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COUNTY CLERK, RECORDER AND ASSESSOR

January 2, 2007

Mr. John Perez, Chairman
Voting Modernization Board
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Establishment of deadline on Proposition 41 funding.

Dear Chairman Perez:

At a meeting held at the Secretary of State's Office on December 9, 2006, it was brought to the counties attention that the Voting Modernization Board is considering setting a deadline for those counties using a phased approach to upgrade their voting systems.

Santa Barbara County has a three phased approach to updating our voting systems. Phase I was the purchase of the AccuVote precinct-level optical scan and central count units in 1999. Phase II was the expansion of our precinct level optical scan units to incorporate one accessible AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal at each poll site which allowed Santa Barbara County to be HAVA compliant in the June Primary of 2006.

We currently have remaining a Phase III of our modernization effort. This phase involves enhancing our tabulation, processing and validation of absentee and mailed ballots which account for over 50% of voter turnout in Santa Barbara County. A major component of phase III is the purchase of Diebold Election Systems high-speed central count system. Diebold is currently in Federal testing of their high-speed central count unit. Upon Federal certification, Diebold has stated intent to seek certification in California.

At this time, we are faced with limited choices in certified systems. In addition, we anticipate their may be changes to the certification process and possibly existing certified systems by the new Secretary of State. Any changes may have an impact on Diebold's ability to become certified in California.

By establishing a deadline for the use of remaining Proposition 41 funds, we will be placed in a difficult position of making choices with limited options and numerous uncertainties.

We respectfully request your consideration of our concerns when making your decision on the establishment of a deadline on remaining Proposition 41 fund allocation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe E. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

Joseph E. Holland
Santa Barbara County
Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Registrar of Voters