



Civil Rights Division

JDR:JR:ADM:hew
DJ 166-012-3
2003-3023
2003-3195

Voting Section - NWB.
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

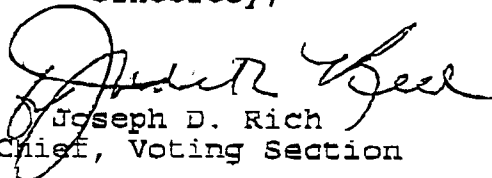
Marguerite Mary Leoni, Esq.
Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor
591 Redwood Highway, #4000
Mill Valley, California 94941-3039

Dear Ms. Leoni:

This refers to the consolidation of voting precincts and polling places, polling place changes, mail-in voting procedures, and the change in bilingual ballot format for the October 7, 2003, special recall election for Merced County, California, submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973c. We received your submissions on August 22 and September 2, 2003; supplemental information was received through September 2, 2003.

The Attorney General does not interpose any objection to the specified changes. However, we note that Section 5 expressly provides that the failure of the Attorney General to object does not bar subsequent litigation to enjoin the enforcement of the changes. In addition, as authorized by Section 5, we reserve the right to reexamine this submission if additional information that would otherwise require an objection comes to our attention during the remainder of the sixty-day review period. See the Procedures for the Administration of Section 5 (28 C.F.R. 51.41 and 51.43).

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Rich
Chief, Voting Section