

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2030034
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:**
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, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
7 CFR 273.24 (f)(3)(iii)
5. **State:**
California
6. **Region:**
Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed procedures:**
The State of California requests a waiver to cover individuals residing in the northern and central regions of the State. These 51 counties are eligible based on their aggregate average unemployment rate for at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2005 – October 2007. During this period, the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.5.

Combined Area (Northern and Central Regions):

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2005-OCT 2007	Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2005-OCT 2007
Alameda County	4.5	Nevada County	4.6
Alpine County	7.0	Placer County	4.4
Amador County	5.6	Plumas County	7.9
Butte County	6.4	Sacramento County	5.0
Calaveras County	6.1	San Benito County	7.0
Colusa County	12.7	San Francisco County/city	4.3
Contra Costa County	4.4	San Joaquin County	7.7
Del Norte County	7.2	San Luis Obispo County	4.1
El Dorado County	4.7	San Mateo County	3.8
Fresno County	8.3	Santa Barbara County	4.2
Glenn County	8.4	Santa Clara County	4.6
Humboldt County	5.7	Santa Cruz County	5.8
Inyo County	4.7	Shasta County	6.9
Kern County	7.8	Sierra County	7.7
Kings County	8.6	Siskiyou County	8.3
Lake County	7.4	Solano County	5.0
Lassen County	8.0	Sonoma County	4.1
Madera County	7.2	Stanislaus County	8.2
Marin County	3.6	Sutter County	9.2
Mariposa County	5.8	Tehama County	6.8
Mendocino County	5.4	Trinity County	10.0
Merced County	9.6	Tulare County	8.8
Modoc County	7.8	Tuolumne County	6.1
Mono County	4.5	Yolo County	5.4
Monterey County	7.1	Yuba County	9.1
Napa County	4.0	Total for Region	5.6

32 counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba Counties qualify based on having average unemployment rates that are at least 20 percent above the national average unemployment rate during November 2005 through October 2007. 19 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Inyo, Marin, Mendocino, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties qualify based on the area's aggregate average unemployment rate which is at least 20 percent above the national average unemployment rate during November 2005 through October 2007.

In addition, the State is requesting to exempt residents in Imperial County based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during November 2005 – October 2007, national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.5.

Area	Unemployment Rate, NOV 2005-OCT 2007
Imperial County	16.2

9. Justification for request:

As stated in number 8 above, the areas listed above have an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristic, and quality control error rate for affected portion:

The caseload for these areas, averaged over Federal Fiscal Year 2007, represent 49.2% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



RICHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

15. Date of request:


