

January 1, 2007 Project Documentation Plan Deadline

Background

The requirement for counties to submit Project Documentation Plan has been established by the Voting Modernization Board (VMB) in the adoption of the Funding Application and Procedural Guide, and the Statement of Plans and Projects signed by the Governor. It has also been incorporated as the Board's requirement for funding, in documents submitted to the Voting Modernization Finance Committee, and to request a Pooled Money Investment Loan to fund the Voting Modernization Fund. While Proposition 41 does not have a deadline by which the funds need to be approved or disbursed to the counties, the Board has adopted the following deadline dates for counties to submit their required Project Documentation Plans.

At the December 17, 2002 meeting of the VMB, the Board adopted the first deadline of January 1, 2005 for counties to receive approval from the VMB for Project Documentation Plans. Under this adoption, counties that did not receive approval by the deadline would have forfeited their Approved Allocation.

At the July 22, 2004 meeting of the VMB, the Board changed the deadline for counties to receive approval for Project Documentation Plans to July 1, 2005.

At the February 17, 2005 meeting of the VMB, the Board again changed the deadline for counties to receive approval for Project Documentation Plans to January 1, 2006. The Board members indicated at this meeting that they would be receptive to reviewing the deadline again at a future date, if necessary.

At the September 23, 2005 meeting of the VMB, the Board set the current deadline for counties to receive approval for Project Documentation Plans to January 1, 2007, but required counties who have not submitted Project Documentation Plans by December 31, 2005, to submit quarterly status reports to the Board.

Staff Report

At the September 20, 2006 meeting of the VMB, the Board received a final quarterly status report, which reflects the counties' modernization status through December 2006. This report indicated that six counties (Humboldt, Merced, Modoc, Nevada, Trinity, and Yolo) have not submitted their Project Documentation Plans to the Board. Given that it is less than a month away from the November 7, 2006 General Election, it appears that these counties will not be able to meet the current deadline and have all requested a final extension of the deadline to June of 2007.

While the original objective of the VMB has been to assist in accelerating the voting system modernization progress in California, it should be noted that all of the remaining counties will have state accessible and HAVA compliant voting systems for the November 7, 2006 General Election. Therefore, these counties has begun the modernization of their voting equipment, but may not have finalized vendor contracts in place at this time.

In addition, if the deadline were changed, it would postpone the reallocation by the VMB of additional monies forfeited by counties that did not meet the deadline.

Staff Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the staff that the January 1, 2007 deadline be extended one final time to June 1, 2007.