, 2005, 28

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Accusation