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FILED

Date 8/8/11

By

William H. Douglas

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2012-6

BUG STOP SERVICES, INC.
330 East 220th Street
Carson, CA 90745
CESAR RAYMUNDO LARA, QM
MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ, PR
SOLEDAD LARA, VP
JOHN B. GRIFFIN, Secretary
Company Registration Certificate No. PR 5687, Br. 2
Operator License No. OPR 11879, Br. 2

ACCUSATION

his
MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ
6143 Penswood Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
Field Representative License No. FR 44131
Applicator License No. RA 50058

CESAR RAYMUNDO LARA
330 E. 220th Street
Carson, CA 90745
Field Representative License No. FR 38391

JOHN B. GRIFFIN
1662 West 257th Street, Suite 2
Harbor City, CA 90710
Field Representative License No. FR 40948

Respondents.

1 MASTER FUME, INC.
2 1868 Del Amo Boulevard, Suite D
3 Torrance, CA 90501
4 MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ, PR
5 EDUARDO SANTILLAN, QM
6 Company Registration Certificate No. PR 5604

7
8 EDUARDO SANTILLAN
9 1868 Del Amo Boulevard, Suite D
10 Torrance, CA 90501
11 Operator's License No. OPR 10743

12 **Affiliated Licenses.**

13 William H. Douglas ("Complainant") alleges:

14 **PARTIES**

15 1. Complainant brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Interim
16 Registrar/Executive Officer of the Structural Pest Control Board ("Board"), Department of
17 Pesticide Regulation.

18 **Bug Stop Services, Inc. - Company Registration Certificate No. PR 5687**

19 2. On or about October 2, 2008, the Board issued Company Registration Certificate
20 Number PR 5687 ("registration") in Branch 2 to Bug Stop Services, Inc. ("Respondent Bug
21 Stop"), with Michael Rodriguez as the President and Sinclair Jones as the Qualifying Manager.
22 Sinclair Jones passed away. On or about February 9, 2009, the registration was suspended for
23 failing to have a Qualifying Manager. On or about July 8, 2009, Cesar Raymundo Lara
24 ("Respondent Lara") became the Qualifying Manager. On or about August 30, 2010, Respondent
25 Lara became the President, John Griffin became the Secretary, and Soledad Lara became the Vice
26 President.

27 **Cesar Raymundo Lara**

28 **Operator's License No. 11879**

3. On or about July 2, 2009, the Board issued Operator's License Number OPR 11879 in
Branch 2 to Respondent Lara as an employee of Rapid Pest Solutions, Inc. On or about
July 6, 2009, Respondent Lara left the employ of Rapid Pest Solutions, Inc. On or about
July 8, 2009, Respondent Lara became the Qualifying Manager of Bug Stop Services, Inc. On or

1 about September 16, 2009, Respondent Lara became the Qualifying Manager for Pro Central
2 Termite Control in Branch 2. On or about August 30, 2010, Respondent Lara became the
3 President of Bug Stop Services, Inc. The license will expire on June 30, 2012, unless renewed.

4 **Field Representative's License No. FR 38391**

5 4. On or about March 29, 2005, the Board issued Field Representative's License
6 Number FR 38391 in Branch 2 to Respondent Lara as an employee of Dewey Pest Control. On
7 or about June 10, 2008, the license was upgraded to include Branch 3. On or about
8 February 18, 2009, the license was upgraded to include Branch 1, and Respondent Lara became
9 employed with Master Fume, Inc. On or about March 5, 2009, Respondent Lara became
10 employed with Rapid Pest Solutions, Inc. The license will expire on June 30, 2013, unless
11 renewed.

12 **Michael Rodriguez**

13 **Field Representative License No. 44131**

14 5. On or about March 12, 2009, the Board issued Field Representative's License
15 Number FR 44131 in Branch 1 to Michael Rodriguez ("Respondent Rodriguez") as an employee
16 of Master Fume, Inc. On or about April 28, 2010, the license was upgraded to include Branch 2.
17 On or about July 11, 2010, Respondent Rodriguez became employed with Bug Stop Services, Inc.
18 The license expired on June 30, 2011, and has not been renewed.

19 **Applicator License No. RA 50058**

20 6. On or about June 29, 2009, the Board issued Applicator License Number RA 50058
21 to Respondent Rodriguez as an employee of Bug Stop Services, Inc. On or about April 28, 2010,
22 the license was downgraded to Branch 3 due to the issuance of a Branch 2 Field Representative
23 License. The license will expire on June 29, 2012, unless renewed.

24 **John B. Griffin**

25 **Field Representative License No. FR 40948**

26 7. On or about October 26, 2006, the Board issued Field Representative's License
27 Number FR 40948 in Branch 2 to John B. Griffin ("Respondent Griffin") as an employee of
28 Dewey Pest Services. On or about July 15, 2009, Respondent Griffin left the employ of Dewey

1 Pest Services. On or about July 29, 2009, Respondent Griffin became employed with Respondent
2 Bug Stop. The license will expire on June 30, 2012, unless renewed.

3 **Master Fume, Inc. - Company Registration Certificate No. PR 5604**

4 8. On or about May 8, 2008, the Board issued Company Registration Certificate
5 Number PR 5604 in Branch 1 to Master Fume, Inc. with Respondent Rodriguez as the President
6 and Eduardo Santillan as the Qualifying Manager. On or about June 30, 2008, Respondent
7 Rodriguez became a 50% shareholder and Eduardo Santillan became a 50% shareholder.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 9. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 8620 provides, in pertinent part, that
10 the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the holder, while a licensee or
11 applicant, has committed any acts or omissions constituting cause for disciplinary action or in lieu
12 of a suspension may assess a civil penalty.

13 10. Code section 8624 states:

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

17 If the operator is the qualifying manager, a partner, responsible officer, or owner of a
18 registered structural pest control company, the suspension or revocation may be applied to
19 the company registration.

20 The performance by any partnership, corporation, firm, association, or registered
21 company of any act or omission constituting a cause for disciplinary action, likewise
22 constitutes a cause for disciplinary action against any licensee who, at the time the act or
23 omission occurred, was the qualifying manager, a partner, responsible officer, or owner of
24 the partnership, corporation, firm, association, or registered company whether or not he or
25 she had knowledge of, or participated in, the prohibited act or omission.

26 11. Code section 8625 states:

27 The lapsing or suspension of a license or company registration by operation of law or
28 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.

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1 12. Code section 8622 states:

2 When a complaint is accepted for investigation of a registered company, the board,
3 through an authorized representative, may inspect any or all properties on which a report
4 has been issued pursuant to Section 8516 or a notice of completion has been issued
5 pursuant to Section 8518 by the registered company to determine compliance with the
6 provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations issued thereunder. If the board
7 determines the property or properties are not in compliance, a notice shall be sent to the
8 registered company so stating. The registered company shall have 30 days from the receipt
9 of the notice to bring such property into compliance, and it shall submit a new original
10 report or completion notice or both and an inspection fee of not more than one hundred
11 twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each property inspected. If a subsequent reinspection is
12 necessary, pursuant to the board's review of the new original report or notice or both, a
13 commensurate reinspection fee shall also be charged. If the board's authorized
14 representative makes no determination or determines the property is in compliance, no
15 inspection fee shall be charged.

16 The notice sent to the registered company shall inform the registered company that if
17 it desires a hearing to contest the finding of noncompliance, the hearing shall be requested
18 by written notice to the board within 20 days of receipt of the notice of noncompliance from
19 the board. Where a hearing is not requested pursuant to this section, payment of any
20 assessment shall not constitute an admission of any noncompliance charged.

21 13. Code section 8654 states:

22 Any individual who has been denied a license for any of the reasons
23 specified in Section 8568, or who has had his or her license revoked, or whose license
24 is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under
25 suspension, or who has been a member, officer, director, associate, qualifying
26 manager, or responsible managing employee of any partnership, corporation, firm, or
27 association whose application for a company registration has been denied for any of
28 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.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

14 14. Code section 8516 states, in pertinent part:

15 (b) No registered company or licensee shall commence work on a contract, or
16 sign, issue, or deliver any documents expressing an opinion or statement relating to
17 the absence or presence of wood destroying pests or organisms until an inspection has
18 been made by a licensed Branch 3 field representative or operator. The address of
19 each property inspected or upon which work is completed shall be reported on a form
20 prescribed by the board and shall be filed with the board no later than 10 business
21 days after the commencement of an inspection or upon completed work.

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15. Code section 8641 states:

Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, or any rule or regulation adopted by the board, or the furnishing of a report of inspection without the making of a bona fide inspection of the premises for wood-destroying pests or organisms, or furnishing a notice of work completed prior to the completion of the work specified in the contract, is a ground for disciplinary action.

16. Code section 8648 states:

Authorizing, directing, conniving at or aiding in the publication, advertisement, distribution or circulation of any material by false statement or representation concerning a registered company's business is a ground for disciplinary action.

17. Code section 8650 states, in pertinent part:

Acting in the capacity of a licensee or registered company under any of the licenses or registrations issued hereunder except:

(b) At the address and location or place or places of business as licensed or registered or as later changed as provided in this chapter is a ground for disciplinary action.

18. Code section 8651 states:

The performing or soliciting of structural pest control work, the inspecting for structural or household pests, or the applying of any pesticide, chemical, or allied substance for the purpose of eliminating, exterminating, controlling, or preventing structural pests in branches of pest control other than those for which the operator, field representative, or applicator is licensed or the company is registered is a ground for disciplinary action.

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

19. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1999.5 states, in pertinent part:

(c) As used in this section "the exercise of reasonable care" includes a duty to investigate the basis of any statement or representation to assure that the statement or representation is not unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading. The making of a statement or representation without knowledge of its truthfulness breaches the duty to investigate.

COST RECOVERY

20. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of

1 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
2 enforcement of the case.

3 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4 21. On or about August 10, 2010, a Board representative received information from Jim
5 Mitchell ("Mitchell"), a Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer with the San Bernardino
6 County Agricultural Department, regarding a fumigation site inspection that he conducted at 634
7 and 636 North Pico Avenue, San Bernardino, California ("incident address"). Mitchell explained
8 that Master Fume, Inc., a Branch 1 registered company, performed a fumigation for drywood
9 termites at the incident address. However, Respondent Bug Stop, a Branch 2 registered company,
10 was identified on the fumigation log as the prime contractor. Upon further investigation by the
11 Board representative, it was discovered that Respondent Bug Stop was performing Branch 3 work
12 without a valid registration to do so, and commencing work on a contract without an inspection
13 having been performed by a Branch 3 field representative or operator. Furthermore, it was
14 discovered that Master Fume, Inc.¹ was aiding or abetting Respondent Bug Stop regarding the
15 performance of Branch 3 work.

16 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

17 **(Deviation from Operations Authorized by License or Registration)**

18 22. Respondent Bug Stop's company registration and Respondent Lara's operator
19 license are subject to discipline under Code section 8651, in that between May 2010 and August
20 2010, Respondent Bug Stop performed or solicited structural pest control work, inspected for
21 structural or household pests, or applied pesticide, chemical, or allied substances for the purpose
22 of eliminating, exterminating, controlling, or preventing structural pests in a branch of pest
23 control other than that for which it was licensed.

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28 ¹ Respondent Rodriguez is the President of Master Fume, Inc. and a 50% shareholder.

1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(False Statement or Representation Concerning Registered Company's Business)**

3 23. Respondent Bug Stop's company registration and Respondent Lara's operator
4 license are subject to discipline under Code section 8648, in that Respondent Bug Stop advertised
5 in a branch of structural pest control for which it was not registered.

6 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Deviation from Address Registered with the Board)**

8 24. Respondent Bug Stop's company registration and Respondent Lara's operator
9 license are subject to discipline under Code section 8650(b), in that Respondent Bug Stop acted in
10 the capacity of a registered company at a location that is not registered with the Board.

11 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

12 **(Inspection Violation)**

13 25. Respondent Bug Stop's company registration and Respondent Lara's operator
14 license are subject to discipline pursuant to Code section 8641, in that Respondent Bug Stop
15 commenced work on a contract without an inspection having been performed by a Branch 3 field
16 representative or operator, as defined in Code section 8516(b).

17 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(False or Misleading Advertising)**

19 26. Respondent Bug Stop's company registration and Respondent Lara's operator
20 license are subject to discipline pursuant to Code section 8641, in that Respondent Bug Stop
21 failed to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1999.5(c), by making a
22 direct or indirect statement or representation which is unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading, by
23 implying that its service, product, or pesticide offers a general environmental protection, in that
24 its business card contains the words "environmentally friendly."

25 **PRIOR DISCIPLINE**

26 **Cesar Raymundo Lara**

27 27. On or about January 29, 2007, Accusation No. 2007-35 was filed alleging that
28 Respondent violated Code section 8649 (conviction of a crime). Effective November 16, 2007,

1 pursuant to a Decision and Order, Respondent's Field Representative's License No. FR 38391 and
2 Applicator's License No. RA 42871 were revoked. However, the revocations were stayed and
3 Respondent was placed on probation for three years with terms and conditions. On or about
4 March 30, 2009, Respondent Lara submitted a Petition for the Termination of Probation
5 ("Petition"). On or about May 22, 2009, Respondent Lara's Petition was granted and his license
6 was fully restored.

7 OTHER MATTERS

8 28. Notice is hereby given that section 8620 of the Code provides, in pertinent part,
9 that a respondent may request that a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 be assessed in lieu of
10 an actual suspension of 1 to 19 days, or not more than \$10,000 for an actual suspension of 20 to
11 45 days. Such request must be made at the time of the hearing and must be noted in the proposed
12 decision. The proposed decision shall not provide that a civil penalty shall be imposed in lieu of a
13 suspension.

14 29. Pursuant to Code section 8624, the causes for discipline established as to Company
15 Registration Certificate Number PR 5687, issued to Bug Stop Service, Inc., likewise constitute
16 cause for discipline against Operator's License Number OPR 11879, issued to Cesar Raymundo
17 Lara, who serves as the Qualifying Manager of Bug Stop Service, Inc., regardless of whether he
18 had knowledge of or participated in the acts or omissions which constitute cause for discipline
19 against Bug Stop Service, Inc.

20 30. Pursuant to Code section 8654, if discipline is imposed on Company Registration
21 Certificate Number PR 5687, issued to Bug Stop Services, Inc., then Cesar Raymundo Lara, who
22 serves as the Qualifying Manager of Bug Stop Services, Inc., shall be prohibited from serving as
23 an officer, director, associate, partner, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee for
24 any registered company during the time the discipline is imposed, and any registered company
25 which employs, elects, or associates him, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

26 31. Pursuant to Code section 8624, if Operator's License Number OPR 11879, issued
27 to Cesar Raymundo Lara, is suspended or revoked, the Board may suspend or revoke Field
28 Representative's License No. FR 38391, issued to Cesar Raymundo Lara.


1 7. Revoking or suspending Applicator's License Number RA 50058, issued to Michael
2 Rodriguez;

3 8. Prohibiting Michael Rodriguez from serving as an officer, director, associate, partner,
4 qualifying manager or responsible managing employee of any registered company during the
5 period that discipline is imposed on Company Registration Certificate Number PR 5687, issued to
6 Bug Stop Services, Inc.;

7 9. Ordering Bug Stop Services, Inc., Cesar Raymundo Lara, Michael Rodriguez, and
8 John B. Griffin to pay the Structural Pest Control Board the reasonable costs of the investigation
9 and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,

10 10. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

11 DATED: 8/8/11


WILLIAM H. DOUGLAS
Interim Registrar/Executive Officer
Structural Pest Control Board
Department of Pesticide Regulation
State of California
Complainant

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