

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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September 7, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – STATE OF CALIFORNIA

On August 31, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency for the State of California as a result of a significant heat wave that started on August 30, 2022, and was expected to last through September 6, 2022. On September 6, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom extended this State of Emergency until September 9, 2022, due to continued triple-digit temperatures forecasted through Friday.

The Extreme Heat Event is putting, and will continue to put, significant demand and strain on California's energy grid. This Extreme Heat Event is forecasted to be a western region-wide event, meaning that energy demand will be high across the region, and California will have limited ability to import energy from out-of-state. Peak load for electricity is projected to reach its highest level of the year, exceeding 51,276 megawatts on September 6, 2022. Californians are being encouraged to conserve electricity to avoid power disruptions.

As a result of the State of Emergency declared for the State of California, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations §54326(a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of this Extreme Heat Event. The applicable regulation section reads as follows:

“[All vendors shall...] Not bill for consumer absences for nonresidential services. The Department shall authorize payment for absences which are the direct result of situations and/or occurrences for which a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor. If payment for absences due to a State of Emergency is authorized by the Department, the vendor shall bill only for absences in excess of the average number of absences experienced by the vendor during the 12-month period prior to the month in which the disaster occurred.”

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Regional Center Executive Directors
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If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (916) 838-8960, or by email, at ernie.cruz@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Cruz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Administrators
Association of Regional Center Agencies