# State of California DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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November 3, 2023

Huy Nguyen Registered Agent Essential Flavors 7562 Orangewood Ave. Stanton, CA 90680

Cc Huy Nguyen CEO NKD 100 Inc. 7562 Orangewood Stanton, CA 90680

Cc Thuy Nguyen CEO Schwartz E Liquid DBA USA Vape Lab 5802 Engineer Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92649

RE: California Flavor Ban, Health & Safety Code § 104559.5 Notice of Determination 23-11-A1

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

Since December 21, 2022, California has restricted retailer possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco product flavor enhancers. See Cal. Health & Saf. § 104559.5. A "tobacco product flavor enhancer" is "a product designed, manufactured, produced, marketed, or sold to produce a characterizing flavor when added to a tobacco product." Id. at subd. (a)(15). A "characterizing flavor" is "a distinguishable taste or aroma, or both, other than the taste or aroma of tobacco, imparted by a tobacco product or any byproduct produced by the tobacco product. Characterizing flavors include, but are not limited to . . . fruit, . . . dessert . . . menthol, [or] mint . . ." Id. at subd. (a)(1).

This letter is to advise you that the Tobacco Unit of the California Department of Justice has reviewed referred packaging and promotional materials for the below products (collectively, the "Reviewed Products") and determined that they are tobacco product flavor enhancers under the California flavor ban law. *Id*.

Determination Number	Reviewed Product(s)	UPC(s)	Determination
23-11-A1-1	NKD Aloe Apple Grape	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-2	NKD Apple	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-3	NKD Apple Strawberry Nectarine	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-4	NKD Berries	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-5	NKD Blue Razz Pomegranate	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-6	NKD Blueberry Lemon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-7	NKD Citrus	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-8	NKD Grape	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-9	NKD Hawaiin POG	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-10	NKD Kiwi Passion Guava	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-11	NKD Lava Flow	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-12	NKD Lemon Raspberry	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-13	NKD Mango Peach Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-14	NKD Peach Mango	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-15	NKD Red Orange Mango	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-16	NKD Sour Apple Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-17	NKD Strawberry	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-18	NKD Strawberry Mango	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-19	NKD Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-20	NKD White Guava	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-21	NKD Strawberry Lemonade	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-22	NKD Lemon Cream	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-23	NKD Strawberry Cream	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-24	NKD Watermelon Orange Cream	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-25	NKD Ice Aloe Apple Grape	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-26	NKD Ice Apple	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-27	NKD Ice Apple Strawberry Nectarine	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-28	NKD Ice Berries	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-29	NKD Ice Blue Razz Pomegranate	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-30	NKD Ice Blueberry Lemon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-31	NKD Ice Brain Freeze	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-32	NKD Ice Citrus	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER

23-11-A1-33	NKD Ice Grape	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-34	NKD Ice Hawaiian POG	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-35	NKD Ice Kiwi Passion Guava	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-36	NKD Ice Lava Flow	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-37	NKD Ice Lemon Raspberry	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-38	NKD Ice Mango Peach Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-39	NKD Ice Peach Mango	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-40	NKD Ice Sour Apple Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-41	NKD Ice Strawberry	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-42	NKD Ice Strawberry Mango	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-43	NKD Ice Watermelon	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-44	NKD Ice White Guava	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-45	NKD Apple Sour Belt	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-46	NKD Fruit Cereal	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-47	NKD Strawberry Sour Belts	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-48	NKD Pink Burst	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-49	NKD Arctic Air	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-50	NKD Wintergreen	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-51	NKD Custard Tobacco	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER
23-11-A1-52	NKD Key Lime Cookie	Various	FLAVOR ENHANCER

# We specifically conclude:

- (1) Labeling and packaging for the Reviewed Products suggests that products are flavored and contain photos and/or words associated with fruit, dessert, mint and/or menthol. *See* TAB A.
- (2) Many flavor enhancers share flavors with co-branded tobacco products. E.g. TAB B.
- (3) The Reviewed Products are being marketed and sold alongside tobacco products, including co-branded tobacco products. *E.g.* TAB C.
- (4) The Reviewed Products are designed for use with co-branded tobacco products. *See* TAB D.

The California flavor ban law restricts the retail distribution and sale of tobacco product flavor enhancers to California consumers. Under the California flavor ban law, retailers and their agents

Notice of Determination 23-11-A1 November 3, 2023 Page 4

are subject to fines for the possession and sale of such tobacco product flavor enhancers. *See* Cal. Health & Saf. § 104559.5(f). Other state statutes and local ordinances may impose additional penalties on retailers or other vendors as well. *Id.* at § 104559.5(g); *see also* Cal. Bus. & Prof. § 17200.

To encourage uniform application of the California flavor ban law, this Notice of Determination will be posted on the California Department of Justice's public website on or after December 4, 2023.

You are encouraged to provide a copy to your California distributor and retailer customers as well.

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Notice of Determination 23-11-A1 November 3, 2023 Page 5

If you believe these determinations or conclusions are in error, or if you believe any Reviewed Product(s) is properly classified as UNFLAVORED, we encourage you to submit a response with any supporting materials to the mailing or email address below on or before December 4, 2023, identifying the Notice of Determination number in your response. The Tobacco Unit will review any such submission and may, in its discretion, update, modify, or rescind this determination in response. In such case, an updated Notice of Determination will be issued.

Flavor Determination [Determination Number(s)]
Office of the Attorney General
California Department of Justice
1300 "I" Street, PO Box 944255
Sacramento, California 94244-2550
Tobacco@doj.ca.gov

https://oag.ca.gov/tobacco/contact

Sincerely,

Taylor Ann Whittemore

TAYLOR ANN WHITTEMORE Deputy Attorney General

For ROB BONTA Attorney General

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### TAB A – PACKAGING IMAGES













































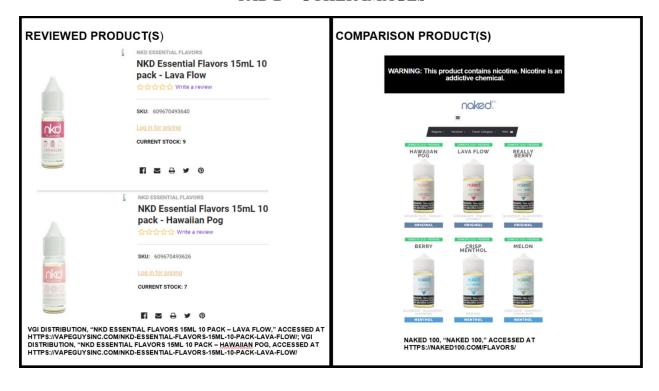






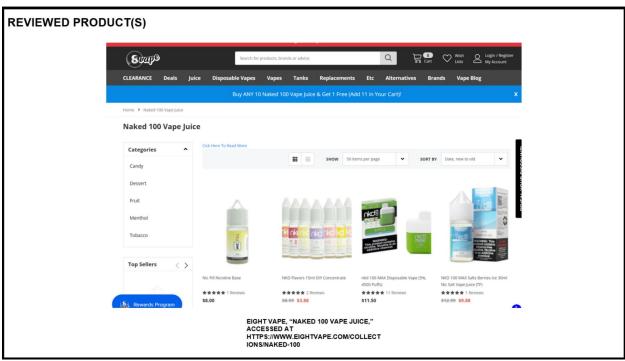


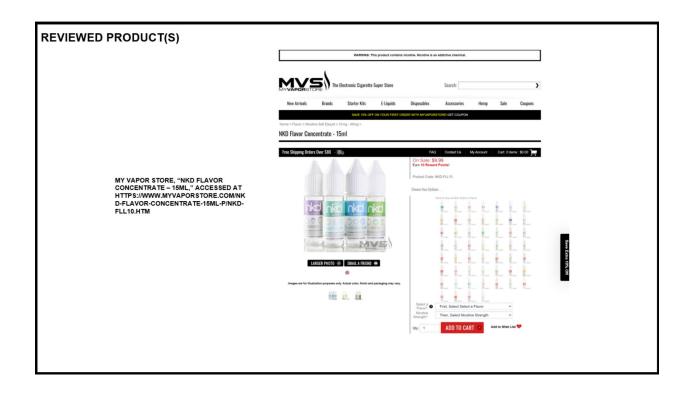
### TAB B - OTHER IMAGES



TAB C - OTHER IMAGES







## TAB D – OTHER IMAGES

