

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

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**October 31, 2005**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Local Government Officials  
Members of the General Public

**FROM:** Lucetta Dunn  
Director

**SUBJECT:** Development and Certification of A Voluntary  
Model Universal Design Ordinance

Pursuant to Section 17959 of the Health and Safety Code, the Department of Housing and Community Development has sought and considered information regarding universal design from various state agencies, and met with and solicited information from various individuals and organizations with interests in universal design and its use in order to develop a universal design model ordinance. The Department also convened three meetings subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to solicit additional information on the proposed voluntary universal design model ordinance.

The Department's goals in developing the model universal design ordinance included addressing the needs and concerns of all affected entities, including those of persons with disabilities, local government officials, and the homebuilding industry. The statute also required that the model ordinance not significantly impact housing cost and affordability, as well as enhance the full life cycle use of housing without regard to physical abilities or disabilities of a home's occupants or guests.

In addition, the Department has received a commitment from the building industry and advocates for the disabled community to develop and implement a program to educate and encourage broader use and support of universal design in communities throughout California.

Having carefully considered all relevant information and comments to the Department during the development of the ordinance, I hereby certify and make available the attached "Model Universal Design Local Ordinance", dated October 31, 2005, as that which may be adopted voluntarily in substantially the same form by any California city, county, or city and county pursuant to Section 17959 of the Health and Safety Code.