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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
Website: www.caceo58.org

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March 20, 2010

Assembly Member Paul Fong
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0022

Dear Assembly Member Fong:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, Elections Legislative Committee would like to extend its appreciation to you for introducing **AB 1799** (February 10, 2010). Please record the **Support** of our Committee for this proposal to allow elections officials to send replacement vote by mail ballots to those voters who so request, when the voter has lost, destroyed or failed to receive the original ballot.

This proposal will expedite the vote by mail process and eliminate inconvenience to voters and unnecessary paperwork. The current process was established long before computer systems were introduced to manage the issuance and verification of vote by mail ballots. The automated systems in use by elections officials today have built-in safeguards to ensure that only one ballot may be counted for any vote by mail voter.

In reviewing the bill, a minor technical issue was noted in the second paragraph of the proposal. Current law requires that the elections official verify, prior to "counting" any duplicate ballot that the voter has not attempted to vote twice. With the new wording of the bill, the word "issuing" should be substituted for the word "counting." Thus, the first sentence of paragraph two would read: "The elections official shall keep a record of each vote by mail voter ballot sent to and received from a voter and shall verify, prior to issuing any replacement ballot, that the voter has not already cast a ballot in the same election."

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

Very truly yours,

Janice 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