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 Shasta, Tehama Counties

Secretary Praises County Officials

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today issued an order recertifying the electronic voting systems for Shasta and Tehama Counties, bringing to a total of five counties statewide that have already met the security conditions for recertification.

"Tehama County Clerk-Recorder Mary Alice George, Shasta County Clerk and President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, Ann Reed both worked diligently with our office to meet the re-certification conditions," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

Both Tehama and Shasta Counties use an electronic voting system, made by Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. Santa Clara County, which also utilizes Sequoia touchscreens, had its system recertified earlier this month. Merced and Orange Counties had their touchscreen systems recertified last month. The three other counties that utilize Sequoia electronic voting systems--Napa, Riverside, and San Bernardino—have yet to agree to the security conditions set by the Secretary.

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.

Among the security measures that Sequoia Voting Systems, and Tehema and Shasta Counties agreed to meet in order for the system to be recertified 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.

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