



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

12/30/02

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
College Park, MD 20740

DEC 30 2002

Sarah E. Taylor, JD, RD, MPH
Counsel to the California Walnut Commission
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20004-2401

RE: Health Claim Petition – Diets Including Walnuts Can Reduce the Risk of Heart Disease
[Docket 02P-0292]

Dear Ms. Taylor:

This letter is in response to your December 17, 2002 letter, submitted on behalf of the California Walnut Commission (the Commission), to confirm that the Commission has agreed to an extension of the period for the Food and Drug Administration review of the Commission's health claim petition. We wish to clarify that the agreement was to provide FDA additional time to review the petition and to decide whether to issue a proposed regulation. FDA did not suggest in our discussions with you regarding extending the review period that a decision had been made to approve the petition, and that a proposed health claim regulation would be published in the Federal Register on or before February 28, 2003.

Sincerely yours,

Christine Taylor, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling
and Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

02P-0292

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