

May 19, 2006

2030034 & 2060041

**SUBJECT:** FSP – California – ABAWD Waivers

**TO:** Dennis Stewart  
Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Western Region

This is in response to your April 24, 2006, memorandum forwarding a request from the California Department of Social Services to modify and to extend waiver 2030034. We are approving this request.

Because the request and approval involves regions with separate approval periods, we are assigning a new waiver number that applies to the areas with a 2-year approval period. Both waivers are effective on May 1, 2006. Please find attached detailed information regarding the approved regions and the expiration dates.

Please find attached our detailed response. Please contact Susan Burgess if you have questions or need additional information.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

cc: All Regions (except WRO) w/Attachment  
Dan Wilusz, QC, PAD w/Attachment  
Bob Dalrymple, OANE w/Attachment

FINAL:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:SBurgess:4/25/06:so  
DIR:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2006:2030034 CA 2006 ABAWD: 2060041 CA 2006 2-year  
extension:SBurgess

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

**WAIVER RESPONSE**

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2030034 & 2060041
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** California
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be 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; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary 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. Description of proposed alternative procedures:**

The State is requesting a 1-year waiver of the regulatory requirements listed in paragraph 7 for the following counties: Alameda, San Francisco, Santa Clara County, and Santa Cruz. This request is based upon the inclusion of these counties in a region that has a combined aggregate average unemployment rate that is at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period.

<b>Region &amp; Counties</b>	<b>Average Unemployment Rate March 2003 – February 2005</b>
Sub-Region of the Bay Area Economic Strategy Panel Region (Alameda, San Francisco County/city, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz)	6.8%

National Average March 2003-Feb 2005: 5.5%  
20% above National Average: 6.6%

Additionally, the State is requesting a 2-year waiver for the counties listed in the table below, except Lake and Lassen, based upon regional unemployment rates that are 20 percent above the national average for a consecutive period of 36-months from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005:

<b>Region &amp; Counties</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate January 2003-Dec 2005</b>
Northern California Economic Strategy Panel Region (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity)	7.0%
Northern Sacramento Valley Economic Strategy Panel Region (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Tehama)	7.5%
Sub-Region of Greater Sacramento Economic Strategy Panel Region (Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)	7.6%
San Joaquin Valley Economic Strategy Panel Region (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare)	9.7%
Sub-Region of the Central Sierra Economic Strategy Panel Region (Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne)	6.6%
Sub-Region of the Central Coast Economic Strategy Panel Region (Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo)	6.9%
Imperial County	16.1%

National Average January 2003-Dec 2005: 5.5%  
20% above National Average: 6.6%

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for the jurisdictions listed in paragraph 8 in accordance with the request submitted by the State. All of the data submitted by the State meets the requirements of approval pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3) and additional FNS guidance.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i), (ii), and (iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 273.24(f)(2) and (f)(3). If California wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** Waiver number 2030034, which includes Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco counties, will become effective May 1, 2006 and will expire on April 30, 2007. Waiver number 2060041, which includes the remaining counties listed in this request, will be effective beginning May 1, 2006 and will expire on April 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** These waivers are limited to the California Department of Social Services.
15. **Quality control procedures:** None.
16. **Date of national office action:**

17. **Date of State agency's request:** April 19, 2005.
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** April 24, 2005.
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**