



Food and Nutrition  
Service

September 14, 2020

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

Alexis Fernandez  
Chief  
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch  
California Department of Social Services  
744 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

This is in response to your request of September 9, 2020, to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), on behalf of the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to waive the 10-day reporting requirement under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 274.6(a) for replacement of food purchased with SNAP benefits that was lost as a result of power outages and wildfires that began on September 4, 2020. On September 10, 2020, DSS amended their request to add Butte, Plumas and Yuba. The waiver request applies to the following seven counties: Butte, Fresno, Madera, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino and Yuba.

SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 274.6(a)(3) require that replacement issuances shall be provided only if a household timely reports a loss of food purchased with SNAP benefits orally or in writing to the State. To be considered timely, the report must be made to the State agency within 10 days of the date the food purchased with SNAP benefits is destroyed in a household misfortune.

DSS is requesting a waiver of the 10-day reporting requirement so that impacted households will have until October 5, 2020, to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. On September 4, 2020, extreme heat struck California causing record breaking temperatures, and multiple fires across the State began burning due to the dry conditions. DSS noted that there are mandatory evacuations to households in the impacted counties as a result of Creek, El Dorado, and North Complex Fires. DSS also noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, State staff are facing operational challenges.

The waiver will allow the State to provide impacted households in the affected counties additional time to report their food loss. On September 10, 2020, DSS modified their initial waiver and revised the estimated cost. The State agency estimated the active SNAP household population affected as approximately 454,393, and the estimated cost at \$1,462,276.

Ms. Fernandez  
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## **Approval**

FNS is granting approval of this waiver for the State of California to allow impacted households in the above counties sufficient time to report their loss of food. Replacements will be authorized for the amount of the loss, not to exceed the monthly allotment for the household. The waiver will be in effect through October 5, 2020. Reports that are made by households to the State by October 5, 2020, will be considered timely.

## **Authority**

This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(ii), which allows FNS to approve waivers that result in a more efficient and effective administration of the Program. Actual numbers regarding replacement values must be reported on the FNS-46 form in the Food Programs Reporting System within 90 days after issuance of the replacement benefits.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver or its implementation, please reach out to your Regional SNAP contacts.

Sincerely,

**SHELLY PIERCE** Digitally signed by SHELLY  
PIERCE  
Date: 2020.09.14 10:12:50  
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Shelly Pierce  
Acting Director  
Retailer Policy and Management Division