The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
C/O State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

This correspondence is in response to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (CADMV) letter dated December 21, 2018, indicating that CADMV has developed a plan to address the REAL ID-compliance issue that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) communicated to CADMV on November 21, 2018.

To reiterate DHS’s concerns, CADMV’s practice of issuing driver’s licenses and identification cards (DL/ID) to individuals who have not presented at least two documents demonstrating address of principal residence does not satisfy the requirements of the REAL ID regulations. See 6 CFR 37.11(f).

To address these concerns, and in order to satisfy REAL ID requirements, CADMV must require applicants to present at least two documents that include the individual’s name and principal residence address. As indicated by updated information provided by the State of California on April 4, 2019, CADMV plans to formally meet this requirement by April 29, 2019. Recognizing that California’s current extension is set to expire on April 10, 2019, DHS is granting a grace period expiring on May 24, 2019, before enforcement begins. This grace period allows California the opportunity to begin implementing its formal corrective action plan by April 29, 2019. DHS must receive confirmation from California once the formal corrective action plan has begun in order to complete the compliance review and make a final determination of compliance. DHS has reviewed and approved California’s proposed corrective action as follows:

- No later than April 29, 2019, the CADMV will require all customers applying for a REAL ID DL/ID card to provide two documents demonstrating address of principal residence.
- By June 20, 2019, CADMV will have sent letters to customers already in possession of a REAL ID card informing them that they must submit a second document demonstrating address of principal residence either prior to or at the time they renew their license. Customers will be given the option of submitting their second document via mail, online, or at a field office.
- CADMV will provide quarterly reports to DHS beginning August 1, 2019, documenting the progress of the corrective action plan and the number/percentage of affected individuals who have and have not provided the required documentation.
Please do not hesitate to contact the DHS REAL ID program office at (202) 447-3368 if you have additional questions or comments about this letter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Neumann
Assistant Secretary for Threat Prevention and Security Policy
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

cc: John H. Hill, Assistant Secretary, Office of Partnership and Engagement
    Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services