BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Emergency Decision and Order Against: **THE JOEL MICHAELY GROW LLC; JOEL MICHAELY, OWNER AND DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PARTY** Cultivation License No. CCL24-0000530 Respondent.	Case No. DCC26-0001730-INV **DECLARATION OF JAIME MASUDA**

I, Jaime Masuda, declare:

1. I am employed as a Special Investigator (SI) with the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). I was employed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as an SI beginning December 2020. Upon consolidation of the three commercial cannabis licensing authorities and the creation of the DCC in July 2021, my position transferred to the DCC. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to those facts.

2. On August 25, 2026, I accessed the DCC Cultivation Licensing System (CLS) and Lightbox Vision database to confirm whether the property at Lake County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 012-059-100-000, 012-059-110-000, 012-045-420-000, and 012-045-410-000 possessed a commercial cannabis license. I confirmed that a DCC cultivation license (CCL24-0000530) was on file for 11474 Spruce Grove Rd., Lower Lake, CA.

3. On August 31, 2026, at approximately 1100 hours, I and DCC staff arrived at the licensed premises for The Joel Michaely Grow LLC (TJMG)(License No. CCL24-0000530), at 11474 Spruce Grove Rd., Lower Lake, CA, to assist the Lake County Sherriff's Office (LCSO) in

executing a criminal search warrant. The search warrant was issued in connection with a suspicious death and an occupational pesticide exposure involving a cannabis worker at The Joel Michaely Grow LLC (CCL24-0000530), a large outdoor cultivation license.

4. I later learned that on or around August 21, 2026, an individual was dropped off at a local hospital in the Lower Lake area, in cardiac arrest. It was suspected that the individual's condition was due to being exposed to pesticides at the licensed commercial cannabis premises located at 11474 Spruce Grove Rd, Lower Lake, CA, where she was working. The individual succumbed to her injuries on or around August 28, 2026.

5. While inspecting TJMG's licensed premises, I observed an active cannabis cultivation operation consisting of two outdoor cultivation areas, 112 hoophouse structures with actively growing cannabis plants in various stages of growth, four Conex boxes containing processed cannabis, a box truck filled with processed cannabis, a barnlike structure with hanging and drying cannabis, a residence, and four travel trailers.

6. Throughout the licensed premises, I observed that most cannabis plants and processed cannabis did not have the required METRC UID tags.

7. In the outdoor cultivation area on the gate of the property, I observed a DCC cannabis cultivation license (CCL24-0000530), prominently displayed on the fence surrounding the cultivation area, issued to The Joel Michaely Grow LLC for commercial cannabis cultivation.

8. In approximately 20 hoop houses, I observed cans of fumigant pesticide "Real-Kill Indoor Fogger" (Real-Kill fogger) on the ground. There were approximately 4-6 cans of Real-Kill foggers placed on the ground in the aisleways several feet apart in the hoop houses. The hoop houses were enclosed spaces, with a door on each side and contained live cannabis plants.

9. Outside the hoophouse structures near multiple water sources, I observed several different bottles of illicit foreign labeled pesticides, three pesticides unapproved for use on cannabis (Eagle 20, Sanmite SC, and Altus), bottles of rodent repellant, and buckets of gopher bait granular substance. These pesticides appeared to have been used, or ready to be applied and used based on their placement and condition.

10. On the licensed premises, I observed a residence and travel trailers. Inside the

residence and travel trailers, I observed moldy walls, broken locks, crowded and enclosed spaces, and other indicators that individuals were residing and living within the areas, such as bunk beds, clothing and hanging undergarments, soda cans, bottled juices, luggage, a bathroom sink, and perishable food. In the areas outside the residence and travel trailers, I observed items used to cook food, such as butane cannisters and large woks.

11. During the inspection, I interviewed R.E., who stated he was the cultivation manager at TJMG. R.E. stated he does not live onsite, but there are approximately 10-15 people living onsite who care for the cannabis plants and trim the processed cannabis. R.E. stated that he shows up daily utilizing an application to translate in order to communicate with all 10-15 workers onsite who do not speak English. R.E. stated that all the workers speak Mandarin. R.E. stated that he does not know the identity of the workers onsite, and that an individual named Len (unknown last name) brought the workers to the site. R.E. stated that the workers live onsite in the four travel trailers and the residential structure. I asked about the pesticides onsite, R.E. stated he was unaware of any pesticides onsite. R.E. stated that if pesticides were found onsite, it was the workers who brought them.

12. R.E. stated that he is in contact with the licensee, Josh Michaely. According to R.E., he spoke to Josh Michaely around August 29, 2026, and he was last onsite around August 10, 2026. R.E. stated that he enters all the cultivation data on California Cannabis Track and Trace (CCTT METRC) for The Joel Michaely Grow LLC.

13. I asked R.E. how the workers are paid, and R.E. stated that neither he nor the workers get paid until the cannabis cultivation site makes a profit which could take years. R.E. stated that he does not know how the workers obtain food or how they care for themselves.

14. I interviewed M.J. who stated he has worked on the property for a couple of months with his cousin, R.E. J.M. stated that he was told he would be paid $20 an hour to help care for the cannabis plants and METRC data input, but has not been paid because the cultivation site has not made any money. J.M. stated he does not live onsite and does not know the identity of the other workers.

15. Due to the illicit foreign pesticides discovered onsite, LCSO utilized skid steers to

eradicate and destroy 55,069 live flowering cannabis plants and 6,140 pounds of processed cannabis.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed in Lake County on September 8, 2026.

Jaime Masuda Digitally signed by Jaime Masuda
Date: 2026.09.08 09:09:26 -07'00'

Jaime Masuda
Declarant