BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

BRIANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO,
Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 121190; and

LISETTE SANTANA,
Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 144711

Agency Case No. 6672

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2020.

It is so ORDERED on February 3, 2020.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ay n Lippe

Ву

Greg Lippe Board President

1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California LINDA L. SUN				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General HELENE E. ROUSE				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 130426				
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6279 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126				
7	E-mail: Helene.Rouse@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant				
8					
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6672			
13	BRIANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO 1819 Jackson Street	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER AS TO			
14	Burbank, CA 91504	RESPONDENT BRIANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO ONLY			
15	Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 121190,	VILLEL OF CET			
16	and				
17	LISETTE SANTANA				
18	8018 Mammoth Avenue Panorama City, CA 91402				
19 20	Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 144711				
21	Respondents.				
22					
23	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-				
24	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
25	<u>PARTIES</u>				
26	1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of				
27	Pharmacy (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in				
28					
		1			

28 ///

27

every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 6672, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders her Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 121190 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Pharmacy Technician Registration without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

///

///

///

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 121190, issued to Respondent Briana Abigail Vallejo, is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Pharmacy Technician Registration and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Pharmacy Technician in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If she ever applies for licensure or petitions for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a new application for licensure. Respondent may not apply for any license, permit, or registration from the board for three (3) years from the effective date of this stipulation. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for licensure in effect at the time the application or petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 6672 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the application or petition.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,000.00 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 6672 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

1	ACCEPTANCE						
2	I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the						
3	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Pharmacy Technician Registration. I enter into this						
4	Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to						
5	be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.						
6							
7	DATED: 10 2 19 0000						
8	BRYANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO Respondent						
9							
10	ENDORSEMENT						
11	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted						
12	for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.						
13	DATED: 10 119 Respectfully submitted,						
14	XAVIER BECERRA						
15	Attorney General of California LINDA L. SUN Supervising Deputy Attorney General						
16	(III) C DOWN						
17	aller h 1900						
18	HELENE E. ROUSE Deputy Attorney General						
19	Attorneys for Complainant						
20							
21	LA2019500497						
22	53745169.docx						
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 6672

1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California				
2	LINDA L. SUN Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
3	HELENE E. ROUSE Deputy Attorney General				
4	State Bar No. 130426 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702				
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6279				
6	Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 Attorneys for Complainant				
7	12. The state of t				
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY				
9	DEPARTMENT OF CO	ONSUMER AFFAIRS			
10	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA			
11					
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6672			
13	BRIANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO	ACCUSATION			
14	1819 Jackson Street Burbank, CA 91504				
15	Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH				
16	121190,				
17	and				
1819	LISETTE SANTANA 8018 Mammoth Avenue Panorama City, CA 91402				
20	Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH				
21	144711				
22	Respondents.				
23					
24	Complainant alleges:				
25	<u>PARTIES</u>				
26	1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity				
27	as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer				
28	Affairs.				
		1			

requirements of this chapter.

cause from their positions, on or about October 5, 2018, as a result of the incidents alleged herein. Vallejo and Santana became friends while employed with the pharmacy, and socialized with one another outside of work. Respondent Vallejo was employed with the pharmacy from April 24, 2015 until October 5, 2018. Respondent Santana was employed with the pharmacy from February 25, 2015 until October 5, 2018.

- 19. Encino Pharmacy has been in business for over 30 years, and specializes predominantly in women's health and providing fertility treatment/medications to individual patients. The pharmacy dispenses small quantities of controlled substances, chiefly as part of infertility treatments and pursuant to a valid prescription order.
- 20. On or about September 27, 2018 at 1:15 p.m., a pharmacy staff member reported to the Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC), D.M., that she observed Respondent Vallejo around lunch time in the vicinity of a diazepam 10 mg bottle, when Vallejo didn't need to be there. Respondent Vallejo picked up the bottle, saw that someone was looking at her, and then placed the bottle down in an area where it was not normally located.
- 21. Surveillance video was reviewed by a pharmacy staff member, which showed Respondent Vallejo removing a bottle of diazepam 10 mg (500 count) and placing it on the counter. Moreover, diazepam 10 mg is not used in the pharmacy's compounding department where Respondent Vallejo was assigned to work. Respondent's Vallejo's presence in the filling area/shipping department of the pharmacy was outside of the scope of her job functions.
- 22. On or about September 28, 2018 at 11:30 a.m., Respondent Vallejo was observed by pharmacy technician, E.B., wandering around the front end of the pharmacy by the shelving area where the alprazolam was stored, instead of attending the staff meeting. When PIC D.M. asked Respondent Vallejo to join the staff meeting, she said she was only trying to help "filling" for the front typist and waiting patients.
- 23. On or about September 28, 2018 at 2:20 p.m., a staff member of the pharmacy conducted an inventory count of diazepam 10 mg, and counted approximately 232 tablets.

¹ The initials of individuals referred to in this Accusation are used to protect their privacy. Upon a timely and proper request for discovery from Respondent, Complainant will provide documents which reveal their identities.

- 24. On or about September 28, 2018 at around 3:00 p.m., a staff member discovered a bottle of diazepam 10 mg was missing. Pharmacist K.Z. immediately halted all operations and confronted Respondent Vallejo, privately. K.Z. asked Respondent Vallejo to shake her pocket, and heard tablets rattling. Respondent Vallejo was escorted outside by K.Z. and L.M., Director of Business Operations and Human Resources. Respondent Vallejo pulled a bottle containing 79 tablets of diazepam from her pocket. She also handed L.M. a plastic Ziploc bag containing 150 tablets of diazepam 10 mg, which she had concealed in her bra. Respondent Vallejo had taken tablets from the bottle and placed them in a Ziploc bag. This meant that Respondent Vallejo had diverted at least 229 tablets of diazepam 10 mg.
- 25. Respondent Vallejo confessed to K.Z. and L.M. that she stole the tablets with intent to sell them "on the streets". Respondent Vallejo also admitted to providing her colleague, Respondent Santana, with unprescribed diazepam 10 mg tablets, equating to about 10 tablets over a "few weeks".
- 26. On September 28, 2018, K.Z found around two to three diazepam 10 mg in Respondent Santana's wallet in the course of the search of all pharmacy staff. K.Z confirmed the tablets were diazepam 10 mg by conducting a "ill identification" search. Respondents Vallejo and Santana both stated to pharmacy staff that Santana did not know where Vallejo got the tablets.
- 27. The police came to Encino Pharmacy to investigate the circumstances surrounding the stolen medications, but advised the pharmacy not to file a police report at that time. Since Respondent Santana admitted to taking an unprescribed drug the night before, an EMT (emergency medical technician) examined her and found that she was okay. Respondents Vallejo and Santana were suspended from their jobs, sent home, and terminated for cause one week later.
- 28. An audit performed by Encino Pharmacy on October 1, 2018 of the pharmacy's controlled substance inventory for the period from June 1, 2018 through October 1, 2018 established that 488 tablets of diazepam 5 mg and 436 tablets of diazepam 10 mg were unaccounted for, as follows:

Medication	Units	Beginning Inventory 6/01/18	ACQ WLS	ACQ TOTAL	Disposition	Ending Inventory 10/01/18	Disposition Total	Variance
Diazepam 5	tablet	809	600	1,409	739	182	921	488
mg Diazepam 10 mg	tablet	427	1,000	1,427	672	319	991	436

- 29. On or about October 2, 2018, the pharmacy filed a DEA 106 form Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances, reporting the employee theft/loss on September 28, 2018 of 488 lost/stolen tablets of diazepam 5 mg and 436 lost/stolen tablets of diazepam 10 mg.
- 30. On or about November 6, 2018, the Board received a report from the pharmacy, indicating that, on September 28, 2018, 232 tablets of diazepam 10 mg had been lost and/or stolen. A pharmacy technician had confessed that she had stolen the drugs with the intent to sell them and that she had provided her co-worker with some unprescribed tablets.
- 31. On November 28, 2018, a Board Inspector inspected Encino Pharmacy and investigated the pharmacy's reported loss/employee theft of controlled substances. The Inspector's investigation established that Respondents were assigned to work primarily in the sterile compounding area. The alprazolam and diazepam tablets were not stored in the compounding area, but in the retail area. Some of the diazepam tablets were also stored in the shipping department.
- 32. On November 28, 2018, the Board's Inspector interviewed Respondent Santana, who provided a written statement to the Board. Respondent Santana admitted that sometime between September 2018 and October 2018, on a one-time occasion, Respondent Vallejo gave her six tablets of alprazolam 0.5 mg, for which Respondent Santana did not have a prescription. Respondent Vallejo gave her the tablets on a weekend outside of work. Respondent Santana did not pay for the tablets Respondent Vallejo gave her; instead, she paid her back by buying her lunch. Respondent Santana did not know where Vallejo obtained the alprazolam 0.5 mg tablets, and she just wanted something to help her sleep. Between September 2018 and October 2018, Respondent Santana admitted she took two tablets of the unprescribed alprazolam 0.5 mg. On September 28, 2018, a search was conducted of the pharmacy staff. Respondent Santana admitted that four tablets of unprescribed alprazolam 0.5 mg were found in her wallet (however,

pharmacy staff indicated they found diazepam 10 mg, not alprazolam, in Santana's wallet). In addition, Respondent Santana admitted to being examined by an EMT because she had taken a drug without a doctor's prescription, the previous day.

33. During the inspection, the Board's Inspector collected relevant documents to the loss of controlled substances, including but not limited to the pharmacy's "Drug Usage Report" which documented the amount of medications dispensed by the pharmacy between May 6, 2015 and November 28, 2018, and the pharmacy's DEA Biennial Inventory of all controlled substances. The following is a summary of the above-described records:

Medication	Units	Beginning Inventory - 05/06/15	Disposition (No. of prescriptions dispensed)	Ending Inventory - 11/28/20
Alprazolam 0.25 mg	tablet	0	24	50
Alprazolam 0.5 mg	tablet	124	133	78
Alprazolam 1 mg	tablet	199	47	30
Alprazolam 2 mg	tablet	110	3	0
Diazepam 5 mg	tablet	688	3,926	395
Diazepam 10 mg	tablet	850	6,070	345

- 34. The Board's Inspector performed an audit of the pharmacy's records concerning the acquisition and disposition of alprazolam and diazepam from May 6, 2015 through November 28, 2018, which revealed the following overage (negative variance, due to selling more than purchased, which could be due to the DEA biennial inventory not being an exact count or human error in counting the tablets):
 - 43 tablets of alprazolam 0.5mg
 - 368 tablets of diazepam 10 mg
- 35. Shortage of/positive variance, which loss could be due to either employee pilferage or other unknown reasons:
 - 30 tablets of alprazolam 0.25 mg
 - 168 tablets of alprazolam 1 mg

(BRIANA ABIGAIL VALLEJO and LISETTE SANTANA) ACCUSATION [CASE NO. 6672]

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 (Respondent Vallejo and Respondent Santana -2 Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance and/or **Controlled Substances Without a Prescription**) 3 39. Respondent Vallejo and Respondent Santana have subjected their registrations to 4 discipline under section 4301, subdivisions (j) and/or (o), in conjunction with Health and Safety 5 Code sections 11158, subdivision (a), 11170 and 11171, in that, on or about September 28, 2018, 6 while working at Encino Pharmacy, Respondents were found to be in possession of controlled 7 substances/dangerous drugs without a prescription, in violation of section 4060, as described in 8 Paragraphs 18-37, above, which are incorporated by reference. 9 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 10 (Respondent Vallejo – Furnishing Prescription **Drugs To Others Without a Valid Prescription**) 11 Respondent Vallejo is subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301, subdivisions 40. 12 (j) and/or (o), for violating Section 4059, subdivision (a) and Code of Federal Regulations, title 13 21, section 843, subdivision (a)(3), in that, on or before September 28, 2018, she illegally gave 14 and/or transferred controlled substances (diazepam 10 mg or alprazolam 0.5 mg) to Respondent 15 Santana without a valid prescription. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, 16 the allegations set forth above in Paragraphs 18-37, which are incorporated by reference. 17 18 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Respondent Santana - Self Administration 19 of a Controlled Substance/Dangerous Drug) 20 41. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (h), 21 in that on or about June 2, 2018, Respondent Santana admitted to pharmacy staff that, on 22 September 27, 2018, she administered to herself the controlled substance/dangerous drug 23 alprazolam, which she obtained from Respondent Vallejo, without a doctor's prescription for this 24 medication, as described in Paragraphs 18-37, above, which are incorporated by reference. 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 10

1 2	FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Respondent Vallejo and Respondent Santana – Violating California Statutes Regulating Controlled Substances/Dangerous Drugs)				
3					
4	42. Respondent Vallejo and Respondent Santana have subjected their registrations to				
5	discipline under section 4301, subdivision (j), for unprofessional conduct in that they knowingly				
6	violated Business and Professions Code sections 4022, 4059 and/or 4060, and Health and Safety				
7	Code sections 11158, subdivision (a),11170 and 11171, as described in Paragraphs 18-37, above				
8	which are incorporated by reference.				
9	CINAMI CA MCE EOD DICCIDI DIE				
10	<u>SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE</u> (Respondent Vallejo - Violating Federal & State				
11	Laws and Regulations Governing Pharmacy)				
12	43. Respondent Vallejo has subjected her registration to discipline under section 4301,				
13	subdivision (o), for unprofessional conduct in that she violated Code of Federal Regulations, title				
14	21, section 843, subdivision (a)(3), Board of Pharmacy Regulations (California Code of				
15	Regulations, Title 16, Section 1700, et seq.), and the California Uniform Controlled Substances				
16	Act (Health and Safety Code 11000, et seq.), when she obtained controlled substances using				
17	dishonesty and deceit, as described in Paragraphs 18-37, above, which are incorporated by				
18	reference.				
19	DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS				
20	44. To determine the degree of discipline to be assessed against Respondent Vallejo's				
21	license, Complainant alleges as follows:				
22	a. On or about November 29, 2017, the Board issued administrative Citation No. CI				
23	2017 77055 against Respondent Vallejo for unprofessional conduct in violating Business and				
24	Professions Code sections 4301, subdivisions (h) and (l). The circumstances underlying the				
25	citation are as follows:				
26	(1) Respondent was arrested on September 16, 2017, for driving while under the				
27	influence of alcohol, with a blood alcohol content level of 0.08%; and				
28	(2) Respondent was convicted of a misdemeanor crime which is substantially related				
	11				

1	to the qualifications, functions and duties of Respondent's license, in that on November 13, 2017,				
2	she was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 23103, subdivision (a) [Wet/Reckless				
3	Driving], per Vehicle Code section 23103.5.				
4	b. A \$500 fine was issued with the citation. The fine was paid in full and the citation				
5	became the final order.				
6	<u>PRAYER</u>				
7	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged	,			
8	and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:				
9	1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Technician Registration Number TCH 121190,				
10	issued to Briana Abigail Vallejo;				
11	2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Technician Registration Number TCH 144711,				
12	issued to Lisette Santana;				
13	3. Ordering Briana Abigail Vallejo and Lisette Santana to pay the Board of Pharmacy				
14	the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, jointly and severally,				
15	pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,				
16	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.				
17	DATED: July 16, 2019 Once Sodergran				
18	ANNE SODERGREN Interim Executive Officer	_			
19	Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs				
20	State of California Complainant				
21	LA2019500497; 53411610.docx				
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28	12				
	12				