

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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October 28, 2019

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY - STATEWIDE

On October 26, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency for the State of California, as a result of the historic wind events resulting in statewide red flag warnings, due to extremely dangerous fire weather conditions.

These fire and weather conditions are unprecedented due to the scale, scope, wind speed, and dry fuel conditions, and pose a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of Californians.

Additionally, these extreme fire and weather conditions and affiliated red flag warnings exist in at least 43 counties, extending from the northernmost position of California through the Valley, and into and throughout Southern California, with sustained wind speeds in some areas expected to reach 55 miles per hour with gusts up to 75 miles per hour.

As a result of these extreme conditions, electrical utilities, including Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric, have independently decided to engage in de-energization of their power lines, known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS, resulting in more than one million customers without electricity, including, but not limited to, households, businesses, public facilities, medical care facilities, schools, and critical infrastructure.

The circumstances of these extreme conditions, by reason of magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

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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 section 54326 (a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of these fires in the counties listed above. 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.”

If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (916) 654-3722, or by email, at rapone.anderson@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

RAPONE ANDERSON, Manager
Office of Community Operations
Community Services Division

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