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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE

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RE: PUBLIC MEETING)
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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF
VOTING MODERNIZATION BOARD MEETING
REMOTE VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

BEHMKER REPORTING AND VIDEO SERVICES, INC.
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1 APPEARANCES OF THE BOARD AND ATTENDEES:

2 VOTING MODERNIZATION BOARD MEMBERS:

3 STEPHEN KAUFMAN, CHAIRMAN

4 JUNE AWANO LAGMAY

5 GABRIEL SANDOVAL

6
7 VOTING MODERNIZATION BOARD STAFF:

8 JANA LEAN, CHIEF OF ELECTIONS

9 SHANNON VELLONE, M.A., STAFF CONSULTANT

10 KALIEKA EDWARDS, ELECTIONS STAFF

11 ROBBIE ANDERSON, ELECTIONS COUNSEL

12 STEVEN CARDA, ELECTIONS STAFF

13 DANA DAVENPORT, ELECTIONS STAFF

14
15 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

16 BRENT TURNER

17 GLORIA DICKSON

18 SCOTT MATSUMOTO

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1 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Why don't I call the meeting to
2 order. This is the September 25, 2026, meeting of the
3 Voting Modernization Board and what we hope is the final
4 meeting of the Voting Modernization Board as we know it.

5 So welcome, everybody. It's good to see
6 everybody. It's been three and a half years since our
7 last meeting. It's been awhile. There's been some
8 changes since then but good to see everybody still
9 smiling, and it's nice to see familiar faces.

10 Why don't we call the roll and get ourselves
11 going here. Is there someone who is calling roll?

12 MS. LEAN: It should be Shannon but I will go
13 ahead and call the roll.

14 MS. VELLONE: I can do it, Jana. That's fine
15 too.

16 MS. LEAN: Okay. Thank you, Shannon.

17 MS. VELLONE: Let's see, Stephen Kaufman.

18 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Here.

19 MS. VELLONE: June Lagmay.

20 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: Present. Can you see my
21 video?

22 CHAIR KAUFMAN: No. Some sort of object is on
23 your screen.

24 MS. VELLONE: You can work on that maybe.

25 MR. ANDERSON: June, this is Robbie. If you

1 put your cursor down the bottom left of the page, a bar
2 should come up. And it has an option for audio and
3 video. That's what I see.

4 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: I see audio and it's
5 enabled -- start video.

6 CHAIR KAUFMAN: It has her name on it. Anyway,
7 why don't we finish calling roll.

8 MS. VELLONE: Gabriel Sandoval.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: Here.

10 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Fellow Board members are here.
11 We have a quorum. We are good to proceed. So why don't
12 we get on the first item of business.

13 Are there any members of the public who are on
14 our Zoom meeting today or otherwise present who wish to
15 speak to any matters that are not on the Board agenda?

16 MS. VELLONE: We do not have any members of the
17 public who have requested to make public comment.

18 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. Great. All right. Then
19 let's move on with item IV on the agenda; and that is,
20 the adoption of the January -- our last meeting, the
21 January 17, 2023, actions meeting minutes.

22 If any of my fellow Board members can actually
23 remember enough to verify that the action plan and the
24 meeting minutes are accurate, if we can have a first
25 and -- a motion and a second to approve the action items

1 in the Board minutes, that would be great.

2 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: I'll go ahead and move
3 that we adopt the January 17, 2023, action minutes
4 and -- action item and meeting minutes.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: Same.

6 CHAIR KAUFMAN: I got a second from Gabe. I
7 think we can do this easily. All in favor of approving
8 the action items and minutes, say aye.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: Aye.

10 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: Aye.

11 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Any opposed? Okay. We have
12 dispensed with that. All right. Now to the key part of
13 this meeting; and that is, hearing a report from staff
14 on how we can finally wind down business of the Voting
15 Modernization Board after many years of awaiting this
16 and going through many bureaucratic machinations, it
17 sounds like we are now there.

18 Who is delivering this report to us today? Is
19 that you, Robbie?

20 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, sir.

21 CHAIR KAUFMAN: All right. Item V, we await
22 Robbie Anderson's report on the status of the Voting
23 Modernization fund.

24 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. So for the background,
25 the second to last meeting we had, August 26th of 2002,

1 the Board received a staff report about the mechanics of
2 closing down the fund and dissolving the VMB.

3 And at that meeting there was a motion that the
4 Board asked staff to reach out to the State Treasurer's
5 Office or Department of Finance to begin the process of
6 winding down the VMB as recommended by the staff report
7 dated August 23, 2022. So right after that we started
8 working with the Treasurer's Office, Department of
9 Finance and the Attorney General's Office to start that
10 process. And so part of the process we talked about in
11 2023 is legislation and that was carried out in the
12 report that was issued on the 14th of this month.

13 Since then the bill was chaptered. So the
14 chaptered bill reduces the maximum allotment of the VMB
15 fund from \$200 million to \$189,570,000. So that's the
16 amount of funds that were expended by the VMB. So now
17 it's down to zero. So that bill was chaptered and it's
18 now the law. So Elections Code section 19254(a)
19 reads --

20 CHAIR KAUFMAN: That's the newly enacted bill.

21 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. As of the 18th and it was
22 effective immediately. So that section now just
23 provides for the \$189,570,000. So we've been working
24 with the AG's office on this. And although the Board
25 passed a motion to begin the process in '22, we learned

1 there's additional steps that were needed -- is there a
2 question?

3 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: No.

4 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. So the Board needs to
5 actually meet and approve a motion to close the fund.
6 So that's where we are today.

7 So recently, September 28th, we received the
8 following message from the AG's office regarding the
9 meeting we had in August of '22. So the e-mail read:

10 "Although the minutes of the meetings may show
11 the intent of the Board to close the program, it doesn't
12 specifically show that the Board voted to make the
13 request to the Voting Modernization Finance Committee as
14 described under Government Code section 16726.

15 "The Board will need to meet and vote to make a
16 request to the Voting Modernization Finance Committee
17 stating that the purposes for which the bonds were
18 issued and sold has been effected so that the Voting
19 Modernization Finance Committee can certify this to the
20 State Controller to transfer the unencumbered balance of
21 cash remaining from the proceeds of the sale of the
22 bonds to the General Fund."

23 And so that's why we called this meeting. And
24 so we have a motion here which we worked with the
25 Attorney General's Office just to make sure the language

1 was correct and what they need. So the motion in the
2 report is as follows:

3 "So the Board declares that the purposes for
4 which the bonds are issued and sold under the Voting
5 Modernization Bond Act of 2002 have been effected and
6 authorizes the Executive Officer to submit a request to
7 the Voting Modernization Finance Committee so that the
8 committee can certify that fact to the State Controller;
9 and thereupon, pursuant to Government Code section
10 16726, the unencumbered balance of cash remaining from
11 the proceeds of the sale of the bonds in the fund shall
12 on order of the State Controller be transferred
13 therefrom to the General Fund and that the current
14 balance of the fund is \$45,171.04. \$36,833.68 of that
15 are from bond sales and \$8,337.36 are accrued interest
16 earnings."

17 And so after the Board makes the motion and
18 approves it, we'll have a letter. Shannon has been
19 working with the Treasurer's Office to get the letter
20 they want. We have not received it yet, but once we do
21 get the letter, we can send it down for signature.

22 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Thank you, Robbie. I'm sure
23 there's a few questions. Why don't we -- why don't I
24 ask for a motion and then a second. It would be a
25 motion to -- well, it would be a motion adopting the

1 language that Robbie has articulated to us. It would be
2 a motion to adopt that language, that motion, that
3 action of the VMB.

4 Do one of you want to move that item?

5 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: Go ahead, Gabriel.

6 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: So moved.

7 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: I second.

8 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. Great. So I'm sure
9 there's a few questions. I have a couple probably more
10 out of interest more than anything.

11 What legislator or legislators carried this
12 bill? Do you know?

13 MR. ANDERSON: I think I have it up here. It
14 was a bond -- budget trailer bill and so -- it was the
15 committee on budget. Assembly Bill 184.

16 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Assembly Bill 184?

17 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

18 CHAIR KAUFMAN: I'm sure I can look it up.

19 MR. ANDERSON: It was the budget committee and
20 it's a trailer bill.

21 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Just kind of curious. So they
22 reduced the original allocation of funds to the amount
23 that we actually paid out. And I think we documented
24 last time those counties were sort of left some money on
25 the table, which sort of accounts for I think most of

1 that difference. Right, Robbie?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Yeah.

3 CHAIR KAUFMAN: And I was curious if there is
4 even any money in the fund. That was, as you said,
5 basically earnings on the bond money that remained in
6 the fund?

7 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. About 36,000 were just
8 left over from the last sale and then 8300-ish was
9 interest from that.

10 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. Do either of my fellow
11 Board members have questions or issues regarding the
12 motion that's before us or the process?

13 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: I have no questions.

14 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: I have no questions
15 either.

16 CHAIR KAUFMAN: I should have asked previously
17 but I'm assuming we don't, but do we have any members of
18 the public who have asked to speak on this issue?

19 MS. VELLONE: We do not at this time.

20 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. Well, then hearing none,
21 why don't we take a roll call vote on this one.

22 MR. ANDERSON: You are on mute, Shannon.

23 MS. VELLONE: Sorry about that.

24 Board member Kaufman.

25 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Aye.

1 MS. VELLONE: Board member Lagmay?

2 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: Aye.

3 MS. VELLONE: Board member Sandoval?

4 CHAIR KAUFMAN: I think I saw his lips but
5 didn't hear him. Gabe.

6 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: Can you hear me now?

7 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: I said aye. There must
9 be something wrong with the technology.

10 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay.

11 MS. VELLONE: Okay.

12 CHAIR KAUFMAN: The ayes have it. So we have
13 approved the request to the Voting Modernization Finance
14 Committee that was articulated by the, I guess, AG's
15 office in conjunction with staff.

16 So is that going to be a letter for my
17 signature?

18 MS. LEAN: Stephen, this is Jana Lean. I just
19 want to let you know, once I get that letter, I will
20 work with you and just get any kind of confirmation just
21 to take one more final look at it. Technically I'm the
22 Executive Officer. So I think I can sign off on it but
23 I will just work with you as the chair just to get that
24 finalized.

25 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. That would be great. I

1 will expect that to happen.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Shannon is working closely with
3 the Attorney General's Office and the treasurer just to
4 make sure everything is in order. We'll have it just
5 the way they want it.

6 CHAIRMAN KAUFMAN: Good.

7 MR. ANDERSON: I don't think you want one more
8 meeting --

9 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Not to fix some issue that
10 could have been dealt with, no. And I'm glad you all
11 took the time to negotiate the specific language with
12 the AG's office. I wouldn't want us shooting in the
13 dark on that and having them come back and say we didn't
14 tie up some other loose ends. So that's great. I will
15 expect to see that, Jana, and we can get that out.

16 Is there any other business that anyone would
17 like to raise while we are here?

18 MS. LEAN: I have one thing. I would like to
19 say thank you very much for all of your work for the
20 Voting Modernization Board, all of you. I know you
21 never expected to be on this Board for so long. It is a
22 volunteer Board.

23 And we really do appreciate all the time and
24 efforts and the responsibility of issuing these State
25 funds out to counties, your deliberate research and

1 questions as we are going through this entire process
2 starting in 2002.

3 This was one of my first major projects at the
4 Secretary of State's office, not the only one but this
5 was one of my first. And I have to say I'm very proud
6 that we were able to work with the counties to help them
7 modernize their voting systems.

8 I know we are in the process of probably
9 redoing all of our voting systems here in California
10 because technology changes, and after ten years things
11 become end of life and they are no longer supported. So
12 we have definitely seen many, many changes in elections
13 since 2002 as anyone who is involved in the elections
14 can see.

15 But your work helped set the stone and the
16 pathway for counties to modernize their election
17 equipment and to help modernize elections in California.
18 So I personally want to say thank you very much.

19 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Thank you, Jana. I very much
20 appreciate that speaking on behalf of my fellow Board
21 members.

22 And I just wanted to say sort of as my final
23 act here as chair that it has been -- it's been an honor
24 to sit in this seat. It has gone on for, if not
25 decades, longer than I thought -- maybe a decade longer

1 than I thought, certainly years longer than we ever
2 could have expected. I will be --

3 But it's been an honor to sit in this chair and
4 to see what I think happened some, you know, remarkable
5 accomplishments that we have made to echo Jana's
6 comments.

7 What we were doing when we began this process
8 was really on the cutting edge of what was happening in
9 election administration. I think some of that is
10 forgotten to history at this point. But we can all be
11 proud of what we have done.

12 Seen a lot of changes over the years, a lot of
13 the people who were kind of there at the beginning of
14 this process even in the counties that aren't even there
15 anymore, but we should all feel good about what we
16 have done.

17 And I wanted to particularly thank Jana and the
18 rest of the staff and, Robbie, you have been around the
19 whole time, but thank you, everybody, for the support
20 you have given to me and given to our Board. You
21 carried the water for us over the years and made our
22 jobs a lot easier.

23 So I wanted to thank you all and very much
24 appreciate it. I want to thank you to any folks who
25 showed up to comment over the years and provide public

1 input. I think it's helped shape our perspectives as we
2 have gone along.

3 And, lastly, I just sort of want to express my
4 affection for and admiration for election officials
5 throughout the state who by and large are always trying
6 to do the right thing and make our elections easier,
7 make it easier for people to vote and to uphold the
8 integrity of our election process.

9 Despite the fact that elections, and even
10 particularly our elections in California, are being sort
11 of held up to public scrutiny and criticized, you know,
12 on a national level, you know, I feel confident that our
13 election officials here in the state are doing the right
14 thing and will do the right thing and hopefully giving
15 voters confidence in our election system.

16 And I hope -- I don't hope to be sitting in
17 this chair -- but I hope over the next decade or so
18 that, as Jana alluded to, we are continuing to modernize
19 our election systems and make it easier for people to
20 vote as people engage in the election process.

21 Everybody should feel good about what they have
22 done to play a part in that, and I hope you all take
23 that with you as we leave this meeting today. So thank
24 you, all.

25 And I guess I would be remiss if I didn't ask

1 my fellow Board members if there is anything else you
2 would like to add or say before we sign off.

3 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: This is June and I
4 absolutely second everything you said. The staff has
5 been amazing, worked, researched with meticulousness.

6 And it has been a real learning experience for
7 me and has been especially interesting because of how
8 the election landscape has changed so much during the
9 duration of this particular committee.

10 So thank you for inviting me as a member.
11 Thank you to the great staff, Jana and Robbie and
12 Shannon and all and people who have worked and are no
13 longer here. But it's been a great experience. I thank
14 you from the bottom of my heart.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDOVAL: I would like to echo
16 everything that my colleagues have mentioned about the
17 work you have done and will continue to do on issues
18 related to elections. And as everyone as mentioned, the
19 importance and integrity of the elections has been the
20 focal point not only now but throughout this entire
21 process.

22 So I want to thank each person who works in the
23 department for the work you have done and how you have
24 been able to guide us in making informed decisions on
25 issues of voting and allowing individuals to vote in a

1 way that's not just important about the integrity of the
2 election but the integrity of our democracy.

3 So I thank each and every one of you for that.
4 And I also thank my colleagues for being good partners
5 in doing this work that was established back in the
6 early 2000s. So thank you, everybody.

7 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Great. Thank you, both. It's
8 been a pleasure serving with both of you. And I look
9 forward to seeing you down the road.

10 So with that, I'm going to move to adjourn this
11 meeting. I assume we have a consensus on that.

12 BOARD MEMBER LAGMAY: You have a consensus, yes.

13 CHAIR KAUFMAN: Okay. So thank you, all.
14 Signing off for the last time. The Voting Modernization
15 Board has now completed its business and is closed for
16 business.

17 (Proceedings concluded at 1:24 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA) ss.

3 I, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

5 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
6 before me at the time and place herein set forth; that
7 any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings; prior to
8 testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the
9 proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand which
10 was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the
11 foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony
12 given.

13 I further certify I am neither financially
14 interested in the action nor a relative or employee of
15 any attorney or party to this action.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed
17 my name.

18 Dated: October 1, 2026
19
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24 GINA MINNIS, CSR NO. 11996

25 STATE OF CALIFORNIA