

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

To <i>Don Hoodhead</i>	From <i>PAT CRUISE</i>
Dept./Agency <i>PDD, FSP</i>	Phone # <i>415-705-1361 ext 307</i>
Fax # <i>703-305-2486</i>	Fax # <i>415-705-1364</i>
NSN 7540-01-317-7368	5090-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

January 22, 1999

Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Western Region
Food and Consumer Service
Food Stamp Program
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, California 94108

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7871		# of pages =
To <i>DENNIS STEWART</i>	From <i>PAT SUTHERLAND</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone #	
Fax # <i>415 705-1364</i>	Fax #	

Dear Mr. Stewart:

In accordance with recent telephone discussions you held with county representatives and members of my staff, we are requesting that you grant us the authority to make temporary modifications to the Food Stamp Program in six counties that have experienced severe crop damage from the recent freezing weather conditions. We are requesting immediate approval for Fresno and Tulare Counties, as indicated below, and are asking for the flexibility to add other counties if they request changes. The changes would all begin February 1, 1999 and end July 31, 1999. The counties are: Fresno, Tulare, Monterey, Madera, Kern, and Kings. The modifications include: relief from work registration requirements, a waiver of the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), and the temporary inclusion of additional counties in the Eligibility Simplification Project (ESP). These changes will assure that persons who are unable to find employment, due to the freeze, will be able to receive food stamps. Specifics regarding our request are included below:

Work registration. We request the authority to deem all food stamp recipients, who are not exempt from work registration, to be automatically registered for work. This will save staff time associated with the completion of registration forms. The request is being made initially for Fresno and Tulare Counties. We will notify you if any of the other four counties request automatic registration.

Eligibility Simplification Project. We request approval to include Tulare County in the ESP. ESP allows counties to discontinue the face-to-face interview required at recertification, thereby reducing processing time. We will notify you if any other counties wish to be included in the ESP.

Waiver of the ABAWD work requirement. We request authority to exempt individuals in the above counties from the work requirement of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. We request immediate approval of the waiver in Fresno and Tulare Counties, which have already asked for the waiver and will notify you of any other counties that request a waiver. Information from the California Employment Development Department

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indicates that all the counties, except for Monterey, have average unemployment rates that exceed 10 percent in the 12-month period ending January 1999. If Monterey requests a waiver, we will provide additional information describing their situation.

Thank you for responding quickly to this emergency situation. If an immediate decision is not possible on all of our requests, we would appreciate your sending a partial approval as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Charr Lee Metsker, Chief, Employment and Eligibility Branch, at (916) 654-1401.

Sincerely,



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division