

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, MS 8-30
Sacramento, CA 95814
TTY: 711
(833) 421-0061



September 7, 2022

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY – SISKIYOU COUNTY

On September 2, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency for Siskiyou County, as a result of the Mill Fire that began burning on September 2, 2022, where Red Flag warnings are in effect.

The Mill Fire has exhibited extreme fire behavior and has burned more than 900 acres, moving quickly through portions of the city of Weed. The rapid spread of this fire has caused civilian injuries and power outages, damaged or destroyed multiple structures and homes, and forced road closures. The continued threat to homes, structures and other critical infrastructure in the City of Weed and surrounding communities, including Lake Shastina and Edgewood, necessitates the evacuation of more than 5,800 residents.

In addition, extreme drought conditions, high temperatures, dry fuels, and high winds have increased the intensity and spread of this fire, causing imminent threat to life.

As a result of the State of Emergency declared in the county listed above, 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 fire. 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
September 7, 2022
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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