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ELECTIONS DIVISION

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August 25, 2020

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #20180

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Ryan Reece
Elections Analyst

RE: General Election: Barcode Scanners

When processing mail, the United States Postal Service (USPS) prints a fluorescent ID tag on mail pieces. This ID tag is usually orange or yellow in color and includes information identifying the day that a mail piece first entered the postal mail stream. This ID tag can be decoded by third-party barcode scanners to assist in determining a postmark date when a mail piece is received with no postmark.

The Secretary of State's office plans on procuring these handheld barcode scanners for county elections officials to assist in processing vote by mail ballots that are missing a postmark. These scanners can be used to determine when the USPS received a vote-by-mail ballot for processing, providing elections officials with critical information when determining if a ballot was postmarked on time, allowing the ballot to be counted, or causing it to be rejected.

If your county would like to order these handheld scanners or if you have additional questions about how these scanners can be used in your county, please contact Ryan Reece at rreece@sos.ca.gov or (916) 695-1560, **no later than September 4, 2020**.

Thank you.