Drought Planning

Mandatory Water Reduction

Access and Functional Needs

**Policy**

Currently, the messaging is to voluntarily reduce water usage by 20%. There may be a possibility that voluntary become mandatory statewide or in some jurisdictions, that can cause potential consequences to a group of people with disabilities. Those impacted could include people utilizing life sustaining technology and those requiring warm water therapies who must maintain swimming pool and Jacuzzi water level.

***ACTION STEP***: Local government and utilities must consider in any action requiring mandatory reduction in water usage a process for determining full or partial waiver requests. It is recommended any action is followed with a communication plan to inform residents who may qualify for a waiver and process for making a request.

**Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II-3.6100 General.** A public entity must reasonably modify its policies, practices, or procedures to avoid discrimination. If the public entity can demonstrate, however, that the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of its service, program, or activity, it is not required to make the modification.

**Sample Waiver Process:**

To apply for a full or partial waiver of the mandatory water conservation requirements to accommodate your disability, you must submit a letter explaining your need for additional water use based on your disability.  Send your letter requesting a waiver  of the mandatory water conservation requirements to:  [insert contact person].    The Department/ Water District/ County/City will consider each application for a full or partial waiver of the water restrictions on an individual basis.  The Water District/ County/City may request that you provide medical information to support your need for an exemption to the current water restrictions.  Responses to waiver requests will be provided in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days.   All waiver requests that have been granted are subject to review and cancellation. If any waivers are obtained based on inaccurate information, applicants may be subject to fines and additional charges.