The Supplier Clearinghouse

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October 12, 2026

RE: Appeal Response

Nicole Ryan
Winchester Civil
29752 Ryegrass Dr.
Winchester, CA 92596

Supplier Clearinghouse Verification Order Number: 26001255

Dear Nicole Ryan:

The Supplier Clearinghouse has carefully considered the application, supporting documentation, and facts presented by Winchester Civil during the appeal meeting conducted on October 8, 2026. The denial is hereby affirmed and the decision to deny Winchester Civil Women Business Enterprise ("WBE") 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 Nicole Ryan, a woman, who owns 51% and serves as the firm's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"); and Leif Ryan, a male who owns 49% and serves as the firm's Vice President.

In the appeal, Ms. Ryan states that she founded Winchester Civil and is responsible for the firm's business development, client relationships, contract administration, financial management, strategic planning, and overall management. The appeal further asserts that Mr. Ryan's responsibilities are limited to technical construction functions, field operations, and contractor licensing activities, and that these responsibilities should not be interpreted as evidence of control over the business.

The firm's stock ledger and stock certificates indicate that Nicole Amber Ryan owns 501 shares under Certificate Number 01 and Leif Ryan owns 499 shares under Certificate Number 02. The Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on May 19, 2023, further confirm the issuance of 501 shares to Nicole Ryan

and 499 shares to Leif Ryan. Based on the governing documents submitted with the application, Nicole Ryan holds 50.1% ownership of the company and Leif Ryan holds 49.9% ownership.

Under General Order 156, certification as a Women Business Enterprise requires that one or more women own at least 51% of the firm. While the appeal states that a 51%/49% ownership structure was intended, the governing documents submitted with the application establish ownership of 50.1% and 49.9%, respectively. During the appeal review process, Ms. Ryan acknowledged the ownership calculation and inquired about correcting the firm's share structure for a future application.

The appeal also maintains that Ms. Ryan exercises control over the firm's management and decision-making. However, eligibility for certification requires that a firm satisfy both the ownership and control requirements established under General Order 156. Regardless of the firm's intended ownership structure or the division of responsibilities between the shareholders, the ownership documents submitted with the application do not establish the minimum 51% woman ownership required for certification.

As acknowledged in the Supplier Clearinghouse Participation Agreement, appeal review is based solely on the documents submitted with the original application as of the affidavit date, and updated, revised, or newly created documents cannot be considered during the appeal process. Eligibility for certification is based on the firm's ownership and control structure in place at the time of application, not future intentions or subsequent revisions.

Based on the information provided in the original application, supporting documentation, and appeal, Winchester Civil does not meet the eligibility requirements under General Order 156 and the established Supplier Clearinghouse Eligibility Standards for Women Business Enterprise certification. For the reasons explained in this letter, the denial of Winchester Civil, is being upheld. You may reapply for certification twelve (12) months from the date of the denial letter (September 28, 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



Jasmin Joseph
Certification Director