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Santa Cruz County Fair Manager Michael Bethke
Santa Cruz County Fair Office Manager Grunewald
Santa Cruz County Fair President of the Board Rob Marani
2501 East Lake Ave.
Watsonville, CA 95076

November 1st, 2011

Dear Sirs,

I have been approached by special needs member Kelly Thorp's mother Nancy, to extend Kelly's 4-H membership this year beyond the age of 19.

State 4-H policy states "*Special needs youth are to enroll in the program based on their chronological age and follow the 4-H Youth Development Program age requirements of 5-19 years of age. Any extensions beyond the age of 19 of special needs youth must be approved annually by the county director.*"

I have made the decision to grant Kelly an extension this year, based on her love of the program, mastery of the skills she has developed and the relationships she has built. Kelly has enrolled in four livestock projects and five non-livestock projects this year.

I urge you to consider allowing her an (age) exception due to her developmental limitations to show at the fairs with her livestock projects in order to get the full 4-H/fair experience. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maria de la Fuente, Ph. D
County Director / Department Head

cc. Shanon Dogan, UC 4-H Statewide Program
Wendy Grennan, UCCE Monterey 4-H Program Rep
Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty, UCCE Monterey 4-H Advisor
Ms. Nancy Lee Thorp, 4-H Volunteer

