CONNY B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

November 26, 2001

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

RE-DISTRICTING VOTING PRECINCTS – PROCESS AND TIMELINES

Recently I asked staff to compile a report describing the myriad steps that are required every ten years to re-precinct all of the voting lines following the reapportionment process. I thought you and your staff would be interested in reviewing the enclosed descriptive report, the status of this major project, and timeline for completion.

As the report reveals, re-precincting in 2001 is proving to be a much more complex project than it was ten years ago. This is primarily due to the fact that two state assembly districts were NOT nested into each state senate district as was done in 1991. Consequently, over 700 of the county's 2,054 census tracks were split which will result in many more ballot combinations for the March 2002 Primary Election raising the cost of ballot printing and proofing. This will also result in voter confusion as a significant number of voting precinct lines will have to be adjusted and voting locations changed from the past.

If you have any questions please contact me at (562) 462-2716.

RRCC REAPPORTONMENT PROCESSING 2001

The California legislature changed the primary election date from June to March in even numbered years. The legislature did not move the date for completing the redistricting. Three months of time, which the department used to have for processing the new district lines, was lost. The Assembly and Board of Equalization districts data were received by the department on September 20, 2001. The State Senate and Congressional districts data were received on September 26, 2001. Signature in Lieu of filing fees started September 28, 2001.

The 1990 redistricting was done by the California Supreme Court because the legislature and governor could not meet their deadline. The court followed census tract lines and nested two assembly districts in each state senate district. This made processing their districts in reapportionment fairly easy to do in the six weeks the data was available before SIL started.

The 2000 redistricting was done by the legislature and governor. They met their legal deadline, but the last of the data was received only two days before SIL started. They did not nest two assembly districts to each state senate. They did not follow census tract lines. They did use census blocks to split census tracts. The department does not track or use census blocks. We do use census tracts. Review of the four sets of redistricting lines resulted in 700 split census tracts by one or more of the district types. There are 2054 census tracts in the County. 34% of them are split.

The Voter Information Management System (VIMS) used by the department for voter registration and much election processing allows a "future view" of the district, precinct and street files. This future view is used for entering new district data while leaving the current view data in place for existing election processing. The Department currently is processing the Uniform District Elections (UDEL) for 2001 and elections for vacancies in the Los Angeles City Council. Reapportionment data is being entered in VIMS future view.

The 1354 whole census tracts in the new districts have already been entered and assigned their new district number in future view. This is helping process the Signature in Lieu of filing fee processing. Candidates who are not obviously in one district are hand processed by our Precincting Section to determine the candidate's district.

Each split census tract has to be processed through the following steps:

1. Create a folder with the precinct map(s), census TIGER map(s) for each district splitting the census tract, and split district(s) description.
2. Identify the district(s) line(s) on the census TIGER map.
3. Locate and mark the district(s) line(s) on the precinct map.
4. Compare the district(s) line(s) to existing precinct lines and identify new precincts needed to recognize the district(s) line(s). *Note: it appears that each folder is creating between 2 and 5 new precincts.*
5. Give the new precincts new precinct numbers.
6. Validate the above work and log the new precinct numbers with their district assignments.
7. Enter the new precincts and district combinations into the Voter Information Management System (VIMS) future view. This creates an empty precinct shell.
8. Determine through street lists the streets which need to be moved into the new precincts. Mark the street segments with the new precinct number. As needed, split existing street segments into new segments to recognize where a district line splits the existing street segment through use of house numbers. *Note the census data is not exact about house numbers, so this can be a complicated process requiring the use of experienced personnel.*
9. Update the street segments in VIMS future view to their new precinct number. This is the process that actually moves the voters into their correct new district.
10. Check the files for precincts with two districts assigned to the same precinct. Note the previous check was by split census tract.
11. Make precinct changes as necessary, similar to above processes.
12. Download VIMS precinct information to GIS and validate coverage.
13. Update the precinct coverage in the geographic information system (GIS) used to consolidate precincts.
14. Create District Maps in GIS when all data is entered.
15. Validate district lines and enter precinct history.
16. Make future view the current view in VIMS.
17. Final verification of precinct realignment.

Split census tract processing through step 4 was completed on October 12, 2001. Steps 6 through 11 were completed October 31, 2001. Declaration of Intent (DOI) to file for office started on October 29, 2001. By having all the split census tracts processed, this allows VIMS to return candidate and petition signatory district information.

Steps 12 through 17 have to be complete by December 7, 2001, the 88th day prior to March 5, 2002, the legal deadline for precinct changes. Our target is to have this completed by November 21 and move future view to current view over the Thanksgiving weekend. The Department has also processed the Board of Supervisors and Long Beach Unified School District reapportionment in future

view.   The Long Beach City and Long Beach Community College reapportionments have already been processed in production.

The final step for all district changes is to update the precinct maps.   That process will start in December and finish just prior to the March election. Starting in April 2002 and continuing until August 2002, other city and special district redistricting plans will also be processed prior to conducting the General Elections in November 2002.