

Amador County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Amador County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$335,363.98
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$335,363.98
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$111,787.99
Total System Cost	\$602,623.00

Voting System:

Hardware: ES&S Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) – 40 Units
ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals (Optical Scan) – 40 Units

Non-certified equipment listed in vendor contract – iVotronic Terminals (DRE) – 5 Units

Software: ES&S Model 100 version 5.0.0.0
UNITY Election Management Software version 2.4.3

Vendor:

Elections Systems and Software, Inc. (ES&S)

Acquisition Schedule:

Amador County anticipates receiving their new voting equipment between mid-December 2005 through mid-April 2006. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Amador County projects that their project completion date will be upon certification of the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (AVVPAT):

The AVVPAT requirement does not apply to Amador County's Project Documentation Plan, as the system is a paper-based optical scan voting system.

Amador County
Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Staff Report:

Amador County's Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. However, the five iVotronic Terminals (DRE Units) listed in the vendor contract are **not** currently certified for use in California. Amador County did not indicate in their Project Documentation Plan that they planned to implement and use the iVotronic DRE units as part of their voting system upgrade. Elections Code section 19201(b) prohibits any county from purchasing or contracting for a voting system, in whole or in part, unless it has received the approval for its use from the Secretary of State. As such, the iVotronic Terminals would not be allowable for reimbursement under Proposition 41 and should not be approved as part of Amador County's Project Documentation Plan.

The ES&S Model 100 Optical Scan Units and ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals are certified for use in California. Amador County will be converting from the ES&S Optech Eagle optical scan voting equipment. The county formed a Voting Systems Selection Committee comprised of the Elections Division staff, members of the disabled community and members of the public to assist in the selection of the new voting system. The committee selected the new ES&S optical scan and AutoMARK voting system as it appeared to them to offer the greatest accessibility for disabled voters. The Model 100s and the AutoMARK units will be implemented completely during the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Amador County is conducting an extensive voter outreach program to introduce the new voting system to Amador voters. The county plans to hold demonstrations at elderly centers, community events and meetings, provide demonstrations to individuals, and involve the local media to promote the new voting system. The county is also considering offering early voting using the Model 100s and AutoMARKs at elderly centers and in their county office.

Amador County plans to incorporate elements of the outreach program into their training modules for poll workers and field coordinators on the new voting system features. Amador County plans to solicit feedback from poll workers and voters after the June 6, 2006 Primary Election. The county will dedicate a current election staff person to serve as the project manager to oversee all aspects of the implementation of the new voting system. Amador County believes that the deployment of the Model 100 optical scan units combined with the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals will bring the county into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the state accessibility requirements.

Amador County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted detailed invoices for their certified voting equipment. Please note that the staff proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The election support service, installation, and performance bond line items listed in the Amador County contract with ES&S would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Amador County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$335,363.99 to purchase the 40 ES&S Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counters and 40 ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals and associated software.