

JOSEPH E. HOLLAND

County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Registrar of Voters

JIM MCCLURE

Assistant County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor



105 E. Anapamu St., 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Mailing Address:
PO Box 159
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0159

**COUNTY CLERK, RECORDER AND ASSESSOR
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

John Perez, Chairman
Voting Modernization Board
1500 11th Street, 5th floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Perez,

In December of 1999 Santa Barbara County purchased an optical scan voting system. The County requested a Proposition 41 reimbursement in August 2002 for two-thirds of the system's cost. In March of 2003, the County received a portion of the funds designation to pay for this system. The remainder of the County's fund designation was set aside for future upgrades. Our optical scan system is now 6 years old and does not meet the 2002 Voting System Standards or the HAVA mandates. This system must be upgraded to meet these standards or it may not be used in the 2006 Primary Election. To resolve this issue, we intend to upgrade our optical scan system by acquiring a modernized version of this system that is fully certified by the State, and to expand it with an additional component that will make it HAVA compliant. We are requesting the balance of the funds (\$1.7) that were allocated to Santa Barbara County to complete this upgrade and expansion.

After extensive research, County staff developed a comparative analysis of available voting systems. Based on the information contained in this analysis, and the desire to be HAVA compliant by the mandated deadline, we have made the decision to purchase an upgraded and modernized optical scan system that integrates current technology and meets the 2002 standards. This upgraded optical scan system, when used in conjunction with an automated marking device for voters with disabilities, is the best solution for the voters of Santa Barbara County. This choice retains a system that the voters embrace and one that uses a paper ballot. This system is, also, HAVA compliant and is the only one that has been certified to the 2002 Voting System Standards by the state of California for use in the 2006 Primary Election.

Based on the language of Elections Code section 19234(c) (3), we have been advised that the County's eligibility to receive the remaining funds designation may be in question, if we pursue the acquisition of the proposed upgraded optical scan system. This section states that counties that have previously received fund money for the purchase of a new voting system are eligible for additional funds for the **expansion of an existing system**. Our interpretation of this section is that the acquisition of this optical scan system with the automated marking device is an **upgrade and expansion** of our County's optical scan system within the meaning of Elections Code Section 19234 (c) (3). We believe this upgrade and expansion meets the spirit and intent of Proposition 41. Santa

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Barbara County will upgrade its optical scan technology to meet the 2002 Voting System Standards and HAVA mandates. We ask that your board look favorably upon our request for the remaining Prop. 41 funds designation to assist us in this undertaking.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph E. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joseph E. Holland
County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor