STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

September 23, 1993

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

[ ] State Law Change
[X] Federal Law Change
[ ] Court Order or Settlement Agreement
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[ ] Initiated by CDSS

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 93-73

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: COMBINED FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS POLICY

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has revised the policy regarding combined allotments for Expedited Service (ES) for Food Stamps (FS). This policy change is a result of written instructions from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Western Region Office and requires that all households applying for FS after the fifteenth of the month must get a combined allotment within the expedited time frame, waiving verification requirements when necessary.

Current California Department of Social Services FS regulations at 63-301.546 for households who apply for ES after the fifteenth of the month specify that the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) shall issue the second month's benefits only after receipt of postponed verification. On March 31, 1992, the U.S. District Court ruled against the USDA in Johnson v. USDA and Georgia concerning this current policy. In light of the District Court's decision, the USDA decided to alter national FS policy to specify that households applying after the fifteenth of the month that qualify for ES must get the prorated initial month's benefit and the second month's full benefit (combined allotment) within the expedited time frame. Verification may be waived to meet this time frame. However, households will still be subject to the terms of providing missing verification within 30 days following the date of application as stated in 63-301.545(a). FNS has instructed the states not to wait for federal regulations. Therefore, the CWDs must apply these new provisions for all new applications as soon as possible, but no later than January 1, 1994.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Johnson of the Food Stamp Program Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

MICHAEL C. GENEST
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

c: CWDA