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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

Shasta County Clerk
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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April 16, 2013

State Assembly Member Paul Fong, Author
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0028

Dear Assembly Member Fong:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **AB 857**, your proposal relating to statewide initiative petitions. While the Committee has not taken a position, we would like to express our concerns relating to your proposal.

During the discussion of your proposal, the following issues were raised:

- ★ Election Management System Capacity. Discussions with vendors have confirmed that existing election management systems are not programmed to administer this proposal. This will require numerous programming changes to the current applications in order to comply and to avoid unwanted or unexpected consequences. Moreover, existing systems do not have separate applications for state, county, city or district petitions, or separate applications based on type of petition (initiative, referendum or recall), requiring the development of a completely separate application for state initiatives.
- ★ Proposal Appears to Conflict with Existing Law or Regulation. The requirement to ensure signatures are collected and included in the verification may be in direct conflict with subsection (d) of Section 9030 of the California Elections Code. Meeting current rules and applying analysis relating to duplicate signatures across petition sections by circulator type would need a solution.
- ★ Increased Workload, Time and Related Cost. Implementation will require a higher level of manual processing to determine raw counts and prior to data entry or computer processing, increasing the time to complete review and creating a need for additional overtime in order to meet current petition deadlines.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Monterey County Elections Department, at (831) 796-1499.

Very truly yours,

Linda Tulett
Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

- c: Honorable Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
- Honorable Lou Correa, Chair, Senate Comte on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
- Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates