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From: McWilliams, Lindsey P. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:53 AM
To: Voting Systems
Cc: Rosenthal, Ira J.; Weir, Stephen - Contra Costa; Lavine, Jill - Sacramento [REDACTED]
Subject: ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1

During the public hearing on February 20, Lowell Finley asked what benefits we expect from the Unity 3.0.1.1 suite. While we have not had a hand's-on opportunity to use Unity 3.0.1.1, I offer the following benefits based on FCM's reports and ES&S representations.

First, despite FCM's reports, Unity 3.0.1.1 is better than what we have now. That it is federally certified to 2002 VVSG standards is better than being certified to 1990 standards.

Second, voting opportunities are increased from three per inch to four per inch, which can help us from going to two-card ballots.

Third, 11-inch ballots are supported, which should mean less expensive ballots and quicker throughput on 650s.

Fourth, 650 read heads support for green light, if we can use it on our 650s, seems to promise enhanced mark detection and read sensitivity.

Fifth, HPM and ERM appear to have enhancements that provide better integrity to election/ballot creation (e.g., IFC import, HPM control file protection, encryption key for new election, creation of a new contest from an existing contest, ability to adjust coding after ballot creation without reprinting ballots) and better reporting.

I am sure there are other benefits that I cannot identify until we begin using the new system suite. I encourage the Secretary to reduce the public comment period to no more than seven days and proceed quickly to certification. We need to start laying out ballots March 10 and any delay will force us to request use of our current system for the June, 2008, primary.

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