## BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF: ) DUDLEY RESTAURANTS, INC. ) OTA NO. 21067998 APPELLANT. )

CERTIFIED COPY

## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Via WebEx

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Reported by:

CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ Hearing Reporter

Job No.: 44378 OTA(A)

1	BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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5	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF: )
6	DUDLEY RESTAURANTS, INC. ) OTA NO. 21067998
7	APPELLANT. )
8	)
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15	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, recorded
16	live stream via WebEx, commencing at
17	9:31 a.m. and concluding at 10:13 a.m.
18	on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, reported by
19	Christina L. Rodriguez, Hearing Reporter.
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1	APPEARANCES:	
2		
3	Panel Lead:	NATASHA RALSTON
4		
5	Panel Members:	ANDREW KWEE JOSHUA LAMBERT
6		
7	For the Appellant:	REX HALVERSON, ATTORNEY
8	for the hyperfance	
9	For the Respondent:	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10		DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION
11		RAVINDER SHARMA,
12		TAX COUNSEL
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1	I N I	D E X
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6	(Department's Exhibits A-E v	were received at page 7)
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LIVE STEAM VIA WEBEX, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 9:31 a.m.

JUDGE RALSTON: Good morning everyone. I'm Judge Ralston, and today we are here for the appeal of Dudley Restaurants, Inc. Office of Tax Appeals Case Number 21067998. Today's hearing is October 17th, 2023. The time is approximately 9:32 a.m.

As you're aware, the Office of Tax Appeals is an independent tax agency and is not affiliated with any other tax agency, including Respondent. OTA is also not a tax court.

My name is Natasha Ralston, and I'm the lead Administrative Law Judge who will be conducting this hearing. We also have Judge Kwee and Judge Lambert with us today. As I mentioned, this hearing is being live streamed to the public and is being recorded.

The transcript and the video recording are part of the public record and will be available on the Office of Tax Appeal's website. That being said, because we are live stream, please make sure that you don't show any private or sensitive information on the screen so that it's not live stream.

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Also, we have our Stenographer, Ms. Rodriguez

present, and she is reporting this hearing verbatim. So we want to make sure that we have an accurate record. So we are asking that everyone speaks one at a time and does not speak over each other, and when you're not speaking, if you could please make sure you're muted to cut down on any background noise.

Also, speak clearly and loudly. If needed, Ms. Rodriguez will stop the hearing and ask for clarification, and after the hearing she will produce the official hearing transcript which will be available on the Office of Tax Appeal's website.

The prehearing conference in this matter was held on August 29th, 2023, and Appellant has submitted three exhibits labeled 1 through 3.

15Mr. Sharma, did you receive Appellant's16Exhibit 1 through 3?

17 MR. SHARMA: Good morning. This is Ravinder18 Sharma.

Yes, we did.

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JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. And does CDTFA have any objections to Appellant's Exhibit.

Thank you.

MR. SHARMA: The Department has no objections.Thank you.

JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. Thank you. So Appellant's Exhibits 1 through 3 are

1 admitted without objection. 2 (Appellant's Exhibits 1-3 were received in 3 evidence by the Administrative Law Judge.) 4 And, lets see, Respondent has submitted 5 Exhibits A through E. Mr. Halverson, did you receive Respondent's 6 7 Exhibits? MR. HALVERSON: 8 Yes. 9 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. And did you have any 10 objections to those exhibits? 11 MR. HALVERSON: We do not. 12 JUDGE RALSTON: Respondent's Exhibits A 13 through E are admitted without objection. 14 (Department's Exhibits A-E were received in 15 evidence by the Administrative Law Judge.) Respondent's CDTFA does not intend to call any 16 17 witnesses. 18 Is that still correct, Mr. Sharma? 19 MR. SHARMA: That is correct. Thank you. 20 JUDGE RALSTON: And Mr. Halverson, you have 21 previously identified four witnesses to testify under oath; is that still the case? 2.2 23 MR. HALVERSON: Yes. 24 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. And those witnesses are 25 Ryan Dudley, Mark Poli, Dustin Adams, and Patrick

1 Lister; is that correct? 2 MR. HALVERSON: That's correct. 3 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. 4 Does CDTFA have any objections to any of the Appellant's witnesses? 5 This is Ravinder Sharma. 6 MR. SHARMA: 7 Department has no objection. Thank you. JUDGE RALSTON: 8 Thank you. 9 So prior to you beginning your Opening 10 Statement, I will swear in your witnesses at the same 11 time, and I'll let you know when we're ready to do that. 12 As far as time estimate, Appellants will have approximately thirty minutes to present their case and 13 14 approximately 30 minutes for witness testimony. CDTFA will then have 30 minutes to present 15 their case, and Appellant will have 10 minutes for a 16 17 rebuttal closing statement. 18 We'll also give CDTFA the opportunity to 19 question any of the witnesses after their testimony, 20 and, of course, the panel members may have questions as 21 we go through out. 22 Does anyone have any questions at this point? 23 As far as the witnesses, please don't sign off 24 right after your testimony. I'll let you know when it's okay to do so, that way we want to make sure that the 25

1 panel can ask any questions that we need to ask. 2 And so, Mr. Halverson, were you planning on 3 starting with your opening statement and then moving 4 right into witness testimony? 5 MR. HALVERSON: I am. 6 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. 7 So we'll go ahead and proceed that way. And then for CDTFA, we'll give you the 8 opportunity to question the witnesses. Did you want me 9 10 to give you a chance after each witnesses? Or after 11 each witness? Or did you want to save the questions 12 until the end and then I can ask you all at once? 13 Mr. Sharma? 14 MR. SHARMA: Sorry. I'm sor -- this is Ravinder Sharma. 15 No, we will wait for the witnesses. And then 16 17 we will determine at the end of that if we have any 18 questions. Thank you. Thank you. 19 JUDGE RALSTON: Sounds good. 20 Okay. So does anyone have any questions 21 before we begin? Okay. Not seeing any questions. 22 So I'm going to ask the four witnesses to 23 raise their right-hand. 24 (Whereupon all prospective witnesses were duly 25 sworn by the Administrative Law Judge)

1	JUDGE RALSTON: Just for the record, all four
2	witnesses have stated in the affirmative.
3	So Mr. Halverson, you can go ahead and begin
4	when you're ready.
5	
6	PRESENTATION
7	MR. HALVERSON: Well, good morning.
8	My name is Rex Halverson, and I'm with the
9	firm Rex Halverson and Associates. I've been practicing
10	State Local Tax for the last 45 years and had the
11	pleasure of sitting on the Board of Equalization from
12	1995 to '98 as the Deputy's State Controller taxation
13	for Kathleen Connell.
14	In that capacity, I've voted on tax cases each
15	month just as you do today.
16	I represent Dudley Restaurants, Inc., which
17	owns The Cellar Restaurant. Dudley Restaurants, Inc. is
18	owned by Ryan Dudley, who will testify shortly. This
19	restaurant is a high-end restaurant located in
20	Fullerton, California.
21	There's only one issue on the case before you
22	and it involves credit card tip income. Total credit
23	card tips in the audit amount is \$615,434 dollars. Of
24	that amount, \$134,701 dollars constituted mandatory
25	tips, which are taxable. The remainder were \$480,733

dollars represents the optional credit card tips.

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Optional tips are not subject to California sales tax per regulation 1603H.

The last re-audit, the Department reduced the optional tips by \$155,018 dollars and conceded that these tips were not subject to sales tax for the period of March 2014 to March 2015, but the Department did not do the same for optional tips that were received for the period July 2012 through February 2014.

We're here today to argue that further 11 reduction of tip income in the amount of \$323,643 dollars is necessary as all of of these tips were paid 12 to the employees of the restaurant. Department, on the 13 14 other hand, will argue that the employer misappropriated 15 these tips, and, as such, the tips were included in Retailer's Taxable Gross Receipts. 16

So lets dig into Appellant's Exhibits before you. Lets start with Exhibit 1. Exhibit 1 is a letter written to the CDTFA by Ryan Dudley, the owner of Dudley Restaurants. It states, rather clearly, that, quote:

21 "Credit card tips are entered into a 22 spreadsheet and then paid via check on a weekly basis. 23 The policy existed for 18 years and prior to when I took over the business in 2004. It has never been an issue 24 25 in either of the two prior audits."

1	Now, I'd like to ask Mr. Dudley a few
2	questions regarding this statement.
2 3	quescions regarding chirs statement.
4	R. DUDLEY,
5	Called as a witness on behalf of Dudley Restaurants,
6	Inc., having first been duly sworn by the Administrative
7	Law Judge, was examined and testified as follows:
8	THE WITNESS: I do.
9	
10	DIRECT EXAMINATION
11	BY MR. HALVERSON:
12	Q Ryan, you mentioned in Exhibit 1, all credit
13	card tips are entered in a spreadsheet, and then paid
14	via check on a weekly basis; is that statement true?
15	A Good morning. Yeah, that's absolutely true.
16	Q The CDFTA auditor assume tips were paid out of
17	cash on a daily basis, but that is not in your policy or
18	standard operating procedure; is it?
19	A No, it's not.
20	Q Isn't it true that the PSO POS report shows
21	cash on a hand daily, and that the amount is
22	significantly less than the tips for the prior night so
23	tips could not have been handed to employees in cash
24	each day; is that true?
25	A Yes, sir.

1 Have you historically -- and by that, I mean, 0 2 always provided employees with separate checks for their 3 wages and their credit card tips? 4 Α We did up until about 18 months ago. But yes, 5 prior to that, we -- we docked the system that was in place for my ownership and about -- again, as a result 6 7 of this process, I decided to go to a different type of system, which is -- it's called Kickfin, and effectively 8 9 transmits cash from our checking accounts to a -- what I 10 call a "virtual vault". 11 The money is held there, and then the employee tips are put in on a nightly basis. They upload a debit 12 13 card, and then their funds are transferred immediately 14 into their checking accounts. 15 No more questions. Thank you. 0 16 Α Thank you. 17 Now, I'd like to ask questions MR. HALVERSON: 18 of, first, Dustin Adams. 19 20 D. ADAMS, 21 Called as a witness on behalf of Dudley Restaurants, Inc., having first been duly sworn by the Administrative 22 23 Law Judge, was examined and testified as follows: 24 THE WITNESS: T do. 25 ///

1 BY MR. HALVERSON: 2 0 We've introduced 11 affidavits from employees at Dudley Restaurants, Inc. that all attest the fact 3 4 that they received a weekly check for their share of 5 credit card tips. Do you personally know all of these employees 6 7 or at least many of them? Yeah. 8 Α 9 Can you attest to the fact that they worked at 0 10 The Cellar Restaurant? 11 А Yeah. 12 Did you sign one of these affidavits yourself 0 13 attesting to the fact that you were paid your wages and 14 your credit card tips in two different checks? 15 Α T did. Were the tip checks paid to you and other 16 Ο 17 employees in a weekly basis during your entire career 18 working at Cellar Restaurant? 19 Α Yes. 20 Were you ever paid cash out of cash on hand at Q 21 the restaurant for your share of credit card tip income? 2.2 Α No. No. 23 How long have you worked for Dudley 0 24 Restaurants, Inc.? 25 А Nine years. Going on ten.

1	Q Thank you.
2	MR. HALVERSON: Now, Patrick Lister, same
3	questions.
4	
5	P. LISTER,
6	Called as a witness on behalf of Dudley Restaurants,
7	Inc., having first been duly sworn by the Administrative
8	Law Judge, was examined and testified as follows:
9	THE WITNESS: I do.
10	
11	BY MR. HALVERSON:
12	Q We've introduced 11 affidavits from employees
13	at Dudley's Restaurants, Inc. that all attest the fact
14	that they received a weekly check for their share of
15	credit card tips.
16	Do you personally know all of these employees
17	or at least most of them?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Can you attest to the fact that they worked at
20	The Cellar Restaurant?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Did you sign one of the affidavits yourself
23	attesting to the fact that you were paid your wages and
24	your credit card tips in two different checks?
25	A Yes.

1	Q Were the tips check paid to you and other
2	employees on a weekly basis during your entire career
3	working at The Cellar Restaurant?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Were you ever paid cash out of cash on hand at
6	the restaurant for your share of credit card tip income?
7	A No.
8	Q How long have you worked at Dudley
9	Restaurants, Inc.?
10	A Since August 2013. So a little over ten
11	years.
12	Q Thank you.
13	MR. HALVERSON: Mark Poli, same questions.
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15	M. POLI,
16	Called as a witness on behalf of Dudley Restaurants,
17	Inc., having first been duly sworn by the Administrative
18	Law Judge, was examined and testified as follows:
19	THE WITNESS: I do.
20	
21	BY MR. HALVERSON:
22	Q We've introduced 11 affidavits for employees
23	at Dudley Restaurants, Inc. that all attest to the fact
24	that they received a weekly check for their share of
25	credit card tips.

1	Do you personally know all of these employees
2	or at least most of them?
3	A I do not see the affidavits.
4	Q I misunderstood you. Can you repeat?
5	A I have not seen sorry I'm sick. I haven't
6	seen the affidavits. I'm not a manager, so I don't know
7	who was introduced.
8	Q Okay. So I'll skip over to you can attest to
9	the fact that they worked at The Cellar Restaurant.
10	Did you sign one of these affidavits yourself
11	attesting to the fact that you were paid your wages and
12	your credit card tips in two different checks?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Were the tip checks paid to you and the other
15	employees on a weekly basis during your entire crew
16	working at The Cellar Restaurant?
17	A Correct
18	Q Were you
19	A yes.
20	Q Were you ever paid cash out of cash on hand at
21	the restaurant for your share of credit card tip income?
22	A No.
23	Q How long did you work or have you worked
24	for Dudley Restaurants, Inc.?
25	A For Dudley, I worked 17 years. I worked 17

years.

MR. HALVERSON: Thank you.

Now, I'd like to walk you through Exhibit 3, that was put together by Kai Mickey, a former BLE sales tax auditor, and handled this audit on behalf of my firm. Although, there are 119 pages of these, to the exhibit, it is not as daunting as it seems.

We're going to start with page 3. Page 3 got columns A through I; and column D reflects the total mandatory and optional credit card tips paid by customers or collected each month.

So you can see the amount is \$614,434. The allowed optional tips each month are reflected in column F, and that's \$478,661; and column G totals these optional tips by quarter, so column G has got a total of \$478,661.

We're only concerned about column H, which totals \$323,643 for the period January 12th through February 2014 as the Departments already conceded column I. Representing optional tips collected from March 2014 through March 2015.

So \$323,643 is the subject of this appeal. Ask yourself, why did the Department allow some of the tip income for March 2014 through March 2015 to be deleted from the audit, but not for January 12th through

1	February 14 periods. Department has argued that our
2	proof is untrustworthy. We vehemently disagree.
3	Now, turn to page 5.
4	Although, \$12,226.25 is in column D, a total
5	of actually \$12,350.63, shown in column F, was the
6	actual tip income that was paid out to employees in July
7	2012. Pardon me, July 2012. The difference were
8	\$124.38 cents could have been caused by a June tip that
9	was paid out in July or some other timing difference,
10	but it is not substantial.
11	Because remember, these were paid out tip
12	were paid out monthly.
13	Now, turn to page 6 and 7.
14	Pages 6 and 7 total each check written to each
15	employee for their tip income, and there are total of 39
16	checks. And the 39 checks total, as you can see on page
17	7, column E, \$12,350.63. The exact number we just
18	discussed on page 5 and Exhibit 3.
19	I'd add that all of these checks are noted are
20	in Exhibit 3 and pages 14 and 15 of Appellant's General
21	Ledger. Their noted on the screen shots from QuickBooks
22	on pages 16 through 54 of the exhibit, and copies of
23	each tip check are also included in full in page 50
24	pages 55 to 58. The letter are hard to read, but not
25	impossible.

1 Now, lets look at page 60. 2 Page 60 reflects the total tip income that's paid to employees in July 2013, so roughly, I'm taking 3 one from 2012, and one from 2013 -- one month. It 4 5 reflects a total of \$10,926.12 was paid out to employees, and that's made up of \$1,273.93, which is 6 7 reflective of 14B next to it, in mandatory tips, plus \$9,652.19 in optional tips. 8 9 Now, if you'll turn to page 9. 10 Again, we've listed every check that was paid 11 out for this month. There are total of 50 checks. They 12 total \$9,550.73. The difference are \$101.46 cents, 13 again, is insignificant. I'd add that all these checks are noted in Exhibit 3, on pages 62 through 63 of 14 15 Appellant's General Ledger, included here. Two, they're on the screen shots from 16 17 QuickBooks on pages 64 through 113, and copies of each 18 check are also included in full on pages 114 through 19 119. Again, the letter are hard to read, but not 20 impossible to make out. 21 These two months represent our proof of what 22 went on through the entire period of January 12th 23 through February 14. We're taking into consideration, 24 along with the witness affidavits and testimony, 25 Appellants have clearly proven they're entitled to a

1 reduction of gross receipts of \$323,643. 2 The Department, on the other hand, has used 3 smoke mirrors, assumptions, nasty insinuations to convince the OTA that their cases are tight. That's not 4 5 the case of tips. That is assiduous credibility and flies in the face of truth. 6 7 Thank you. We'll be happy to take questions. 8 JUDGE RALSTON: Thank you. 9 Mr. Sharma, does CDTFA have any questions for 10 any of the witnesses. 11 MR. SHARMA: The Department has no question. 12 Thank you. 13 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. Thank you. 14 Judge Kwee, did you have any questions for 15 Appellant or the witnesses? JUDGE KWEE: Hi. This is Judge Kwee. I don't 16 17 have any questions at this time. 18 Thank you. 19 JUDGE RALSTON: Thank you. 20 Judge Lambert, did you have any questions for 21 Appellant or the witnesses? JUDGE LAMBERT: This is Judge Lambert. 2.2 I have 23 no questions at this time. Thanks. 24 25 JUDGE RALSTON: Thank you.

1 Okay. We are now ready for Respondent's 2 presentation. 3 Please begin when you're ready. 4 5 PRESENTATION Good morning. This is Ravinder 6 MR. SHARMA: 7 Sharma. Appellant Incorporation operated in restaurant 8 selling, beer, wine, and liquor since November 2004. 9 10 The Department performed an audit examination for the 11 period of April 1, 2012, through March 31, 2015. 12 Records available for the audit: Further 13 income tax returns for years 2012 to 2014. 14 Bank statements, profit and lost statements, 15 and point of sales sale summary reports for the audit period; wine purchases for 2012, incomplete tax sheet, 16 17 and 1099-K merchant statements for 2012 to 2014. 18 Despite various requests, Appellant did not 19 provide daily cash tips, daily sales reports, point of 20 sales data download, purchase in wine sales, or any 21 purchase generals for the audit period. 22 The Department compared gross receipts, the 23 cost of good sold, for title income tax returns and 24 calculated average mark-up of 179 percent for 2012 to 25 2014. Exhibit A, page 337, the mark-up was low for this

type of business, especially when compared to the mark-up of 266 percent for the prior audit.

Exhibit A, page 335. The Department compared Appellant's Reported Gross Receipts for Title Income Tax Return to Reported Total Sales for Sales of Used Tax Return and found difference of around \$161,000 dollars for 2012.

Exhibit A, page 345. These differences were not assessed as bank deposits analysis -- which the Department will discuss later -- it resulted in higher additional assessment. Based on these analysis, the Department determined that Appellant's books of records were not complete, not reliable, and inadequate for sales and used tax purposes.

So the Department used indirect audit method to verify the accuracy of reported funds and to determine unreported taxable sales. During the audit process, Appellant objected to the Department's use of mark-up method and requested to use bank deposits method.

The Department reviewed and analyzed bank statements, and other available information, to determine total bank deposits of around \$3.7 million dollars for the audit period.

Exhibit A, pages 13 and 14. After adjusting

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for personal loan job, \$40,000 dollars and optional tips payment of \$155,000 dollars for March 2014 through March 2015. The Department calculated audited taxable deposits of \$3.5 million dollars for the audit period.

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Exhibit A, page 12. Appellant reported taxable sales of around \$3 million dollars resulting in unreported taxable sales of little more than \$487,000 dollars for the audit period.

Exhibit A, page 12. The Department used available books and records to determine unreported, said presumption of, little more than \$42,000 dollars subject to used tax for the audit period.

Exhibit A, page 27. During the appeals process, Appellant conceded to the assessment of \$42,000 dollars. When the Department is not satisfied with the amount of tax that reported by the taxpayer, the Department may determine the amount required to be paid based on any information which is in it's possession, or may come into it's possession.

In the case of an appeal, the Department has a minimum initial burden of showing that the determination was reasonable and rational. Once that department has met its initial burden, the burden of proof should exclude the taxpayer to establish that it results different from the Department's determination is warranted.

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Unsupported sessions are not sufficient to satisfy a taxpayer's burden of proof. The Department used Appellant's books and records to determine the audit liberty. Doing so, produced a reasonable and rational determination. Appellant contends that there's no change in Appellant's tip policy, and tips was not an issue in the prior two audits.

In response, the Department submits that as for Department's records, there is only one prior audit for Appellant's seller permit, and payment of tips was not an issue as the prior audit was not conducted based on bank deposits method.

Appellant contends that it was deposited cash tips in the bank accounts, and then paid by checks to the employees. Of April 2012 to February 2014, all of Appellant's worksheet claimed this amount starting from January 2012. January 2012 to March 2012 is not part of this audit.

Appellant further contends that it maintained a tips account, 20900, for detail accounting of tips collected and paid with checks to the employees. However, despite various requests, Appellant has not provided bank deposit slips and details of tips account for the period from April 2012 to February 2014. In support of its contentions, Appellants submitted 119 pages of accounting records, Exhibit 3, to the Office of Tax Appeals. In reviewing Appellant's submission to the Office of Tax Appeals and previous submissions to the Department, the Department made a few observations.

Summary for check number 33523 and 33609, Exhibit 3, page 25 and 45, provides description details as to the account activity such as prospect, employee taxes, and various deductions. Remaining summaries provide no descriptions, instead show the description as "what did you pay for?" Summary for same two checks show \$23.76 cents as a deduction.

Exhibit A, page 362. Whereas Appellant's submission. Exhibit 3, page 25 and 45, shows these amount as tips paid to the employees. Further, all these summaries contain a statement, "this is not a legal pay stub."

Summary for the same two checks shows that further taxes were added to the employees wages/salary and claimed tips amounts were subjected to count for the Net Payment. Which means further taxes were paid to the employees, and tips were not paid -- or tips were adjusted.

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Payroll summary for July 2012 shows cash tips

1 payment of \$5,253 dollars. Exhibit A, page 376, whereas 2 Appellant's submission to the Office of Tax Appeals shows tips payment of \$12,350 dollars with checks. 3 4 Exhibit 3, page 6 and 7. Payroll summary for 5 July 2012 shows total cash tips of \$37 dollars. Exhibit A, page 376, whereas Appellant's 6 submission to the Office of Tax Appeals show tips of 7 \$446.37 cents with checks. Exhibit 3, page 24, 35, 44, 8 9 and 54, payroll summary for July 2012 shows total cash 10 tips of \$180 dollars for Andy Chow. 11 Exhibit A, page 376. Whereas Appellant's submission to the Office of Tax Appeals shows total tips 12 13 of \$804.35 cents with checks. Exhibit 3, page 18, 28, 38, and 48, payroll 14 15 summary for July 2012 shows total cash tips of \$863 dollars for Dustin Laufenberg. 16 17 Exhibit A, page 376. Whereas Appellant's 18 submission to the Office of Tax Appeals shows total tips 19 of \$1,411.36 cents with checks. 20 Exhibit 3, page 20, 31, 40, and 50. Payroll 21 summary for July 2012 shows total cash tips of \$660 dollars for and Andrew Still. 22 23 Exhibit A, page 376. Whereas Appellant's 24 submission to the Office of Tax Appeals shows total tips 25 of \$2,102.40 with checks.

Exhibit 3, page 17, 27, 37, and 47. Based on this review, the Department determined that Appellant's submission are inconsistent, incomplete, and unverifiable.

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Further, witness's testimony and submission of affidavits misreport that tips were paid with checks, but it does not support Appellant's contention that all tips were first deposited in the bank account. In the absence of complete, reliable, and verifiable bank deposits, the Department is unable to determine that all cash tips were first deposited in the bank account.

In order to support further adjustments, it is essential that Appellant established that optional cash tips were actually deposited into the bank account. To the extent that cash tips were not actually deposited into the bank account, the bank deposits amongst understate Appellant's total receipts.

It would be incorrect to deduct optional tip payments from bank deposits amounts if the bank deposits amounts do not include the receipts from cash optional tips. The accounting for bank deposit must include the receipts of optional cash tips in order for there to be an applicable deduction against those receipts.

As of now, Appellant has not submitted any documentary evidence such as daily cash tips, daily

1 total amount for cash tips, and bank deposit slips so 2 that the Department could verify that all sales and cash 3 tips were deposited in the bank accounts. 4 Based on the foregoing, the Department has 5 fully explained the basis for the deficiency and proved that the determination was reasonable based on the books 6 7 Appellant has not met it's burden to prove and records. Therefore, the Department request that 8 otherwise. 9 Appellant's appeal to be denied. 10 This concludes my presentation, and I'm available to answer any question you may have. 11 12 Thank you. 13 JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. Thank you. 14 I'm going to check in with my panel. 15 Judge Kwee, did you have any questions for Respondent? 16 I have -- this is Judge Kwee. 17 JUDGE KWEE: 18 I don't have any questions. Thank you. 19 JUDGE RALSTON: Judge Lambert, did you have 20 any questions for Respondent? 21 JUDGE LAMBERT: This is Judge Lambert. 2.2 I have no questions at this time. Thanks. 23 JUDGE RALSTON: Thank you. 24 Okay. Mr. Halverson, you have 10 minutes for 25 your rebuttal, and you can begin when you're ready.

1	REBUTTAL STATEMENT
2	MR. HALVERSON: Well, I'm going to make it
3	short and sweet.
4	In our opinion, we've met our burden of proof.
5	We've shown you two months for the two years. We've
6	gone through every check, and they total exactly what we
7	say they total. They are reflective of tip income. The
8	tip income was paid out weekly to the employees. And
9	you have affidavits and testimony to that effect.
10	Now, we would admit that some records may have
11	disappeared over the years according to my discussions
12	with Mr. Dudley. They've had three or five different
13	representatives handling this case over the years, and
14	all records were given to those representatives when
15	they were doing the audit, and some of those records
16	were not available when the auditor requested them from
17	us.
18	And we cannot tell you where they disappeared
19	in the chain of command. But it was never intentional,
20	and we've given them all the records that they asked for
21	that we had. So we think you've you should find in
22	favor of the Appellant on this issue, and that's the
23	only issue before you.
24	JUDGE RALSTON: Okay. Thank you very much.
25	Just checking in with my panel.

1 Judge Kwee, did you have any questions before 2 we end this hearing? This is Judge Kwee. 3 JUDGE KWEE: 4 I'm ready to conclude when you are. Thank 5 you. 6 JUDGE RALSTON: Thank you. 7 Judge Lambert, did you have any questions 8 before we conclude. 9 JUDGE LAMBERT: This is Judge Lambert. 10 No questions. Thanks. 11 JUDGE RALSTON: So we are ready to conclude 12 this hearing. 13 I want to thank everyone for attending. The 14 judges will meet and decide this case and issue an 15 opinion within a 100 days. 16 The record is now closed, and this hearing is 17 adjourn. 18 We will resume the hearing at 1:00 p.m. for 19 this afternoon's hearing, but as for the appeal of 20 Dudley Restaurants, we are now concluded. 21 Thank you everyone for attending. 2.2 (Proceedings concluded at 10:13 a.m.) 23 24 25

# HEARING REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2	
3	I, Christina L. Rodriguez, Hearing Reporter in
4	and for the State of California, do hereby certify:
5	That the foregoing transcript of proceedings
6	was taken before me at the time and place set forth,
7	that the testimony and proceedings were reported
8	stenographically by me and later transcribed by
9	computer-aided transcription under my direction and
10	supervision, that the foregoing is a true record of the
11	testimony and proceedings taken at that time.
12	I further certify that I am in no way
13	interested in the outcome of said action.
14	I have hereunto subscribed my name this 23rd
15	day of October, 2023.
16	
17	
18	
19	(
20	
21	Hearing Reporter
22	
23	
24	
25	

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