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SHASTA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
BY: N. PRESTON, DEPUTY CLERK

DOUGLAS HAN (SBN 232858)
doug@justicelawcorp.com
SHUNT TATAVOS-GHARAJEH (SBN 272164)
statavos@justicelawcorp.com
MICHAEL JONES (SBN 312831)
mjones@justicelawcorp.com
JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION
751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101
Pasadena, California 91103
Telephone: (818) 230-7502
Facsimile: (818) 230-7259

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SHASTA**

CHRISTOPHER MAITIA and JEREMIAH
JONES, on behalf of aggrieved employees
pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act
("PAGA");

Plaintiffs,

v.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
100, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.:

207840

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE
§ 2698, et seq. (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004)**

Plaintiffs CHRISTOPHER MAITIA and JEREMIAH JONES (“Plaintiffs”) hereby submits this Complaint against Defendant BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive (collectively, “Defendants”) as an exclusively representative action on behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants for penalties as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This representative action is brought pursuant to Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* (the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”)) for Defendants’ violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders. Plaintiffs seek only to prosecute their non-individual PAGA claims and do not seek to prosecute any individual PAGA claims against Defendants.

2. This Complaint challenges Defendants' systemic illegal employment practices resulting in violations of the stated provisions of the Labor Code against the identified group of employees.

3. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege Defendants jointly and severally acted intentionally and with deliberate indifference and conscious disregard to the rights of all employees in (1) failing to properly calculate and pay all minimum and overtime wages; (2) failing to pay all meal period wages and rest break wages; (3) failing to provide accurate wage statements; (4) failing to pay all wages due and owing during employment and upon termination of employment; and (5) failing to reimburse all necessary business expenses.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This action is brought pursuant to PAGA, which deputizes any aggrieved employee to prosecute Labor Code violations as a proxy, or “private attorney general,” of the State of California. The civil penalties sought by Plaintiffs exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

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5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

6. This Court has jurisdiction over the violations of PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, each party has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of California law so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

8. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, the named Defendants transact business and/or have offices in the state of California, including the County of Shasta. The majority of the acts and omissions alleged herein relating to Plaintiffs took place in the State of California, County of Shasta. Defendants employed Plaintiffs within the State of California, County of Shasta. Moreover, this action is brought on behalf of the State of California as a private attorney general and has jurisdiction in this venue.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff CHRISTOPHER MAITIA is an individual residing in the State of California, County of Shasta. Plaintiff JEREMIAH JONES is an individual. Plaintiffs were formerly employed by Defendants.

10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendants are licensed to do business and actually doing business in the State of California, including the County of Shasta.

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1 **11.** Plaintiffs do not know the true names or capacities, whether individual,
2 partner or corporate, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that
3 reason, said Defendants are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiffs pray for leave to
4 amend this complaint when the true names and capacities are known. Plaintiffs are informed and
5 believe and thereon allege that each of Defendants designated as a DOE was responsible in some
6 way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Plaintiffs and other current and former
7 aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries
8 complained of herein.

9 **12.** At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were agents,
10 partners, joint venturers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-
11 conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within the
12 course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, representatives,
13 servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and that all acts or omissions
14 alleged herein were duly committed with ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement,
15 authorization and consent of each Defendant designated herein.

16 **13.** As such, and based upon all the facts and circumstances incident to
17 Defendants' business in California, Defendants are subject to PAGA and Labor Code §§ 201,
18 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558,
19 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802.

20 **CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **(Violation of Labor Code § 2698, et seq. ("PAGA"))**

22 **(Against BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

23 **14.** Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs
24 1 through 13, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
25 forth herein.

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1 **15.** The Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) expressly
2 establishes that any provision of the California Labor Code which provides for a civil penalty to
3 be assessed and collected by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
4 (“LWDA”), or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or employees for
5 a violation of the California Labor Code, may be recovered through a civil action brought by an
6 aggrieved employee on behalf of other current or former employees.

7 **16.** On February 4, 2025, Plaintiff CHRISTOPHER MAITIA provided written
8 notice to the LWDA and Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code he contends
9 were violated, and the theories supporting his contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and
10 incorporated by reference is a copy of the written notice to the LWDA. On March 25, 2025,
11 Plaintiffs CHRISTOPHER MAITIA and JEREMIAH JONES provided an amended written
12 notice to the LWDA and Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code they contend
13 were violated, and the theories supporting their contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and
14 incorporated by reference is a copy of the written notice to the LWDA. Plaintiffs believe that on
15 or about May 29, 2025, the sixty-five (65) days’ notice period expired as to the LWDA and all
16 Defendants, and the LWDA did not take any action to investigate or prosecute this matter. Thus,
17 Plaintiffs exhausted their administrative remedies.

18 **17.** Plaintiffs and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are
19 “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they all are or were
20 non-exempt employees of Defendants employed in California at any time during the period from
21 February 4, 2024, to the present, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against
22 them.

23 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages**

24 **18.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to compensate their
25 non-exempt employees minimum wages for all hours worked and overtime wages for all hours
26 worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a workweek, pursuant to the
27 mandate of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198.

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1 **19.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to compensate aggrieved
2 current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to pay all minimum
3 wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

4 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Rest Breaks**

5 **20.** In accordance with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512,
6 Defendants were required to authorize and permit their non-exempt employees to take a
7 10-minute rest break for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof, and were further
8 required to provide their non-exempt employees with a 30-minute meal period for every five (5)
9 hours worked.

10 **21.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide aggrieved current
11 and former employees with legally mandated meal periods and rest breaks and failed to pay proper
12 compensation for this failure.

13 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment**

14 **22.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
15 employees within a specified time period pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code § 204.

16 **23.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay aggrieved current and
17 former employees all wages due and owing them within the required time period.

18 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination**

19 **24.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their
20 employees all wages owed in a timely fashion at the end of employment pursuant to California
21 Labor Code §§ 201 to 204.

22 **25.** As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above,
23 Defendants failed to pay aggrieved former employees their final wages pursuant to Labor Code
24 §§ 201 to 204 and accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203.

25 **Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements**

26 **26.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to keep *accurate*
27 records regarding their California employees pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 226 and
28 1174.

1 **27.** As a result of Defendants’ various Labor Code violations, Defendants
2 failed to keep accurate records regarding aggrieved current and former employees. For example,
3 Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to keep accurate records regarding aggrieved
4 current and former employees’ gross wages earned, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages
5 earned, and all applicable hourly rates and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

6 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

7 **28.** At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse its
8 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
9 consequences of the discharge or his or her duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 2800
10 and 2802.

11 **29.** As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay aggrieved current and
12 former employees all business expenses incurred and owing them within the required time period.

13 **Penalties**

14 **30.** Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiffs, on behalf of current
15 and former aggrieved employees of Defendants and exclusively as a proxy of the State of
16 California, request and are entitled to recover from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties,
17 interest, attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant, including but not limited to:

- 18 **a.** Penalties under California Labor Code § 2699 in the amount of one
19 hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the
20 initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved
21 employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
22 **b.** Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the
23 amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period
24 for the initial violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved
25 employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

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3. For such other and further relief the court may deem just and proper.

Dated: May 30, 2025

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

By: 
Douglas Han
Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
Michael Jones
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT 1

February 4, 2025

BY U.S. MAIL/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov
State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Christopher Maitia against BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. (including any and all affiliates, managers, members, subsidiaries, and parents, and their shareholders, officers, directors, and employees), any individual, owner, officer or managing agent acting on behalf of an "Employer" pursuant to California Labor Code section 558.1, and DOES 1-20¹ for violations of California wage-and-hour laws (hereinafter collectively referred to as "BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.").

Mr. Maitia is pursuing his California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Mr. Maitia may seek penalties for violations of the Labor Code on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees, which are recoverable under PAGA. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. is a California corporation located at 9664 Tanqueray Ct, Redding, CA 96003.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. employed Mr. Maitia as an hourly-paid non-exempt Nursery Employee within one year of the date of this letter (until in or around March of 2024) in the State of California. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Mr. Maitia's and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

The "aggrieved employees" that Mr. Maitia may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through a staffing agency) of BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. within the State of California.

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¹ Mr. Maitia does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and for that reason, said DOES are designated under such fictitious names. Mr. Maitia will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Mr. Maitia is informed and believes that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Mr. Maitia and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to properly pay its hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failed to properly compensate minimum and overtime wages, failed to properly provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks or pay premium wages in lieu thereof, failed to issue compliant wage statements, and failed to reimburse for all necessary business-related costs and expenses, thus resulting in Labor Code violations as stated below.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 require employers to pay time-and-a-half or double-time overtime wages and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates. During the relevant time period, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses into Mr. Maitia's and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

California Labor Code section 246 requires that employers provide employees with paid sick leave of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked. California Labor Code section 246(l) also requires that paid sick leave be paid at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees paid sick leave that complied with California Labor Code section 246, by, for example, failing to pay paid sick leave at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each workday that a meal or rest break is not provided. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. routinely required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.'s policies and expectations and fulfill orders. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to provide coverage to Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Lastly, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to authorize and permit Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to take the requisite number of meal and rest breaks, including second meal breaks and third rest breaks, when working shifts exceeding 10 hours in length. Despite these facts, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay.

California Labor Code section 551 states “[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day’s rest therefrom in seven.” Section 552 further states “[n]o employer of labor shall cause his employees to work more than six days in seven.” BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to work seven days in a row or more without one day’s rest.

California Labor Code section 432.5 states “[n]o employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof, shall require any employee or applicant for employment to agree, in writing, to any term or condition which is known by such employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof to be prohibited by law.” BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to execute arbitration agreements as a condition of employment despite knowing that such agreements are prohibited under Labor Code section 432.6.

California Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits their employment, their wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours’ previous notice of their intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to their wages at the time of quitting. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Labor Code sections 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all wages, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204, and is therefore liable under California Labor Code section 210.

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California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. did not provide Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include (1) gross wages earned by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by aggrieved employees, (4) all deductions for Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which aggrieved employees are paid, (7) the name of the aggrieved employee and only the last four digits of their social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code section 558 allows recovery of penalties. Pursuant to the code, (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee. Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid to Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. did not provide Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of their job duties or in direct consequence of their obedience to the directions of the employer. During their employment, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC., including for using their personal cellular phones and vehicles for work-related purposes.

We believe that Mr. Maitia and other current and former California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties as allowed under California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* for violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code section 2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter to the employer in question and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency setting forth the claims, and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action it deems appropriate.

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement created by California Labor Code section 2699 prior to seeking penalties allowed by law for the aforementioned statutory violations. We look forward to determining whether the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency intends to take any action in reference to these claims. We kindly request that you respond to this notice according to the time frame contemplated by the California Labor Code.

Mr. Maitia will seek these penalties on his own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

Very truly yours,

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Han", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas Han, Esq.

CC: (By Certified U.S. Mail Only):

Legal Department
c/o BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.
9664 Tanqueray Ct
Redding, CA 96003

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr # 150
Sacramento, CA 95833
Agent for Service of Process for BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.

EXHIBIT 2

March 25, 2025

BY U.S. EMAIL/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov

State of California

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55

Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.
LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-1077920-25**

Dear Representative:

We hereby amend our February 4, 2025 letter sent to your office in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3. A true and correct copy of the February 4, 2025 letter is attached to this submission as **Exhibit A** for reference. We are amending this notice to add Jeremiah Jones as an aggrieved employee of Beneficial Insectary, Inc. Christopher Maitia and Jeremiah Jones are pursuing a California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* (the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA")) claim against their former employer on a representative basis.

We have been retained to represent Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones against Beneficial Insectary, Inc. (including any and all affiliates, managers, members, subsidiaries, and parents, and their shareholders, officers, directors, and employees), any individual, owner, officer and managing agent, DOES 1-10 as an "Employer" or person acting on behalf of an "Employer" pursuant to California Labor Code section 558.1, and DOES 11-20¹ for violations of California wage-and-hour laws (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Beneficial Insectary, Inc.").

Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones are pursuing their California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claims on a representative basis. Therefore, Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones may seek penalties for violations of the Labor Code on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees, which are recoverable under PAGA. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

¹ Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and for that reason, said DOES are designated under such fictitious names. Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones is informed and believes that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

Beneficial Insectary, Inc. is a California corporation located at 9664 Tanqueray Ct, Redding, CA 96003.

Beneficial Insectary, Inc. employed Mr. Maitia as an hourly-paid non-exempt Nursery Employee within one year of the date of the original letter (until around March of 2024) in the State of California. Beneficial Insectary, Inc. employed Mr. Jones as an hourly-paid non-exempt Pre Infest within one year of the date of the original letter (until around May of 2024) in the State of California. Beneficial Insectary, Inc. directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

The "aggrieved employees" on whose behalf Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones may seek penalties are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through a staffing agency) of Beneficial Insectary, Inc. within the State of California.

Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to properly pay its hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failed to properly provide or compensate minimum and overtime wages and for meal and rest breaks, failed to issue compliant wage statements and failed to reimburse for all necessary business-related costs and expenses, thus resulting in other Labor Code violations as stated below.

Pursuant to *Huff v. Securitas Security Services*, 23 Cal. App. 5th 745, 751 (2018), an employee who brings a representative action and was affected by at least one of the violations alleged in the complaint has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state not only for that violation, but for violations affecting other employees as well. Accordingly, Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones have standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state for violations affecting all the aggrieved employees at Beneficial Insectary, Inc., regardless of their classification, job title, location, or whether they were hired directly or through a staffing agency.

Beneficial Insectary, Inc. has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

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California Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 require employers to pay at least minimum wage for all hours worked, pay time-and-a-half, or double-time overtime wages, and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates. During the relevant time period, Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks. Beneficial Insectary, Inc. also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses and incentives in Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

California Labor Code section 246 requires that employers provide employees with paid sick leave of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked. California Labor Code section 246(l) also requires that paid sick leave be paid at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees with paid sick leave that complied with California Labor Code section 246, by, for example, failing to pay paid sick leave at non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each workday that a meal or rest break is not provided. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. routinely required Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with Beneficial Insectary, Inc.'s policies and expectations. Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to provide coverage to Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Moreover, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. also failed to authorize and permit Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees to take the requisite number of meal and rest breaks, including second meal breaks and third rest breaks, when working shifts exceeding 10 hours in length. Despite these facts, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay.

California Labor Code section 551 states “[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day’s rest therefrom in seven.” Section 552 further states “[n]o employer of labor shall cause his employees to work more than six days in seven.” Beneficial Insectary, Inc. required aggrieved employees to work seven days in a row or more without one day’s rest.

California Labor Code section 432.5 states “[n]o employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof, shall require any employee or applicant for employment to agree, in writing, to any term or condition which is known by such employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof to be prohibited by law.” Beneficial Insectary, Inc. required aggrieved employees to execute arbitration agreements as a condition of employment despite knowing that such agreements are prohibited under Labor Code section 432.6.

California Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Labor Code sections 201 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees all wages, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 203 and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

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California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204.

California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. did not provide Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from Beneficial Insectary, Inc. were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include (1) gross wages earned by Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees (4) all deductions for Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees are paid, (7) the name of the aggrieved employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees.

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California Labor Code section 558 allows recovery of penalties. (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee. Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code sections 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than two years. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, Beneficial Insectary, Inc. did not provide Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. During their employment, Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by Beneficial Insectary, Inc., including for purchasing tools and equipment they were required to use and wear while working.

We believe that Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones and other current and former California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties as allowed under California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* for violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code section 2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter to the employer in questions and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency setting forth the claims, and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action it deems appropriate.

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement created by California Labor code section 2699 prior to seeking penalties allowed by law for the aforementioned statutory violations. We look forward to determining whether California Labor & Workforce Development Agency intends to take any action in reference to these claims. We kindly request that you respond to this notice according to the time frame contemplated by the California Labor Code.

Mr. Maitia and Mr. Jones will seek these penalties on their own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Beneficial Insectary, Inc. within one year of the date of the original February 4, 2025 letter, as allowed by law.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

Very truly yours,

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Han", written over the printed name of Douglas Han.

Douglas Han, Esq.

CC: (By Certified U.S. Mail Only):

Legal Department
c/o Beneficial Insectary, Inc.
9664 Tanqueray Ct
Redding, CA 96003

Beneficial Insectary, Inc.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr # 150
Sacramento, CA 95833
Agent for Service of Process for Beneficial Insectary, Inc.

EXHIBIT A

February 4, 2025

BY U.S. MAIL/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov
State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Christopher Maitia against BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. (including any and all affiliates, managers, members, subsidiaries, and parents, and their shareholders, officers, directors, and employees), any individual, owner, officer or managing agent acting on behalf of an "Employer" pursuant to California Labor Code section 558.1, and DOES 1-20¹ for violations of California wage-and-hour laws (hereinafter collectively referred to as "BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.").

Mr. Maitia is pursuing his California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Mr. Maitia may seek penalties for violations of the Labor Code on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees, which are recoverable under PAGA. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. is a California corporation located at 9664 Tanqueray Ct, Redding, CA 96003.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. employed Mr. Maitia as an hourly-paid non-exempt Nursery Employee within one year of the date of this letter (until in or around March of 2024) in the State of California. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Mr. Maitia's and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

The "aggrieved employees" that Mr. Maitia may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through a staffing agency) of BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. within the State of California.

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¹ Mr. Maitia does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and for that reason, said DOES are designated under such fictitious names. Mr. Maitia will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Mr. Maitia is informed and believes that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Mr. Maitia and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to properly pay its hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failed to properly compensate minimum and overtime wages, failed to properly provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks or pay premium wages in lieu thereof, failed to issue compliant wage statements, and failed to reimburse for all necessary business-related costs and expenses, thus resulting in Labor Code violations as stated below.

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 require employers to pay time-and-a-half or double-time overtime wages and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates. During the relevant time period, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses into Mr. Maitia's and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

California Labor Code section 246 requires that employers provide employees with paid sick leave of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked. California Labor Code section 246(l) also requires that paid sick leave be paid at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees paid sick leave that complied with California Labor Code section 246, by, for example, failing to pay paid sick leave at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each workday that a meal or rest break is not provided. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. routinely required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.'s policies and expectations and fulfill orders. BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to provide coverage to Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Lastly, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to authorize and permit Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to take the requisite number of meal and rest breaks, including second meal breaks and third rest breaks, when working shifts exceeding 10 hours in length. Despite these facts, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to compensate Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay.

California Labor Code section 551 states “[e]very person employed in any occupation of labor is entitled to one day’s rest therefrom in seven.” Section 552 further states “[n]o employer of labor shall cause his employees to work more than six days in seven.” BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to work seven days in a row or more without one day’s rest.

California Labor Code section 432.5 states “[n]o employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof, shall require any employee or applicant for employment to agree, in writing, to any term or condition which is known by such employer, or agent, manager, superintendent, or officer thereof to be prohibited by law.” BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. required Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees to execute arbitration agreements as a condition of employment despite knowing that such agreements are prohibited under Labor Code section 432.6.

California Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits their employment, their wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours’ previous notice of their intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to their wages at the time of quitting. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Labor Code sections 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all wages, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to pay Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204, and is therefore liable under California Labor Code section 210.

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California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. did not provide Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include (1) gross wages earned by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by aggrieved employees, (4) all deductions for Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which aggrieved employees are paid, (7) the name of the aggrieved employee and only the last four digits of their social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code section 558 allows recovery of penalties. Pursuant to the code, (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee. Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code section 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid to Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. did not provide Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of their job duties or in direct consequence of their obedience to the directions of the employer. During their employment, Mr. Maitia and other aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC., including for using their personal cellular phones and vehicles for work-related purposes.

We believe that Mr. Maitia and other current and former California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties as allowed under California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* for violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 432.5, 510, 512(a), 551, 552, 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code section 2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter to the employer in question and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency setting forth the claims, and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action it deems appropriate.

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement created by California Labor Code section 2699 prior to seeking penalties allowed by law for the aforementioned statutory violations. We look forward to determining whether the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency intends to take any action in reference to these claims. We kindly request that you respond to this notice according to the time frame contemplated by the California Labor Code.

Mr. Maitia will seek these penalties on his own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC. within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

Very truly yours,

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Han", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas Han, Esq.

CC: (By Certified U.S. Mail Only):

Legal Department
c/o BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.
9664 Tanqueray Ct
Redding, CA 96003

BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.
c/o CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Dr # 150
Sacramento, CA 95833
Agent for Service of Process for BENEFICIAL INSECTARY, INC.

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PROOF OF SERVICE
1013A(3) CCP

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, California 91103 and my electronic service address is bitty@justicelawcorp.com.

On June 3, 2025, I served the foregoing document described as

COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE
§ 2698, et seq. (PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF 2004)

for the following case: **Maitia et al. v. Beneficial Insectary, Inc.**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM-1077920-25**
Court Case No.: 25CV-0207840
Shasta County Superior Court

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

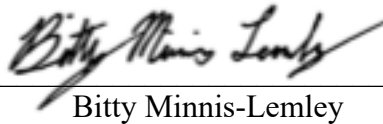
[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on June 3, 2025, at Pasadena, California.


Bitty Minnis-Lemley