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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

Rebecca Martinez, President Madera County Clerk-Recorder 200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637 (559) 675-7721; FAX (559) 675-7870 E-Mail: rmartinez@madera-county.com

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March 18, 2009

Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr. State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0024

Dear Assembly Member Beall:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed AB 1525 (as introduced February 27, 2009), your proposed legislation regarding requesting a recount for contests in multi-county jurisdictions.

The Committee has voted to Support of AB 1525, which provides that a recount in a multi-county jurisdiction that is not statewide may be requested in any or all counties during the five day period immediately following the 29th day after the election. Because all counties do not complete the canvass simultaneously, and the outcome of such contests may not be known until all counties in the jurisdiction have completed the canvass, it is logical to allow a period during which the recount may be requested following the completion of the canvass period.

Because your proposal specifically allows the recount to be called in any or all of the counties within the jurisdiction, you may wish to also consider amending Elections Code section 15632 which speaks to when an outcome of an election is changed. and when the results of the recount are declared null and void. For example, as in statewide contests, should there be a request for a recount in a very large, multicounty jurisdiction such as a Board of Equalization District, it would not be a requirement that the recount be requested in all counties of the district, and, in the event that a complete recount in some counties were to change the outcome of the election, these results would not be rejected because the recount was not conducted throughout the district. Suggested amendments appear below.

15632. In lieu of the returns as reported in the official canvass, upon completion of the recount showing that a different candidate was nominated or elected, that a different presidential slate of electors received a plurality of the votes, or that a measure was defeated instead of approved or approved instead of defeated, there shall be entered the result of the recount in each precinct affected, which result shall, for all purposes thereafter, be the official returns of those precincts for the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure involved in the recount. If the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure are not voted on statewide. or in a multi-county jurisdiction, the results of any recount which is not completed by counting the votes in each and every precinct in the jurisdiction within which votes were cast on the candidates for the office, on the slates of electors, or on

the measure in question shall be declared null and void. If the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure are voted on statewide, <u>or in a multi-county jurisdiction</u>, the results of any recount will be declared null and void where there is not recounted each vote cast for the office, slates, or measure in any county specified in the request <u>or requests</u> for recount filed <u>with the Secretary of State pursuant to section 15620 or 15621</u>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office (707-565-1876).

Very truly/yours

Jánice Atkinson

Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks

and Election Officials

c: Assembly Member Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting Senator Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments

Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates

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