NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Delivers Good News to North State Residents

Counties will be receiving up to $8 million to make voting more user-friendly

Redding, CA – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today personally delivered good news to Northern California residents – that elections officials of this region will receive approximately $8 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to make voting easier. Secretary McPherson also conferred with local elections officials about the administration of the Special Statewide Election scheduled for November 8.

"This money is critical to counties so that they can improve their voting systems and make voting more user-friendly," said Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. "I am here to personally deliver this great development and update the local elections officials regarding the distribution of the funding – that the Legislature must pass a budget soon in order for counties to implement their plans."

"We are delighted that Secretary Bruce McPherson came to Redding to inform us of this great development," said Cathy Darling, Shasta County Registrar. "This is Secretary McPherson's first visit to Northern California and we appreciate the personal meeting with him. We look forward to a long partnership to make voting more open and accessible."

The HAVA funds being released will make it possible to proceed with important work to serve California voters, including expenditures for:

- New voting systems that make voting more accessible for voters with physical disabilities, and more accurate, more secure and more voter friendly for all registrants;
- New education and training tools so that voters, poll workers and election officials understand voting rights and responsibilities and how elections work under these new federal mandates;
- Voter access to cleaner and more accurate voter registration rolls and greater access to the ballot box.

Secretary McPherson traveled to Washington, DC on May 5 to personally assure the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) of California's commitment to properly implement HAVA after nearly a year of delays. Secretary McPherson carried California's Certificate of Compliance to the EAC, resulting in the release of California's remaining funds a few weeks later.

The $169 million is the outstanding balance that was withheld by the EAC for nine months following reports of improper spending of HAVA money under the previous Secretary of State.

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