

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
February 21, 2003

Due to budget constraints in California, Laboratory Field Services (LFS) has been directed to take several actions, as follows:

*March Meeting of the CLTAC in Los Angeles*

The meeting scheduled on March 14, 2003 in Los Angeles at the Embassy Suites North Hotel has been **cancelled**. In its place a **teleconference will be held** from 10:00 AM to 12:30. We have arranged for an extensive toll free telephone bridge and the agenda is attached. We encourage groups to meet together to share a telephone bridge so that all can participate. For those able to go to either the Oakland or Los Angeles office of LFS, teleconference bridges will be set up there. The addresses are:

Laboratory Field Services/Oakland  
1111 Broadway Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 873-6328

Laboratory Field Services/Los Angeles  
867 So Figueroa Street, Suite 360  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 833-6000

We apologize for this change in plans and hope that we can have our regular meeting in June in Oakland.

*May Licensing Examinations in Hayward and Carson*

The licensing examinations scheduled for May 7, 2003 have been **cancelled**. All staff vacancies and contracts are frozen, and LFS is not able to conduct these examinations. Every effort will be made to issue temporary licenses to those applicants who qualify. These temporary license will allow those persons to work until the end of 2003, allowing the applicants to take the examination on November 5, 2003.

*Travel Restriction and Hiring Freeze*

All Department of Health Services programs are being asked to reduce travel expenses by at least 35%, and the hiring freeze is continued. This means there will be minimal meetings of the CLTAC this year, staff travel is restricted and LFS must maintain its high vacancy rate.

This is not real good news, but I encourage the CLTAC to rally around and participate in the telecon on March 14, 2003. We would like a quorum to show the Department that our advisory committee is active and interested, and ready to meet with us, even in a different venue.

If you have any questions about these things, contact me or any of our senior staff.

**Karen L. Nickel, Ph.D., Chief**

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