MERCED COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Building and Safety Division

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SWIMMING POOL PLAN CHECK INFORMATION

TO: All Swimming Pool Owners / Contractors

FROM: County of Merced, Building & Safety Division

SUBJECT: California Assembly Bill, AB 3305

As you are aware, during the past few years swimming pool barrier requirements have changed often and have varied by jurisdiction. On January 1, 1998, an Assembly bill became law. The law is far more stringent than any previous requirements and limits the ability of local agencies to modify it. ***THIS LAW ALSO IMPOSES A REQUIREMENT THAT THE CONTRACTOR NOTIFY THE CONSUMER OF ITS EFFECTS.*** The following is an abbreviated guideline for the plan submittal requirements.

ENCLOSURE/BARRIER REQUIREMENTS:

- If a portion of the house or garage is used as part of the barrier/fence that portion shall have alarms on all doors giving direct access to the pool area, or these doors shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54" above the floor.

- Any barrier/fence shall be a minimum of 60" above the ground and have a maximum distance of 2" from the ground to the bottom of the barrier.

- Access gates shall open away from the pool and have a self-closing and self-latching device located no lower than 60" above the ground.

- Openings in the enclosure shall not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4".

- The outside surface of the barrier/fence shall be free of protrusions, hand and footholds, and other characteristics that would aid in climbing.

- Covers shall meet all the requirements and performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard F1346-91. Documentation shall be provided at the time of permit application. ***Covers alone may not satisfy the barrier requirement. If you are planning to use a pool cover as your only means of protection, please contact the Building and Safety Division prior to starting your project.***

ALARMS:

- Alarms shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after an exterior door is opened, and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions.
- The alarm may be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate for a single opening. The deactivation period shall last no longer than 15 seconds. The deactivation means shall be located at least 54" above the threshold of the door.

ITEMS NECESSARY FOR SUBMITTAL:

- Three plot plans showing the pool and equipment with the distance from property lines, structures, easements, electrical power lines, etc. The plot plan shall also indicate the location and type of fence or barrier that will be used; bonding will be required for metallic surfaces within 5' of the pool edge.
- Two complete sets of structural plans and engineering.