

Office of the County Clerk-Recorder

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

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JULIE L. RODEWALD
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

JANET HALEY
CHIEF DEPUTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

June 11, 2004

Mr. John Perez, Chair
Voting Modernization Board
c/o Elections Division
Secretary of State's Office
1500 11th Street
Sacramento CA 95814

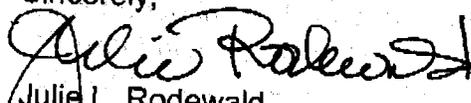
Dear Voting Modernization Board Members:

San Luis Obispo County replaced the DataVote system with Diebold Optical Scan ballot counting software and hardware in November 1999 and was therefore not eligible for reimbursement funding under Proposition 41. Our county was exploring the possibility of converting the voting system to DRE and submitted an application for funding consideration in August, 2002. With the recent developments affecting the use of DRE's in California, we are now exploring other options to meet the accessibility requirements of HAVA, including purchase of 1 DRE or optical ballot marking device for each polling place. Unfortunately, the uncertainty of the standards to be applied to new voting equipment technologies and the small number of certified vendors and equipment available makes our decision much more difficult. We cannot move forward with the purchase of any system until the technology receives certification under the still to be adopted standards for AVVPAT.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the technology and equipment available for use, I am in support of the staff recommendation that your Board extend the January 1, 2005 deadline to January 1, 2006. This extension will give the certification authorities and vendors sufficient time to certify any new technology and will allow counties such as San Luis Obispo to make this important decision without all the unknowns that now exist.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Julie L. Rodewald
County Clerk-Recorder