

Office of the County Clerk-Recorder

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO • 1055 MONTEREY ST. RM. D120 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408 • (805) 781-5080/5088



JULIE L. RODEWALD
COUNTY CLERK RECORDER

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ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK RECORDER

January 9, 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:

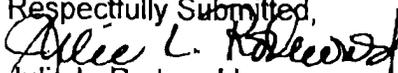
At a meeting held at the Secretary of State's Office on December 9, 2006, it was brought to our attention that the Voting Modernization Board is considering setting a deadline for those counties using a phased approach to upgrade their voting systems.

San Luis Obispo County has taken a two phased approach to updating our voting system. This county has utilized the Dicbold Optical Scan system since 2000. The first phase of our VMB funding was the deployment of Automark Voter Assist Terminals, as a supplement to the existing optical scan system, to each polling place. This deployment allowed San Luis Obispo County to be HAVA compliant in the June 2006 Primary. Phase II will be the replacement of the existing optical scan system with upgraded equipment as well as the addition of high speed central count units for the tabulation of absentee and mail ballots which now account for at least 55% of the voter turnout in San Luis Obispo County. A major component of phase II 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 its intent to seek certification in California.

We had planned on completing phase II sometime during 2007 in preparation for the 2008 elections. At this time, however, we are faced with limited choices in certified systems which have the high speed central county capability necessary for today's trend towards absentee voting. In addition, we anticipate there 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 the timing of certification for voting systems in California. By establishing a deadline for the use of remaining Proposition 41 funds, San Luis Obispo County 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.

Respectfully Submitted,


Julie L. Rodewald
County Clerk-Recorder