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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

April 5, 2012

To: County Environmental Health Directors and Interested Parties

**Subject: Elimination of the California Department of Public Health Recreational Health Program**

This letter is to inform you that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in accordance with the Administration's focus on efficiencies has proposed to eliminate its Recreational Health Program effective with the passage of the 2012-13 Budget. Under the proposal CDPH will cease the assessment of the annual fee collected by the counties.

The program was established within CDPH to implement the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) and to ensure that California law and regulation is in conformance with federal safety standards designed to prevent entrapment hazards associated with public pools and spas. The mandate is contained in Sections 116064.1 and 116064.2 of the Health and Safety Code and is intended to prevent injuries and drowning related to the physical entrapment hazards in public swimming pools and spas. Please note that while CDPH proposes the elimination of its Recreation Health Program, the key elements contained within statute related to VGB and the federal safety standards will remain in effect.

While the program was designed to sunset in 2014, its proposed elimination with the 2012-13 Budget is supported by the work already completed by CDPH. This included providing statewide information and guidance memos to Local Environmental Health Departments (LEHDs) for their use and for distribution to owners of public pools and spas and their contractors, as well as working with the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) to develop a pool owners compliance form and instructional materials distributed to LEHDs and pool owners, operators, and contractors.

CDPH greatly appreciates the close collaboration with your program over the years and is grateful for all the work and effort in assisting with the many accomplishments that

April 5, 2012

have resulted in safer pools and spas within the state. As this proposal moves forward, we are committed to provide additional information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Leah Godsey Walker, P.E., Chief  
Division of Drinking Water  
and Environmental Management