



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Issues Re-Certification Order for Touchscreen System in Santa Clara County

Praises County, Vendor for meeting standards

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today issued an order re-certifying the Sequoia AVC Edge electronic voting system for Santa Clara County.

“Santa Clara County Clerk Jesse Durazo, the Board of Supervisors and the touchscreen vendor worked diligently with our office to meet the re-certification conditions,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

“We are as excited as can be. We wanted to cooperate with the Secretary of State,” said Santa Clara County Clerk Jesse Durazo. “We knew we could meet the requirements. We are delighted to go forward with the November election.”

There are five other counties that use the Sequoia AVC Edge system – those counties must still meet the security conditions set forth on April 30. Those counties are Napa, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta and Tehama.

On April 30, Secretary Shelley banned the use of the Diebold TSx system in four counties and decertified touchscreen systems in 10 other counties until added security measures could be put in place to safeguard the November vote. The 10 counties need to either install a voter-verified paper trail or implement the set of added security measures before those systems could be recertified for the November 2004 election.

“Now that the vendor has met the conditions for re-certification, there is no reason why the remaining five counties cannot join the other electronic voting counties,” Shelley said. “These are common-sense steps to ensure the integrity of the vote.”

With Santa Clara County and Sequoia recertification, three of the four vendors who produce touchscreen voting systems have agreed to meet the Secretary of State’s security measures. Merced and Orange Counties were recertified last week.

Among the security measures that Sequoia and Santa Clara County agreed to meet in order for the system to be re-certified are:

- voters must have the option of casting a paper ballot;
- the system’s computer source code must be made available for analysis by independent experts;
- no telephone, wireless or internet connections are permitted on the machines; and
- the county is required to engage in a comprehensive poll worker training program.