



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF VOTING SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
1500 11th Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.695-1680 | **Fax** 916.653.4620 | www.sos.ca.gov

November 26, 2019

Mr. John Schmitt, President
Five Cedars Group, Inc.
1500 NW Bethany Blvd., Suite 200
Beaverton, OR 97006

Dear Mr. Schmitt:

On Monday, November 25, 2019, the California Secretary of State Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) received a request for Administrative Approval, pursuant to California Elections Code section 19291, to add the support of generating accessible ballots from the GEMS Election Management System (EMS) to the certified Five Cedars Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) v4.3 Remote Accessible Vote by Mail system, subsequently V5.2.1 as the result of a later Administrative Approval issued by our office.

California Elections Code section 19291 precludes a remote accessible vote by mail system that has been approved by the Secretary of State from being changed or modified until the Secretary of State has determined the change “does not impair its accuracy and efficiency....”

If the Secretary of State determines the change or modification does not impair the accuracy or efficiency of the voting system, the Secretary of State may administratively approve the proposed change or modification.

The analysis of the application, documentation and functional testing of the Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) version 5.2.1 was completed in two operating system environments (Windows and iOS) using the respective internet browsers of each operating system in addition to Google Chrome, and screen reader technology (Narrator and VoiceOver). The OVSTA staff determined the import of accessible ballots from the GEMS EMS does not impair the system’s accuracy and efficiency.

Based on the testing conducted by the Secretary of State staff, the Administrative Approval is granted for Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) v5.2.1. All other conditions of the Five Cedars Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) v4.3 certification, dated October 11, 2017, remain in effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Lapsley".

Susan Lapsley
Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA and Counsel