**TITLE 9. REHABILITATIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**DIVISION 3. DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION**

**FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**UPDATE TO INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

There has been one update to the information in the Initial Statement of Reasons. In CCR 7352, language has been reworded so that the last sentence now reads as follows, “The Department shall further inform appellant that if no such request is received, future notices and decisions shall be transmitted electronically by mail in written English.” This change was made after the 45-day public comment period and in response to a suggestion by Disability Rights of California.

During the public comment period from December 5, 2022, through January 25, 2023, the Department received written comments from one commentor on the proposed regulatory update to the vocational rehabilitation application process. After making one relevant change to the documents based upon public comments, the Department noticed the one modification to the proposed text, with a public comment period from August 7, 2023, through August 25, 2023.

All comments received during those ties are summarized and responded to below.

**The following additional information is provided for the record.**

**LOCAL MANDATE DETERMINATION**

The proposed regulations do not impose any mandate on local agencies or school districts.

**SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVE DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OF DECEMBER 5, 2022, THROUGH JANUARY 25, 2023.**

Sarah Isaacs of Disability Rights of California (“DRC”) submitted 1 written comment regarding this proposed rulemaking on January 25, 2023.

**DRC, Comment 1:** As to CCR 7352, DRC would like DOR to state outright to the appellant that if they do not make a special request for a certain language to be used or for a mode of communication other than email, that the Department will communicate in English by electronic mail. (DRC Letter, pg. 5)

**Response to Comment 1:** Action adopted. The DOR has updated the language in the final regulation to add the underlined language, “The Department shall further inform appellant that if no such request is received, future notices and decisions shall be transmitted electronically by mail in written English.

**COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 15 DAY PERIOD THE MODIFIED TEXT WAS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

There were no additional comments made at the time.

**ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD LESSEN ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS**

No alternatives were proposed to DOR that would lessen any adverse economic impact on small business nor were rejected by DOR.

**ALTERNATIVES DETERMINATION**

The DOR has determined that no alternative it considered or that was otherwise identified and brought it its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, nor would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action of this rulemaking, and the most cost effective and equally effective manner to implement the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The regulations and amendments adopted by DOR are the only regulatory provisions identified by DOR that accomplish the goal of creating clear communication between the client and the DOR in a manner that the client most prefers. Except as set forth and discussed in the summary and responses to comments, no other alternatives have been proposed or otherwise brought to DOR’s attention.