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Director and State Public Health Officer

Gavin Newsom
Governor

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT NOTICE

DPH-24-012 – Reduction Chamber Standards

Notice is hereby given that the California Department of Public Health (Department) is requesting stakeholder feedback to the questions included below. Your responses will inform the Department on the development of regulations pertaining to the manufacture, sale, and operation of reduction chambers, as authorized by Assembly Bill 351 (Garcia, Chapter 399, Statutes of 2022).

Reduction is a new disposition method for use in the death-care industry, joining burial, cremation, and alkaline hydrolysis. Reduction chambers are containers or vessels that hold human remains during the reduction process. The goal of this questionnaire is to solicit input from and gauge the concerns of communities that may be involved with reduction chamber operations in California. The Department will start accepting applications from Reduction Chamber manufactures and sellers on January 1, 2027, for use in California.

The Department is requesting written comments for the list of questions below. Written comments must be received no later than April 4, 2025.

Stakeholder comments must be submitted to the Department by one of the following methods. All comments, regardless of submission method, must include the name, address, and email of the respondent.

- Email to ReductionChamberProgram@cdph.ca.gov. Please ensure the subject line reads “DPH-24-012 – Reduction Chamber Standards Stakeholder Feedback” to facilitate timely identification and review.

- Mail to
California Department of Public Health
Environmental Management Branch
MS-7405, IMS K-2, P.O. Box 997377
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
Attn: “DPH-24-012 – Reduction Chamber Standards Stakeholder Feedback”

- Fax to (916) 449-5665. Please include "DPH-24-012 – Reduction Chamber Standards Stakeholder Feedback" on the cover page.

Questions for Comment

Manufacturing

1. Do you or your company plan to expand into reduction chamber manufacturing?
2. If you are planning to manufacture reduction chambers, will you manufacture chambers for your company's sole use? Will you market and sell your chambers to other companies?
3. Can you provide an estimate for the retail cost of your reduction chamber?
4. Regarding the construction and features of a reduction chamber, what are your concerns and why?
5. Please describe the guidance you would like from the Department regarding reduction chamber manufacturing and performance standards.

Operation

6. Do you or your company plan on operating a reduction chamber? If so, how many chambers do you intend to operate?
7. What are your concerns regarding the operation of a reduction chamber, and why?
8. Please describe the guidance you would like from the Department regarding reduction chamber operations and performance standards.
9. Please describe the guidance you would like from a reduction chamber manufacturer regarding chamber operations and performance expectations.

General

10. Do you have any additional thoughts, concerns, or comments that were not addressed by the questions above?
11. Please describe the general nature of your current business operations (Manufacturing, Funeral/Disposition Services, Other (please specify)).

Thank you for your interest and participation,

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