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April 1, 2020

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Raymond Lutz
Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)
CitizensOversight.org
771 Jamacha Rd 148
El Cajon, CA 92019
raylutz@citizenoversight.org

Re: Public Records Act Request re: Ballot Images, dated March 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Lutz:

This letter constitutes the initial response of the County of San Luis Obispo to your above-referenced request for records made pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.; hereafter "the PRA"). Your request was received by Tommy Gong, the County Registrar of Voters, on March 22, 2020.

The purpose of this initial response is to inform you that the registrar will be taking an additional 14 days to respond to your request pursuant to Government Code § 6253, subdivision (c) due to "unusual circumstances" that warrant the extension of time. Specifically, due to the rapidly evolving and unprecedented emergency situation concerning the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and the state and local emergencies proclaimed in response to it, the county is operating with limited staff and resources. For the foreseeable future, all available county staff is focused on providing essential services to county residents. In addition, the county has implemented the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect the health and safety of county employees and residents, and is following, and will continue to follow, all orders issued by federal, state, and local officials.

To: Raymond Lutz.
Re: Your Public Records Act Request dated March 22, 2020
Date: April 1, 2020

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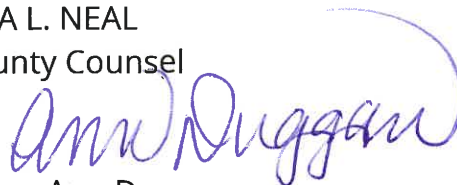
In the executive order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 20, 2020, he expressly recognized that registrars of voters may have difficulty meeting statutory deadlines. (See e.g., Executive Order N-34-20.)

We also note that the term "unusual circumstances" as used in Government Code section 6253, subdivision (c) expressly includes the following circumstances, which are applicable here: (1) the need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request; (2) the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records that are demanded in a single request; and (3) the need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having substantial subject matter interest therein. (See, Gov. Code § 6253(c).)

We will respond to your request when appropriate departmental staff are available to focus on this task, at which time we will determine if the records you seek are subject to disclosure under the PRA or are otherwise exempt, in whole or in part, under one or more applicable statutory exemptions. We appreciate your understanding at this critical time and will make every effort to respond to your request as promptly as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned. Thank you for your understanding and professional courtesy.

Very truly yours,

RITA L. NEAL
County Counsel



By: Ann Duggan
Deputy County Counsel

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Cc: Tommy Gong, Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters