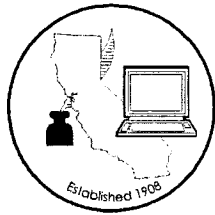


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Shasta County  
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SECRETARY  
Orange County



**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

Rebecca Martinez, President  
Madera County Clerk-Recorder  
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\* non-voting member

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DEBORAH SEILER  
San Diego County

May 3, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Special Election Proclamation - Senate District 15

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and on behalf of the association, I am writing in response to your proclamation issued April 27 declaring June 22 and August 17, 2010 the dates for special elections in California's 15th Senate District.

The association is troubled by the timing of these special elections, which have been inserted between the June 8, 2010 Direct Primary Election and the November 2, 2010 General Election. I would like to express concerns on behalf of the affected counties – Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz – as to the additional expense of time and resources that will result from the special elections on June 22 and August 17, which could have been alleviated by consolidating the run-off election with the November general election.

In light of the fiscal emergency facing the state, counties, and all government entities, it would seem to have been most prudent to have sought a solution that would utilize existing resources, instead of placing the burden on the Senate District 15 counties of conducting additional, over-lapping elections. In fact, county clerks and registrars are considering all of the various tasks and security measures that must take place to conduct these elections, and they are not sure how that will be accomplished with just two weeks between the June elections.

Attached is a list of barriers identified by these counties. In addition, the counties have put together a list of relief measures to assist them in meeting this daunting task and will be working with the Secretary of State and the State Legislature to determine if these options can be exercised in the administration of these untimely special elections.

These elections are costly, confuse our voters, and frequently result in low voter turnout. Unfortunately, you disregarded letters and e-mails sent to you on Tuesday, April 27, from elections officials throughout the State asking you to consider the facts and consolidate the vacancy election with the established election date on November 2. Now these election officials are scrambling to prepare for these elections in spite of having limited resources, staff and facilities. They are professionals who will do their best to ensure that the elections are conducted in accordance with the law, in a manner that best serves the voters, and can withstand any scrutiny or legal challenge. If something should go wrong in spite of these efforts, we want to be on record that they were problems that could have been avoided if you provided the elections officials with sufficient time to conduct the election.

Finally, it will be a necessity to make certain that counties are reimbursed for the extraordinary expense that the elections will generate. I appreciate the opportunity to speak candidly in this regard.

Very truly yours,

*Rebecca Martinez*  
Rebecca Martinez, President