



NOTICE OF PROVISIONAL LICENSE SUSPENSION – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

April 10, 2025

Myron Ronay, Owner
Matthew Dechter, Owner
BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC
1131 South St E,
Long Beach, CA 90805

Via electronic mail: myron@belcostalabs.com; matt@belcostalabs.com

Re: **Immediate Suspension of Provisional License Number C8-0000008-LIC**
Premises Address: 1131 South St E, Long Beach, CA 90805

Dear Myron Ronay and Matthew Dechter:

This letter is to inform you that the California Department of Cannabis Control (Department) is suspending the provisional license for the above-referenced premises, effective immediately. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15001.4, the Department may immediately suspend any provisional license, or immediately impose licensing restrictions or other conditions upon any provisional licensee, if necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare. The Department has evidence that BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC (BelCosta) has engaged in activity that poses harm to public health, safety, or welfare.

Specifically, the Department has discovered evidence of the following violations:

- 1. California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15720, subdivisions (b), (c)(3), (e), 15726 subdivisions (b) and (g).**

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15720, subdivision (c)(3) requires licensed laboratories to report the result of the microbial impurities testing by indicating “pass” or “fail” on the Certificate of Analysis (COA). The sample of inhalable cannabis and cannabis

products shall be deemed to have passed the microbial impurities testing if conditions (c)(1) through (c)(3) are satisfied in their entirety. Samples which fail microbial impurities testing shall not be released for retail sale.

Additionally, California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726 (b) and (g) require that the licensed laboratory shall ensure that the COA contains the results of all required analyses performed for the representative sample and that supervisory or management employee validates the accuracy of the information contained on the COA.

On June 20, 2024, Department staff collected samples from various licensed retailers that had previously been tested by BelCosta. Samples 1A40603000064B2000013241, 1A40603000067F6000030383, 1A406030003DC49000112821, 1A4060300046A7A000001873, and 1A4060300001452000024385 were sent to the Department's Reference Laboratory for *Aspergillus* testing. On June 26, 2024, Department staff collected the corresponding laboratory Reserve samples from BelCosta.

On April 29, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 9, 2024, May 28, 2024, and May 30, 2024, BelCosta released the batches as passing for regulatory compliance testing and showed no detection of pathogenic *Aspergillus* species. However, the Reference Laboratory's analyses determined that four (4) samples: 1A4060300001452000024385 (Afternoon Delight), 1A40603000067F6000030383 (Banana OG), 1A4060300046A7A000001873 (Garlic Cocktail), and 1A406030003DC49000112821 (Garlic Starship) collected from both retail and the BelCosta's reserve contained measurable amounts of pathogenic *Aspergillus* species.

On July 24, 2024, the batch associated with sample 1A4060300046A7A000001873 (Garlic Cocktail) was mandatorily recalled by the Department. On August 1, 2024, the batch associated with sample 1A4060300001452000024385 (Afternoon Delight) was mandatorily recalled by the Department. On August 8, 2024, the batch associated with sample 1A40603000067F6000030383 (Banana OG) was mandatorily recalled by the Department. Lastly, on August 16, 2024, the batch associated with sample 1A406030003DC49000112821 (Garlic Starship) was mandatorily recalled by the Department.

On July 27, 2024, Department staff received METRC Testing Ticket 02188854 and review of the system activity indicated multiple representative samples were obtained for one batch by BelCosta. On July 31, 2024, Department staff collected the laboratory reserve sample (METRC UID 1A4060300037656000003031) from BelCosta and collected samples from the same batch from the licensed distributor (METRC UID 1A406030004EA35000007445). On July 31, 2024, Samples 1A4060300037656000003031 and 1A406030004EA35000007445 were sent to the Department's Reference Laboratory for *Aspergillus* testing. BelCosta released the batch as passing for regulatory compliance testing and reported no detection of pathogenic *Aspergillus* species. However, the Reference Laboratory's analyses determined that the samples contained measurable amounts of pathogenic *Aspergillus* species. The batch was voluntarily destroyed by the licensed distributor on March 4, 2025.

BelCosta demonstrated that their microbial impurities testing capabilities and quality assurance practices do not meet the minimum regulatory requirements of a testing laboratory license holder. BelCosta's failure to detect pathogenic *Aspergillus* species poses a direct and immediate threat to public health, safety and welfare.

BelCosta failed to accurately report microbial impurities results and instead released failed samples for retail sale in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15720, subdivisions (b), (c)(3), and (e); resulting in mandatory recalls for four (4) different batches and destruction of one (1) batch. Further, BelCosta failed to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726, subdivisions (b) and (g) by reporting inaccurate microbial impurities results and failing to validate the accuracy of those results on the sample COA.

2. California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15724 and 15726, subdivisions (b) and (g).

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15724, requires the licensed laboratory to satisfy the Cannabinoids testing requirements in their entirety. In addition, California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726, subdivisions (b) and (g), require the licensed laboratory to ensure that the regulatory compliance testing Certificate of Analysis (COA) contains the results of all required analysis performed for the representative sample, and to validate the accuracy of the information contained on the COA.

BelCosta failed to report the actual results of the cannabinoid testing, and instead reported inaccurate results. On July 31, 2024, the laboratory reserve sample (METRC UID 1A4060300037656000003031) and product from the licensed distributor (METRC UID 1A406030004EA35000007445) were collected for additional testing, by the Department’s Reference Laboratory. The laboratory reserve and distributor samples show a difference greater than 10.0% for Total THC, as detailed in Table 1 below.

Analyte	BelCosta Labs Sample ID	METRC UID	BelCosta Reported Value (mg/g dry)	CTLB Value	Total THC % Difference
Total THC	BCL-240619-102	1A406030004EA35000007445	245.5	174	29.12
	BCL-240619-102	1A4060300037656000003031	245.5	147	40.12

Table 1: Total THC dry weight values as reported by BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC and the Department’s Reference Lab.

BelCosta failed to accurately report cannabinoid potency on the COA and released samples for retail sale in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15724, and 15726, subdivisions (b) and (g).

3. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726, subdivision (c).

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726, subdivision (c), requires that the licensed laboratory, within 1 business day of completing all analyses of a sample, both upload the COA into the track and trace system and simultaneously provide a copy of the COA to the Department.

During the October 24, 2024, on-site inspection, Department staff reviewed BelCosta sample BCL-241017-075 (METRC UID 1A406030005715E000015768), which showed a failure for the residual pesticide chlordane. The sample was submitted to BelCosta for testing on October 17, 2024; however, results were not uploaded into the track and trace system until nineteen (19) days later on November 5, 2024.

On February 11, 2025, METRC Testing Ticket #02251286 was received and Department staff reviewed BelCosta’s METRC activity for packages 1A40603000040EC000007157,

1A40603000040EC000007159, and 1A40603000040EC000007178. Department staff discovered that regulatory compliance testing was completed on January 12, 2025; however, results were not uploaded into the track and trace system until twenty-two (22) days later on February 3, 2025. Additionally, package 1A40603000040EC000007175 shows regulatory compliance testing was completed on January 13, 2025; however, results were not uploaded into the track and trace system until twenty-one (21) days later on February 3, 2025.

BelCosta failed to report compliance testing results within 1 business day, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15726, subdivision (c).

4. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15706, subdivisions (b)(2) and (c).

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15706, subdivisions (b)(2) and (c) requires that the licensed laboratory shall develop and implement a Chain of Custody (COC) protocol that records the date and time sampling started and ended and each time a sample changes custody between licensees, is transported, or is destroyed, the date, time, and the names and signatures of persons involved in these activities shall be recorded on the COC form.

During the October 24, 2024, on-site inspection, Department staff collected manifests 6942874, 7180764, 7572950, 7603296, 7605519, 7641035, 7660272, 7661009, 7686070, 7695121, 7708271, 7745048, 7765980, 7770688, 7787832, 7788267, and 7793940 for review and compliance with COC requirements. Staff's review of each manifest showed that BelCosta did not generate a COC that included the departure date and time, arrival date and time, or the name and signature of the person involved in collecting the samples for manifests 7572950, 7603296, 7605519, 7641035, 7787832, and 7788267.

BelCosta failed to ensure Chain of Custody forms contained all required information, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15706, subdivisions (b)(2) and (c).

5. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15048, subdivision (c).

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15048, subdivision (c), requires that the account manager and each user shall utilize a unique login, consisting of a username and password. The account manager and each user shall only access the track and trace system under their assigned login. No account manager or user shall share their login, username, or password, with any other individual for any reason.

During the October 24, 2024, onsite inspection, CEO and owner Myron Ronay (Ronay) was not present at the time of the inspection. During review of the Licensee's METRC account, Department staff observed that all sample receipt activity was performed under Ronay's username of info@belcostalabs.com. According to Laboratory Director Dzoana Klisara (Klisara), at the time of the inspection, Ronay was out of state in Florida.

Department staff discovered there were logins from BelCosta's internet provider (IP) address under Ronay's username. Internal laboratory receipt records indicate that receptionist Johanna Gonzalez physically received samples into the laboratory, but the manifests were received in METRC under Ronay's username. Additionally, all COAs were uploaded into METRC under Ronay's username but were being uploaded from the laboratory IP address at dates and times when Klisara stated Ronay was out of state.

BelCosta permitted Gonzalez to utilize the track and trace login credentials of Ronay, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15048, subdivision (c).

6. California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15704, and 15708, subdivision (d).

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15704, requires that the licensed laboratory develop and implement a standard operating procedure (SOP) that describes the laboratory's method for obtaining representative samples of cannabis or cannabis products. In addition, California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15708, subdivision (d), requires that the licensed laboratory sampler shall obtain a representative sample of a cannabis product or pre-roll batch by collecting, at minimum, the number of sample increments relative to the batch size, where each sample increment consists of 1 packaged unit.

Bel Costa's Field Sampling SOP, section 9.2, states that the sampler should visually partition the container into 8 sections and number the sections. BelCosta's SOP also provides the sampler should then use the random number generator to select collection areas and seal the bags using security/evidence tamper resistant tape.

During review of video surveillance footage of BelCosta laboratory employees performing sample collection at Aureus, LLC (C11-0000391-LIC), Manifest 7745048, Centro, LLC (C11-0001373-LIC), Manifest 7694389, Gartik Corp (C11-0000573-LIC), Manifest 7641035, and Kind Op Corp (C11-0000556-LIC), Manifest 7708271, Department staff found in each instance that BelCosta's sample collector did not collect a representative sample from the entire batch and did not follow the laboratory's standard operating procedure for sample collection.

BelCosta failed to collect representative samples and failed to follow their SOP in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15704 and 15708, subdivision (d).

7. California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15736, subdivision (c), and 15738.

California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15736, subdivision (c) requires the licensed laboratory ensure and document that each laboratory employee meets the employee qualifications. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15738, subdivision (a) requires the licensed laboratory employ an analyst who, at minimum, has either (1) earned a master's degree or bachelor's degree in biological, chemical, agricultural, environmental, or related sciences from an accredited college or university; or (2) completed 2 years of college or university education that included coursework in biological, chemical, agricultural, environmental, or related sciences from an accredited college or university plus at least 3 years of practical experience. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 15738, subdivision (b) requires that the licensed laboratory employ a sampler who, at minimum, must have either (1) completed 2 years college or university education; or (2) earned a High School Diploma or passed a General Educational Development (GED) or High School Equivalency exam, plus at least 1 year of full-time practical experience.

During the Department's review of employee records submitted by BelCosta, including hiring documents, resumes, and training records, the Department identified that CZ-Jay Cruz, David Alvarez, Destiny Anciso, Eddie Lopez, Luciano Vasquez, Steffiney Eung, and Yulisa Nunez did not meet the minimum requirements of an analyst. Additionally, the Department identified that Jesus Martin does not meet the minimum requirements of a sampler.

BelCosta violated California Code of Regulations, title 4, sections 15736, subdivision (c), and 15738, by employing individuals that did not meet minimum education or experience requirements for the positions of analyst and sampler.

ORDER TO CEASE ALL COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITY

BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC is directed to immediately cease conducting all activities, including the testing, and transport or transfer of cannabis or cannabis products. Cannabis or cannabis products may not be received at, or transferred from, the premises. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 26038 and 4 CCR section 15000.1, it is unlawful to engage in commercial cannabis activity without a valid state license.

If BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC or any person associated with the license is conducting laboratory testing activities, including performing testing activities concerning cannabis and/or cannabis products or otherwise engaging in commercial cannabis activity while the license is suspended, the Department may initiate further action against the business. Such action may include but is not limited to embargo of cannabis and cannabis products, administrative fines, civil actions, criminal actions, and denial of an annual license application.

While the license is suspended, you must comply with the provisions of 4 CCR section 17816 and conspicuously and continuously display the attached Notice of Suspension on the exterior of the premises referenced in this Notice.

Failure to comply with 4 CCR section 17816 may result in further disciplinary action.

To: Myron Ronay, Matthew Dechter
License Number: C8-0000008-LIC
From: Evelyn Schaeffer
Date: 04.10.2025
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BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC may provide information to the Department demonstrating that the violations referenced in this Notice have been addressed and that BelCosta Labs Long Beach, LLC is in compliance with applicable requirements. However, the Department may still exercise its authority to initiate further action or continue with an action related to the provisional license for the violations leading to this Notice.

For questions regarding this Notice, please contact TestingLabs@cannabis.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Schaeffer
Deputy Director
Department of Cannabis Control