



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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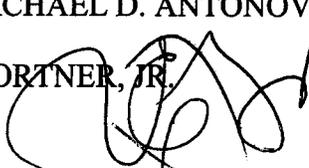
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

July 25, 2005

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TO: SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA, Chair
SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FROM: RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel 

RE: **Alleged Violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
(County Supervisorial Districts)**

This is to inform your Board that the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ") has closed its investigation of a complaint alleging that the County's 2001 Supervisorial redistricting plan violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ("Section 2").

During the public comment period at your meeting of June 28, 2005, Alan Clayton of the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association ("LACCEA"), stated that in 2003, LACCEA and other organizations filed a complaint with the DOJ, alleging that the current Supervisorial redistricting plan violated Section 2. Mr. Clayton also stated that these organizations had recently filed additional documentation with the DOJ in further support of their request for investigation of possible Section 2 violations.

Following the June 28, 2005 meeting of your Board, my office made several inquiries of the DOJ in an attempt to ascertain the status of this Section 2 complaint. In addition, we attended a meeting at which representatives from the Chief Administrative Office met with Mr. Clayton and his attorney, Armando Duron, to obtain further information on the complaint.

In a letter dated July 12, 2005, John Tanner, Chief of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division, advised this office that DOJ staff reviewed a complaint alleging that the County's Supervisorial district plan violated Section 2. However, Mr. Tanner indicated that after thoroughly reviewing relevant legal and factual bases, the DOJ concluded that further action was not appropriate and the investigation has been closed. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your information.

In a subsequent telephone conversation with Mr. Tanner, we ascertained that there were no other Section 2 complaints regarding the County supervisorial districts under investigation by the DOJ. Mr. Tanner also indicated that it is unlikely that the Voting Section would consider conducting any investigation of the County's supervisorial districts until after the 2010 census.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact me, or Senior Deputy County Counsel Nancy M. Takade at (213) 974-1202.

RGF:MAV:NMT:lm

Enclosure

c: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

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

July 12, 2005

The Honorable Raymond G. Fortner, Jr.
County Counsel
Los Angeles County
648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012-2713

Dear Mr. Fortner:

This letter is to inform you of the status of our review of a complaint regarding the districting plan for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, specifically, whether the County's current single-member district plan for electing its five supervisors violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973, because it dilutes the voting strength of the County's Hispanic population. After thoroughly considering the relevant legal and factual bases upon which any action would be based, we have determined that further action by the Department is not appropriate at this time and are, therefore, closing our investigation of the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tanner".

John Tanner
Chief
Voting Section