FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 2, 2005

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces that California is First
in the Nation to Comply with Help America Vote Act Requirement
Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces Agreement with U.S. Department of Justice to
Implement Statewide Voter Registration Database

Sacramento, CA --- Today Secretary Bruce McPherson announced that his office has
reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, ensuring the State’s compliance
with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) with the creation of a Statewide Voter Registration
Database. The creation of the database will mean that California will have a complete and
accurate voter list, ensuring access for all eligible voters and helping to prevent voter fraud in
future elections.

"This agreement is a model for other states as they continue to develop and operate their
own statewide voter registration lists," said Bradley J. Schlozman, Acting Assistant Attorney
General for the Civil Rights Division. "HAVA's voter registration list requirements are among its
most important, and we applaud the new leadership in the California Secretary of State's office
for working cooperatively with us to reach this positive and timely result."

“I appreciate the cooperation we have received from the U.S. Department of Justice,” said McPherson. “I am confident that the creation of the Statewide Voter Registration Database
will go a long way to ensure the integrity of our voting process and to ensure that all eligible
voters will be able to cast a ballot in California."

The voter information gathered for the statewide list will be compared with records from
the Department of Motor Vehicles, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and
the California Department of Health Services, allowing for the comparison with felon and death
records, to create the most accurate and current list of registered voters possible. Once
complete, the database will allow elections officials to be certain of each voter’s eligibility to cast
a ballot.

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed in 2002 and signed by President Bush.
Section 303 of the law requires that the State’s chief elections official implement a single,
uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list. HAVA
requires the list be defined, maintained and administered at the State level, to contain name and
registration information of every legally registered voter in the State and to assign a unique
identifier to each legally registered voter in the State. The database will serve as the official list
of all registered voters in the State of California.

“I am pleased that our extensive efforts with the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of
California have paid-off and that the State of California will now be in compliance with these
HAVA requirements,” said McPherson.

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