STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

January 9, 1986

TO: All County Welfare Directors
County Administrative Officers

Letter No. 86-2

POTENTIAL USE OF MEDS TERMINALS AS BACKUP COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This Department has received a request from the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS) to use the MEDS electronic mail function (SYSM) as a backup communications link to the counties in cases of emergency.

EMS is charged with organizing and implementing the State's medical response to a great disaster such as an earthquake. The EMS is interested in using SYSM as a backup means of communicating with county health officers to coordinate/obtain medical services, supplies, and personnel outside of the disaster area. This process would require one of your staff to print the emergency message and pass that message to the county health officer. We will require EMS to supply us with names, addresses, and telephone numbers to ensure prompt delivery of the message to the appropriate individual.

In order that we may evaluate the potential effectiveness of the EMS proposal, we are asking that you respond in writing by January 17, 1985 giving us your comments as to how this function would be facilitated through your departments. EMS believes that backup communication channels, in case of failure of the normal EMS telephone system, are essential. Please address your replies to:

Department of Health Services
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch
Room 1676
714 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Ray Lawson

If you have any questions in this matter, please contact Ray Lawson of my staff at (916) 322-4890.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants
MEDS Liaisons

Expiration Date: October 30, 1986