DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

July 30 1979

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 79-47

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STATE UTILITY STANDARD

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on use of the state utility standard. The instructions contained in this letter will be promulgated as regulations in the near future.

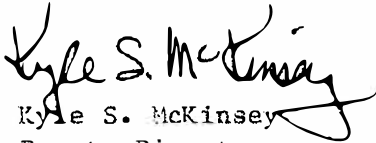Apply utility allowances as follows:

1.   In accordance with federal requirements each food stamp household which is entitled to the state utility standard will receive the total standard even if the residence is shared with others.

2.   Actual utility cost will be allowed when:

   a.   the food stamp household does not incur fuel costs separate from rent or mortgage, or

   b.   the food stamp household's verified share of the actual utility expenses exceeds the standard. If the food stamp household cannot verify their share of actual costs they will not be entitled to the utility deduction on that basis until verification is produced (Manual Section 63-300.513), and if applicable the household will be entitled to restoration of lost benefits in accordance with Manual Section 63-802. Provided that the household is entitled to the standard they shall have the standard allowance used until verification of actual costs is obtained.

3.   Proration of utility expenses among individuals will only occur when

   a.   the food stamp household claims actual costs in excess of the standard, and

   b.   contains a disqualified member (Manual Section 63-503.54).

4.   Use the telephone standard only when the food stamp household has a
     telephone and is not entitled to the overall standard. If the actual
     basic telephone rate exceeds the telephone standard, allow the actual.

Please refer to the attached chart for additional clarification.

If you should have any further questions regarding this information,
please contact your Food Stamp Program Operations analyst at (916) 322-5475.

Sincerely,

Kyle S. McKinsey
Deputy Director
Welfare Program Operations Division

Attachment

cc: CWDA