



FILED

07/03/26

04:59 PM

K2607010

ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS A-E

Exhibit A - June 22, 2026 Supplier Clearinghouse Appeal Response

Exhibit B - May 12, 2026 Notice of Denial

Exhibit C - May 14, 2026 Notice of Receipt of Internal Appeal

Exhibit D - May 12, 2026 Internal Appeal Email

Exhibit E - June 16, 2026 Appeal Review Meeting Presentation Outline

EXHIBIT A

June 22, 2026 Supplier Clearinghouse Appeal Response



The Supplier Clearinghouse

3525 Hyland Ave., Suite 135
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone (800) 359-7998
info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com
www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com

June 22, 2026

RE: Appeal Response

Konstantin Kazmierski
Mar Organica LLC
21143 Hawthorne Blvd unit 303
Torrance, CA 90503

Supplier Clearinghouse Verification Order Number: 26000639

Dear Konstantin Kazmierski:

The Supplier Clearinghouse has carefully considered the facts presented by Mar Organica LLC the appeal outline provided June 16, 2026, the application, supporting documentation, and supplemental documentation submitted to the Supplier Clearinghouse. The denial is hereby affirmed and the decision to deny Mar Organica LLC Minority Business Enterprise (“MBE”) certification is upheld. The upholding of the denial is supported by evidence in the record and is consistent with General Order 156 and Supplier Clearinghouse Guidelines.

A full review of your certification file and the information submitted in your appeal has been completed. The evidence supports the Supplier Clearinghouse’s determination that the firm does not meet the eligibility standards established under General Order 156.

The primary reasons for upholding the denial are explained below:

The firm submitted an application to the Supplier Clearinghouse identifying Konstantin Kazmierski as the firm’s sole owner, holding 100% ownership. The application reports Mr. Kazmierski’s ethnicity as Hispanic American.

The denial was based on documentation indicating that Mr. Kazmierski is an individual of Brazilian origin. In the appeal materials submitted on May 14, 2026, the firm acknowledges this classification and requests reconsideration on the basis that Brazilian origin should be included within the definition of Hispanic American under General Order 156 because Brazil is located in South America. The appeal further asserts that the denial reflects an improper exclusion of Brazilian origin from the phrase “South or Central American” as set forth in Section 1.3.10.

Under General Order 156, Section 1.3.4, a Minority Business Enterprise must be at least 51% owned by one or more individuals who are members of a recognized minority group. Section 1.3.10 defines a

Mar Organica LLC

June 22, 2026

Page **2** of **2**

Hispanic American person as an individual of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin. Eligibility determinations under General Order 156 are not based on geographic location alone and must be applied consistent with established application of the Order. Individuals of Brazilian origin are not recognized as meeting the definition of a Hispanic American person under General Order 156.

For the reasons explained in this letter, the denial of Mar Organica LLC is being upheld. You may reapply for certification twelve (12) months from the date of the denial letter (May 12, 2026).

You may lodge a formal appeal of this decision to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) within 20 days from the date of this letter in accordance with General Order 156. If you elect to do so, you must also submit a copy of your formal appeal to the Supplier Clearinghouse.

Thank you for your interest in the Supplier Diversity Program. If you have any questions, you may contact our offices toll-free at (800) 359-7998.

The Supplier Clearinghouse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasmin Joseph', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jasmin Joseph
Certification Director

EXHIBIT B

May 12, 2026 Notice of Denial



The Supplier Clearinghouse

3525 Hyland Avenue, Suite 135
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone (800)359-7998
info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com
www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com

5/12/2026

RE: Notice of Denial

Konstantin Kazmierski
Mar Organica LLC
1749 East F Street
Oakdale, CA 95361

Supplier Clearinghouse Verification Order Number: 26000639

Konstantin Kazmierski,

In accordance with General Order 156 and the Supplier Clearinghouse Guidelines, please accept this letter as notification that your application for **Minority Business Enterprise** certification has been reviewed and unfortunately your request is denied. The decision to deny your firm is effective as of the date of this letter.

According to your firm's governing documents submitted, **Mar Organica LLC** does not meet the criteria under General Order 156, guidelines –

Section 1.3, Subsection 1.3.4: "Minority Business Enterprise" means (1) a business enterprise (a) that is at least 51% owned by a minority individual or group(s) or (b) if a publicly owned business, at least 51 % of the stock of which is owned by one or more minority groups, and (2) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of those individuals. The contracting utility shall presume that minority includes, but is not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and other groups, as defined herein.

Section 1.3, Subsection 1.3.10: "Hispanic American person," for purposes of GO 156, refers to a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, Caribbean, and other Spanish culture or origin.

The reasons for the denial are listed below:

The application for Mar Organica LLC identifies Konstantin Kazmierski as the firm's sole owner, holding 100% ownership and serving as Owner. The application reports Mr. Kazmierski's race and ethnicity as Hispanic American. Based on the documentation provided, Konstantin Kazmierski is an individual of Brazilian origin. Minority eligibility determinations are made exclusively in accordance with the classifications defined under General Order 156. Individuals of Brazilian origin are not included within the minority groups recognized under General Order 156, Subsection 1.3.4, nor are they included within the definition of a Hispanic American person as set forth in Subsection 1.3.10. Accordingly, under General Order 156 and the Supplier Clearinghouse Eligibility Standards, Mar Organica LLC does not meet the criteria for certification as a Minority Business Enterprise.

If you do not agree with this decision, and you believe that your company should be granted certification, you may file an internal appeal with the Supplier Clearinghouse. You may file your internal appeal by using one of the two methods below:

1. Submit a written appeal that lists and identifies opposing facts and evidence which support your contention that certification should be granted to your company; or

2. Submit a written request to have a review meeting with a Supplier Clearinghouse representative at which time you may present oral and written facts and evidence to support your contention that certification should be granted to your company.

Your appeal will be limited to the reasons stated in this "Denial Notification" letter. If you choose to appeal, you must do so within **14 days** of the date of this letter. The review of your appeal will be based solely on the documents submitted with the original application as of the date of your affidavit. The Supplier Clearinghouse will not accept updated, revised, or new documents when reviewing your appeal. Refer to our Complaint, Appeal and Dispute Investigation Procedure at <https://tinyurl.com/3y78sbz3> (case sensitive) for more information on the process.

Please reference your verification order number and your company name and submit all correspondence to:

info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com

If you decide not to appeal against this decision, you may reapply for certification twelve months from the date of this letter. If you have any questions, you may contact our offices at (562) 325-8685 or toll free at (800) 359-7998. You may also visit our website for additional information at www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com.

The Supplier Clearinghouse

3525 Hyland Ave., Suite 135

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Phone (800) 359-7998

info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com

www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com

EXHIBIT C

May 14, 2026 Notice of Receipt of Internal Appeal



The Supplier Clearinghouse

3525 Hyland Avenue, Suite 135
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone (800)359-7998
info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com
www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com

May 14, 2026

RE: Notice of Receipt to Appeal Denial Decision

Konstantin Kazmierski
Mar Organica LLC
21143 Hawthorne Blvd, Unit 303
Torrance, CA 90503

Supplier Clearinghouse Verification Order Number: 26000639

Konstantin Kazmierski,

This letter is to notify **Mar Organica LLC** that your request to appeal the denial decision for **Minority Business Enterprise** certification has been received by the Supplier Clearinghouse.

Your appeal is currently under internal review, and we will keep you informed of progress. The review of your appeal will be based solely on the documents submitted with the original application as of the date of your affidavit. The Supplier Clearinghouse will not accept updated, revised, or new documents when reviewing your appeal. Please refer to Section 3 of our Complaint, Appeal and Dispute Investigation Procedure for the steps we will be taking and the associated timeline.

Once the internal appeal review has been completed, the majority 51% owner(s) will receive one of the following:

1. A letter informing you that the decision during the internal appeal process is to uphold the denial; or
2. letter containing an approval letter and certificate informing you certification has been granted.

During this period, you may be contacted to schedule a review meeting and/or provide additional information and supporting documents. If you have any questions about the process or timeline, you may contact our office toll-free at (800) 359-7998. Please note staff will not be able to answer specific questions about the review of your protest.

The Supplier Clearinghouse

3525 Hyland Ave., Suite 135
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone (800) 359-7998

info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com
www.thesupplierclearinghouse.com

EXHIBIT D

May 12, 2026 Internal Appeal Email



Ko Lex <kolexrolas@gmail.com>

Internal Appeal of MBE Denial – Mar Organica LLC / Verification Order No. 26000639

1 message

Ko Lex <kolexrolas@gmail.com>

12 May 2026 at 16:05

To: Support <info@thesupplierclearinghouse.com>

Dear Supplier Clearinghouse Appeals Review Team,

Please accept this correspondence as Mar Organica LLC's timely internal appeal of the May 12, 2026 Notice of Denial issued under Verification Order Number 26000639.

Mar Organica LLC respectfully appeals the denial of Minority Business Enterprise certification under CPUC General Order 156. This appeal is limited to the stated basis for denial in the Notice of Denial: the Supplier Clearinghouse's conclusion that an individual of Brazilian origin is not included within the minority groups recognized under General Order 156 and is not included within the definition of a Hispanic American person under Subsection 1.3.10.

The denial should be reconsidered because the stated basis appears inconsistent with the plain language of the authority quoted in the Notice of Denial itself.

The Notice of Denial states that, based on the documentation provided, Konstantin Kazmierski is an individual of Brazilian origin. The Notice then quotes General Order 156, Subsection 1.3.10, which defines "Hispanic American person" to include a person of "Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, Caribbean, and other Spanish culture or origin."

Brazil is a South American country. Therefore, where the existing application record supports Brazilian origin, and where General Order 156 expressly includes persons of South or Central American origin within the Hispanic American category, the denial appears to exclude Brazilian origin from the phrase "South or Central American" without identifying the specific textual, regulatory, CPUC, or Supplier Clearinghouse authority for doing so.

Mar Organica LLC respectfully submits that the denial letter does not state that the applicant failed to establish Brazilian origin. To the contrary, the denial states that, based on the documentation provided, Mr. Kazmierski is an individual of Brazilian origin. The denial therefore turns on an interpretation issue: whether Brazilian origin is excluded from the phrase "South or Central American" as used in General Order 156, Subsection 1.3.10.

Mar Organica LLC respectfully requests that the Supplier Clearinghouse reverse the denial and grant MBE certification because the plain language quoted in the Notice includes South American origin, and Brazil is within South America.

In the alternative, if the Supplier Clearinghouse maintains that Brazilian origin is excluded from the GO 156 definition of Hispanic American person, Mar Organica LLC respectfully requests a written explanation identifying the precise authority relied upon for that exclusion, including any applicable CPUC decision, General Order 156 provision, Supplier Clearinghouse guideline, written policy, or interpretive standard that limits "South or Central American" origin to exclude Brazil.

Mar Organica LLC also notes that the Notice of Denial states that the appeal review will be based solely on the documents submitted with the original application as of the date of the affidavit, and that updated, revised, or new documents will not be accepted. Accordingly, this appeal is based on the existing application record, the findings stated in the Notice of Denial, and the text of General Order 156 quoted in the Notice.

For the foregoing reasons, Mar Organica LLC respectfully requests that the Supplier Clearinghouse reconsider and reverse the denial of MBE certification under General Order 156.

Please confirm receipt of this internal appeal and advise of the next steps in the appeal review process.

Respectfully,

Konstantin Kazmierski
Owner, Mar Organica LLC
Verification Order Number: 26000639
[Phone Number]
[Email Address]

Kostas Kazmierski
Principal,
Mar Organica LLC
21143 Hawthorne Blvd
Unit 303 Torrance, CA 90503 |
(M) +1 424-205-9660
info@marorganica.com

Mar Organica LLC is a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) with the State of California and the City of Los Angeles

EXHIBIT E

June 16, 2026 Appeal Review Meeting Presentation Outline

APPEAL REVIEW MEETING — PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Mar Organica LLC

Supplier Clearinghouse Verification Order No. 26000639

CPUC General Order 156 — MBE Certification

Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 10:30 a.m. PST (Microsoft Teams)

This outline is submitted in advance of the appeal review meeting, as requested. It identifies the points Mar Organica LLC intends to present regarding the stated basis for denial. The firm understands the appeal is limited to the reason stated in the denial letter and that the review is based on the existing application record.

I. Introduction and Scope (approx. 3 min)

- Presenter: Konstantin “Kostas” Kazmierski, 100% Owner and Managing Member, Mar Organica LLC.
- The denial letter states the firm does not meet the GO 156 definition because the owner is of Brazilian origin, and Brazilian origin is not expressly listed within the recognized minority groups or within the “Hispanic American person” definition.
- Ownership and control are not in dispute. The Clearinghouse’s letter raises a single, narrow issue: how Brazilian / Latin American ancestry is classified under GO 156. This appeal is limited to that classification question.

II. The Owner’s Background (approx. 4 min)

Mr. Kazmierski will speak to his own family background and heritage in his own words. The supporting letters in the record — from the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Capital Readiness Program (AZHCC-CRP) and from So Cal Corporate Growth Partners — reflect his registration and self-identification as Latin American / Brazilian.

- The AZHCC-CRP letter (April 21, 2026) confirms Mr. Kazmierski is a registered client in good standing and that, upon registration, he attested to membership in a group subject to ethnic prejudice or cultural bias, identified as “Latin American / Brazilian.” AZHCC-CRP is a Hispanic Chamber program administered in connection with the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).
- The So Cal Corporate Growth Partners letter affirms the owner’s Brazilian / Latin American heritage and family ties to Brazil.

III. The Classification Argument under GO 156 (approx. 12 min)

A. The recognized-group list is illustrative, not exhaustive

- GO 156 § 1.3.4 states that minority “includes, but is not limited to,” African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, “and other groups, as defined herein.”
- The phrase “not limited to” signals that the enumerated groups are examples, and that the Commission contemplated recognition beyond a rigid, closed list.

B. The “South or Central American” language

- GO 156 § 1.3.10 defines “Hispanic American person” to include persons of “Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, Caribbean, and other Spanish culture or origin.”
- Brazil is geographically located in South America. The firm asks the panel to consider whether the “South or Central American” clause should be given effect for an applicant of documented South American origin, rather than read out of the definition entirely.
- Acknowledge the counter-reading honestly: the Clearinghouse interprets “other Spanish culture or origin” as limiting the definition to Spanish-heritage origin, which would exclude Portuguese-speaking Brazil. The firm’s position is that the geographic clause should not be rendered meaningless, and asks for the panel’s reasoning on how the two clauses are reconciled.

C. Consistency with the federal definition

- The federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, 49 CFR Part 26, defines “Hispanic Americans” to include persons of Spanish OR Portuguese culture or origin — expressly reaching Portuguese-origin individuals such as Brazilians.
- Because GO 156 and the federal DBE program both serve minority-inclusion goals in public contracting, the firm respectfully asks the Clearinghouse to consider interpreting GO 156 consistently with the federal standard, or to explain the basis for a narrower reading.

IV. Supporting Considerations (approx. 5 min)

- Good-faith application: the firm applied in good faith based on a sincere identification with its Brazilian / Latin American heritage, supported by recognized organizations.
- Recognition elsewhere: Mar Organica LLC has been certified as an MBE by the City of Los Angeles and holds SBE and LSBE certifications with the State of California, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles. This is offered to show good faith and that the firm’s documents were accepted as authentic by another public certifying body — not as a claim that those determinations bind the Clearinghouse, which the firm acknowledges applies its own GO 156 definitions.
- Substantive disadvantage: the owner built the firm as a first-generation business owner without inherited capital or institutional networks, relying on public mentorship and small-business development programs (e.g., LAUSD Small Contractor Boot Camp).

V. Request and Alternatives (approx. 3 min)

1. Primary request: that the Clearinghouse reconsider and grant MBE certification based on the classification arguments above.
2. Alternative request: if the Clearinghouse maintains that GO 156 excludes Portuguese-origin / Brazilian ancestry, that it state that conclusion clearly and identify what documentation, if any, could support eligibility — including whether a certified birth-certificate pathway (one of the Clearinghouse’s own listed proofs) would change the analysis.
3. Guidance request: that the Clearinghouse advise whether the federal DBE program, administered in California through the Caltrans-led California Unified Certification

Program (CUCP), is the more appropriate pathway given the federal definition's inclusion of Portuguese origin and the firm's goal of federally assisted transportation and infrastructure work.

