Stanislaus County
Striving to be the Best

December 12, 2003

Patricia Daniels, Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Programs
Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

REVISIONS TO THE WIC FOOD PACKAGE, 7 CFR PART 246

Dear Ms. Daniels:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Public Notice 7 CFR Part 246, Revisions to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Package. California WIC Association, representing 82 Local WIC Programs serving close to 1.3 million persons, looks forward to major revisions to the existing food package which would bring it in line with current dietary guidelines and address emerging nutrition related health issues and accommodate WIC's highly diverse population.

The current WIC package has not changed significantly since the time of its inception. There have been demographic, ethnic and environmental shifts which have resulted in an increase of obesity issues while hunger and food insecurity still exists. Updated food prescriptions which meet the Dietary Guidelines is needed to successfully attack these emerging problems.

CWA strongly supports the detailed and thoughtful proposals being submitted by the **California Department of Health Services, WIC Supplemental Nutrition Branch**. These changes address target nutrients, change in quantity of existing WIC foods, new foods, and culturally appropriate choices along with supporting documentation. By including fresh fruits and vegetables, WIC will be able to address changes in behavior to combat obesity. We also urge USDA to support pilot testing the delivery of fruits and vegetables through the WIC food package in advance of the changes. California is prepared to tackle this exciting project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Elaine Emery R.D.
WIC Program Manager, Pres. Elect. - CWA

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