



Keith M. Williams
Treasurer – Tax Collector and
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March 30, 2007

The Honorable Debra Bowen
California Secretary of State
1500 – 11th Street, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Bowen:

DRAFT CRITERIA FOR A TOP-TO-BOTTOM
REVIEW OF ELECTRONIC-VOTING SYSTEMS

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed review of voting systems used throughout California. In 2005 Mariposa County was faced with the same challenges that everyone faced in updating their voting systems to meet the HAVA deadline. For Mariposa, a Sequoia Voting Systems customer, the logical choice was to migrate to their AVC Edge II with Veri-Vote. This system was fully certified and met both federal and State requirements. Our biggest decision was whether to buy one for each polling place and run two separate systems (optical scan and touch screen) or convert to full DRE machines in all polling places. We chose the latter for a number of reasons.

In choosing to go full DRE at the polls we created an outreach program that included hands on demonstrations at our local fair. We took the DRE to every community meeting that we could. We first used the machines in the Statewide Special Election of 2005 with great success and voter approval. We participated in the State's parallel monitoring program and the result was 100% accuracy according to the group that performed the tests. We have since conducted three major elections with DRE's and they have performed exceptionally well. Most important is that the voters of Mariposa County have faith in the voting system that we use.

This upgrade was very expensive for Mariposa County. HAVA did not provide much money and most of our VMB money went to upgrade our optical scan voting system prior to HAVA. I would just like to close with asking you to keep in mind the cost of making any changes. These costs are not just new equipment but training, voter education, and possibly paper ballots for polling places. I look forward to working through this process and if I can be of any help to you please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Williams
Treasurer – Tax Collector – County Clerk