



NANCY BARGMANN  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Developmental Services**  
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

July 31, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – BOREL FIRE

On July 30, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency for counties that may affect vendor services in Kern Regional Center's catchment area. For additional details of the declared State of Emergency, please visit: [In Kern County, Governor Newsom proclaims state of emergency, meets with Borel Fire first responders.](#)

As a result of the State of Emergency, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 54326(a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of the State of Emergency. CCR, section 54326(a)(11) states:

*"[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 the Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Office by email, at [dutyofficer1@dds.ca.gov](mailto:dutyofficer1@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

ERNIE CRUZ  
Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

Cc: See next page

REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

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cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Client Services  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services  
Carla Castaneda, Department of Developmental Services  
Pete Cervinka, Department of Developmental Services  
Jim Knight, Department of Developmental Services  
Tiffani Andrade, Department of Developmental Service