



## CITATION ORDER

<b>Citation Issued To:</b> SoCal Pilot Center 56850 Higgins Drive Thermal, CA 92274  <b>Institution Code:</b> Unapproved	<b>Citation Number:</b> 25260065
	<b>Total Fine Amount:</b> <b>\$50,000.00</b>
	<b>Order of Abatement Included:</b> Yes

Elizabeth Elias issues this citation in her official capacity as Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement at the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, California Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau").

### LICENSING HISTORY

1. On or about August 15, 2019, the Bureau verified SoCal Pilot Center, hereinafter referred to as the "Institution", as an Exempt Institution. This Verification of Exemption expired on or about August 15, 2021.

On or about July 28, 2021, the Bureau verified the Institution as an Exempt Institution. This Verification of Exemption expired on or about July 28, 2023.

On or about April 7, 2023, the Bureau verified the Institution as an Exempt Institution. This Verification of Exemption expired on or about April 7, 2025.

On or about August 15, 2025, the Bureau determined that the Institution is not approved by the Bureau to operate a private postsecondary institution.

### DISCIPLINE HISTORY

2. The Institution has no prior discipline history.

### CITATION JURISDICTION

3. This administrative citation is issued to the Institution pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94936 and 94944; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 75020 et seq. for the violation(s) described below.

## CAUSE FOR CITATION & ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND/OR ORDER OF ABATEMENT

4. The Institution is in violation of the following Bureau laws and regulations:

### Violation #1:

#### CEC section 94886 – Approval to Operate Required

**Cause for Citation:** On or about August 15, 2025, the Bureau completed an investigation based on information the Bureau received which alleged that the Institution is operating without Bureau approval and offering programs with total charges exceeding \$2,500.00.

The investigation determined that the Institution has not been issued an approval to operate and does not meet criteria to operate exempt under CEC section 94874. The Bureau substantiated the allegation(s) through interviews, documentation, statements, websites, advertising, and Bureau records.

Evidence collected confirms that the Institution accepted prepayment of program fees in excess \$2500.00 despite requiring students to sign enrollment documents which included the following disclosure, *"SoCal Pilot Center does not require nor accept prepayment of instruction- related costs in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the enrolled training course(s) above."*

**Administrative Fine:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 (b), the Institution is issued a fine of \$50,000.00.

**Order of Abatement:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 the Bureau issues the following order of abatement:

The Bureau orders the Institution to cease to operate as a private postsecondary educational institution, unless the institution qualifies for an exemption under California Education Code (CEC) section 94874, or until such time an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau.

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 149, the Institution shall cease unlawful advertising and shall notify the telephone company furnishing services to disconnect the telephone numbers contained in any

unlawful advertising with respect to the offering or performance of service that would require an approval to operate from the Bureau.

Further, the Institution shall submit a statement of attestation confirming that it has ceased to operate. The attestation shall further include: (1) a statement that, in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 149, the Institution will not use any website or telephone number to advertise, represent, or offer services in connection with the operation of a private postsecondary educational institution; and (2) a statement acknowledging that, pursuant to CEC section 94917, any note, instrument, or other evidence of indebtedness related to payment for an educational program is void and unenforceable unless, at the time of execution, the Institution held a valid approval to operate or out-of-state registration with the Bureau, and that the Institution will not enforce any loans prohibited under CEC section 94917.

Alternatively, the Institution may provide a statement of attestation explaining how it will meet and continue to operate under an exemption pursuant to CEC section 94874 and a statement acknowledging that, pursuant to CEC section 94917, any note, instrument, or other evidence of indebtedness related to payment for an educational program is void and unenforceable unless, at the time of execution, the Institution held a valid approval to operate or out-of-state registration with the Bureau, and that the Institution will not enforce any loans prohibited under CEC section 94917.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT**

5. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 94944, and 5 CCR section 75020, the Bureau issues the order(s) of abatement described above. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement must be submitted to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement may sent by mail or email to:

- Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aspen Grambusch  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834
- Email: [bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov)
  - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

### COMPLIANCE WITH ASSESSMENT OF FINE

6. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 94944, and 5 CCR sections 75020 and 75030, the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fines in the total amount of \$50,000.00 for the violations described above. Payment of the fines must be made to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of service of this citation unless an informal conference or hearing is requested. To assist the Bureau in processing the payment of fines, please submit the enclosed *Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal* form.

Payment must be sent to the Bureau by mail at:

- Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aspen Grambusch  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834

### NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

7. You have the right to contest this citation through an informal conference with the Bureau pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this citation, the Bureau must receive a written request within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation asking for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing or you may also submit the enclosed *Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing* form.

The written request may be sent by email or mail to the addresses below:

- Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aspen Grambusch  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834
- Email: [bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov)
  - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

Failure to submit a written request for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation will forfeit your ability to appeal the citation.

If a hearing is requested, you are not required to comply with this citation until a final order is entered against you.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH FINE AND/OR ORDER OR ABATEMENT DISCLOSURE**

8. Pursuant to BPC section 125.9 and 5 CCR section 75050, payment of fine and/or compliance with any order of abatement does not constitute an admission of the violation charged and shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for the purposes of public disclosure.

Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75050, failure to comply with this citation order, its order of abatement, and/or administrative fine by the required due date is grounds for denial or discipline of an approval to operate. Where a citation is not contested and fine is not paid, the full amount of the assessed fine shall be added to the fee for renewal of the approval to operate. An approval to operate shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine.

### **BUREAU CONTACT INFORMATION**

9. If you have any questions regarding this Citation, please contact Aspen Grambusch, Citation Analyst by email at [Aspen.Grambusch@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Aspen.Grambusch@dca.ca.gov) or by phone at (279) 895-6005.

"Original Signature on File"

9/2/2025

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Elizabeth Elias  
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

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Citation Date of Issuance

#### **Enclosures:**

- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail