



# Community and Economic Development Environmental Health Division

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To: Owners/Operators of Public Pools

Subject: Handrails at Public Pools

Environmental Health Division is charged with conducting State mandated inspections of public pools, such as those located at hotel/motels, apartments, and townhouse/condominiums. During routine inspections of these public pools, Environmental Health staff has observed that occasionally handrails at the steps of some pools are non-compliant. You have received this Notice because our staff has observed that your pool is one of those with non-compliant handrails. This is a potentially hazardous condition for those people utilizing the pool. Slips and falls are among the most common type of accident that occurs around pools. Non-compliant handrails tend to increase the likelihood of an injury.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Section 311B.5, requires a handrail to be installed at all steps entering into a pool. Environmental Health has found that, occasionally, handrails have been removed and not replaced or not replaced properly during deck repairs or replastering and in some cases the handrail was never installed correctly when the pool was first constructed. Regardless of the reason for the non-compliant handrail, all handrails must be installed correctly as soon as possible. All handrail installations must conform to local building codes and have necessary approvals from the local building authorities. Environmental Health staff will conduct a reinspection in six months from the date this Notice was issued to verify that the non-compliant handrails have been installed correctly.

The following diagram for handrails is provided to assist you in the installation of your handrail:

