



**BRUCE McPHERSON** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
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September 28, 2005

Mr. Alan Dechert  
9560 Windrose Lane  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Dear Mr. Dechert:

The Secretary of State is examining the subject of open source software and if it has feasible application to voting systems, as requested by ACR 242 of 2004. Because this complex and important subject requires thoughtful and considered analysis, we are now considering several options about how best to provide useful, accurate, and complete information to the Legislature.

As we move forward, this discussion will require the input and conscientious attention of experts in many fields, including elections, science and technology. There have been no decisions made relative to which individuals or organizations might be able to assist the Secretary of State in reviewing a wide sample of expertise on the subject of open source software.

Your interest in this subject is appreciated. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and recommendations with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caren Daniels-Meade".

Caren Daniels-Meade  
Chief, Elections Division