



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:067

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 12, 2006

Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Statement by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Regarding Federal Election Assistance Commission Report

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State, Bruce McPherson issued the following statement regarding the Federal Election Assistance Commission's report on the previous Secretary of State administration:

"Today, my office received the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) report on the abuses and misuse of federal funds under California's previous Secretary of State. I appreciate the EAC for their diligent investigation and cooperation over the last several months. I am pleased that this chapter of California's history is today a step closer to being behind us.

"When I was sworn in as California's 30th Secretary of State last year, this agency was in tremendous need of repair and restoration. I promised to increase the transparency and accountability of this office, to rebuild relationships with our federal and local partners and to work to restore the trust of the people.

"I'm proud of the strides that we have made over the last year to turn this agency around. When I took office, California was on the verge of being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice for non-compliance with federal laws. We have since implemented a strict policy of budgetary transparency and accountability, and just weeks after being sworn in, we secured \$169 million in federal funds for California that were previously frozen due to misuse. The Department of Justice has now held California up as a model for other states to follow. I am committed to continuing our efforts on behalf of the people of California.

"We are currently reviewing the findings contained in the EAC report and will be responding in the near term."

Visit the Election Assistance Commission website to view the full report:
[http://www.eac.gov/docs/CA Audit Final Resolution 05-12-06.PDF](http://www.eac.gov/docs/CA%20Audit%20Final%20Resolution%2005-12-06.PDF).