



County of Santa Cruz

ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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RICHARD W. BEDAL, COUNTY CLERK
GAIL L. PELLERIN, ELECTIONS MANAGER

May 3, 2004

John A. Perez, Chair
Voting Modernization Board
c/o Elections Division, Secretary of State's Office
1500 11th St., 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Perez,

I am writing to encourage your Board to extend the deadline for counties to submit their Project Documentation from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006.

As you know, counties have until January 1, 2006 to comply with the Help America Vote Act requirements for voting systems. In light of the current actions taken by the Secretary of State, it is essential that counties be given more time to develop a project plan that will meet state standards (to be released by May 30) for an Accessible Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail.

Santa Cruz County submitted the preliminary paperwork to receive over \$1.6 million in state bond money to modernize our voting equipment. However, with systems being decertified and no system currently certified that provides a paper audit trail, we are unable to pursue any plan for voting equipment upgrades at this time.

In fact, due to many changes in the area of voting systems, we are concerned about meeting the January 2006 deadline under HAVA. Certainly, if your board extended its deadline to comply with the HAVA deadline, we would have consistent deadlines in our efforts to meet the state and federal mandates.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 831-454-2397.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Bedal
County Clerk

cc: Board of Supervisors