



AFFIRMED CITATION ORDER

Citation Issued To: Sushi Chef Institute 1123 Van Ness Ave. Torrance, CA 90501	Citation Number: 25260005
	Total Fine Amount: \$16,505.00
Institution Code: 90285468	Order of Abatement Included: Yes

Elizabeth Elias issues this affirmed 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 January 12, 2021, the Bureau renewed an Approval to Operate a Private Postsecondary Institution, Institution Code 90285468, to Sushi Chef Institute hereinafter referred to as the "Institution". This Approval to Operate will expire on or about January 12, 2026, unless renewed.

DISCIPLINE HISTORY

2. The Institution has no prior discipline history.

CITATION JURISDICTION

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

CITATION HISTORY

4. On or about September 18, 2025, the Bureau issued Citation No. 25260005. On or about October 15, 2025, the Bureau received an appeal with a request for an informal conference and an administrative hearing. The informal conference was held on November 19, 2025. No new substantive

facts were presented during the informal conference; therefore, the Bureau affirms Citation No. 25260005.

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

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

Violation #1:

5 CCR section 76140(a)(1) and (a)(4-13) - Record-Keeping Requirements and 5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff requested the Institution's Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) substantiating data for the 3rd and 4th quarter reporting periods of 2023. By the end of the inspection, the Institution was not able to provide the required STRF supporting documents pursuant to 5 CCR section 76140, specifically data points (a)(1) and (a)(4-13).

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class B" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,001.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to correct the violation by providing an electronic copy of the template used by the Institution to document its STRF substantiating documentation, for the Bureau to verify the Institution is collecting the required data points pursuant to 5 CCR section 76140.

In addition, the Institution must submit a statement of attestation they have corrected the violation and will ensure that the substantiating data for STRF is maintained in an electronic format and readily available to a Bureau representative upon request per 5 CCR section 76140. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #2:

5 CCR section 74112(m)(3-6)(8-9) – Uniform Data – Annual Report, Performance Fact Sheet, 5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records, and CEC section 94929.7(a)(2) – Documentation of Performance Data

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff requested documentation supporting all data reported on the Institution's 2021/2022 School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS). Bureau staff found that the Institution failed to collect the required data pursuant to 5 CCR section 74112, specifically data points (m)(3-6) and (m)(8-9) and therefore was unable to make the documentation immediately available for inspection.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class A" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,501.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to correct the violation by providing an electronic copy of the template used by the Institution to document supporting data for SPFS, for the Bureau to verify the Institution is collecting the required data points pursuant to 5 CCR section 74112.

In addition, the Institution must submit a statement of attestation they have corrected the violation and will ensure that the supporting data for SPFS is maintained and immediately available during an inspection. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #3:

CEC section 94902(a) – General Enrollment Requirements and 5 CCR section 71920(b)(3) – Student Records

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed six graduate student files. Upon review, Bureau staff found that all student files contained enrollment agreements that were not fully executed. The enrollment agreements did not contain a signature of an authorized employee of the institution, a general enrollment requirement.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class B” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,001.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to ensure all student records follow the law pursuant to CEC section 94902 and 5 CCR section 71920. The Institution must submit a statement of attestation that they have corrected the violation and will ensure that all student records contain signed enrollment agreements. The statement of attestation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #4:

CEC section 94902(b)(1) and (b)(3) – General Enrollment Requirements and CEC section 94912 – Signature, Initials Required

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed six graduate student files and found that all six of the student files reviewed contained School Performance Fact Sheets (SPFS) that were not signed by the institution.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class B” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,001.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to ensure all student records follow the law pursuant to CEC sections 94902 and 94912. The Institution must submit a statement of attestation that they have corrected the violation and will ensure that all student records contain signed and dated SPFS. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #5:

5 CCR section 71920(b)(1)(A) - Student Records and 5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed six student files and found that all student files reviewed failed to contain verification of high school completion or equivalency or other documentation establishing the student's ability to do college level work.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class A" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,501.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to submit a statement of attestation that they will maintain required student records pursuant to 5 CCR sections 71920 and 71930. The statement of attestation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #6:

CEC section 94900(b) – Required Student Records and 5 CCR section 71920(b)(5) – Student Records and 5 CCR section 71930(a) and (e) – Maintenance of Records

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed six graduate student files and concluded that none of the files contained a transcript of courses, the units on which the certificate was based, or the grades earned by the students.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class A" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$5,000.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to submit a statement of attestation that they will maintain required student records pursuant to CEC section 94900 and 5 CCR sections 71920 and 71930. The statement of attestation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Institution.

Violation #7:

5 CCR section 76120(a) – Amount of STRF Assessment and 5 CCR section 76130(a)(1) – Collection and Submission of STRF Assessments

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, the Bureau conducted an announced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff requested to review the Institution's Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) substantiating data for the 3rd and 4th quarter reporting periods of 2023. Bureau staff determined the Institution failed to collect the correct STRF assessment during the 3rd and 4th Quarters of 2023, of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or who is enrolled in a residency program.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class B" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,000.00.

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

The Institution shall revise and resubmit the STRF Assessment Reporting Forms for the third and fourth quarters of 2023, along with the corrected remittance of STRF funds. Additionally, the Institution shall submit a signed and dated statement of attestation, from an authorized representative, confirming that the violation has been corrected. The attestation must also affirm that the Institution is now accurately assessing and collecting the correct STRF amounts in all enrollment agreements.

Violation #8:

CEC section 94935(b) and (h) – Notice to Comply and 5 CCR section 75010(h) - Notice to Comply; Informal Appeal Process

Cause for Citation: On or about March 19, 2024, Bureau staff issued a Notice to Comply (NTC) to the Institution for the following violations:

- CEC section 94911(e)(2)- Minimum Requirements for Enrollment Agreements in conjunction with CEC 94920(b) – Mandatory Cancellation, Withdrawal, and Refund Policies
- 5 CCR section 71760 – Self-Monitoring Procedures

The Institution failed remedy the noncompliance as noted in the Notice to Comply within 30 days.

Administrative Fine: Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class B” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,500.00.

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

The Bureau orders the Institution to correct the violations identified in the Notice to Comply and submit proof of compliance pursuant to CEC section 94935 and 5 CCR section 75010.

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COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

6. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 5 CCR sections 75020 and 75040, 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 affirmed 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 – Nicole Pedersen
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834
 - Email: bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov
 - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

COMPLIANCE WITH ASSESSMENT OF FINE

7. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936, and 5 CCR section 75020 et seq., the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fines in the total amount of \$16,505.00 for the violations described above. Payment of the fines must be made to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of issuance of this affirmed citation. 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 – Nicole Pedersen
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225
Sacramento, CA 95834

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

8. Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75040(d), the affirmed decision is considered final, unless a request for a hearing was filed timely.

If the Institution requested a hearing and no longer chooses to proceed with the hearing, the Institution may request to withdraw the request for a

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hearing. If the Institution has not requested to withdraw the hearing, a hearing will be set to hear the matter.

COMPLIANCE WITH FINE AND/OR ORDER OR ABATEMENT DISCLOSURE

9. Pursuant to 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. The Bureau may also enforce the administrative fine as if it were a money judgment pursuant to CEC section 94936.

BUREAU CONTACT INFORMATION

10. If you have any questions regarding this Citation, please contact Nicole Pedersen, Citation Analyst by email at Nicole.Pedersen@dca.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 232-0510.

“Original Signature on File”

12/17/2025

Elizabeth Elias
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

Citation Date of Issuance

Enclosures:

- Payment of Fine
- Withdrawal of Request for Administration Hearing
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail