

Calaveras County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Calaveras County	Amounts
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$194,438.25
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$319,548.93
Staff Recommended 3:1 Matching Amount	\$64,812.75
Estimated Total System Cost	\$282,831.00
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$125,110.68
Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	\$41,703.56

Voting System:

Hardware: ES&S Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) – 22 Units
ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals (Optical Scan) – 20 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:

Calaveras County anticipates receiving its new voting equipment between late-January 2006 through mid-April 2006. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

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

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

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

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Calaveras County's Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. The ES&S Model 100 Optical Scan Units and ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals are certified for use in California.

Calaveras County will be converting from the Datavote punch card voting system. Calaveras County formed a Voting Systems Selection Committee comprised of its elections 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 ES&S optical scan and AutoMARK voting system as it appeared to them to offer the greatest accessibility for disabled voters. The county also asserted that the cost of the ES&S voting equipment is significantly less than other systems, thus allowing the county to utilize federal funding for additional HAVA-related projects such as voter education and outreach, training, etc. The Model 100s and the AutoMARK units will be implemented completely during the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Calaveras County is developing an extensive voter outreach program to introduce the new voting system to its voters. The county plans to hold demonstrations of the new voting equipment at community events and also plans to involve the local media to promote the new voting system. The county is even considering developing direct mail pieces to assist its voters with how to use the new equipment before voters get to the polls.

After the June 6, 2006 election, the county will be asking poll workers and field coordinators to provide their written comments about the new voting equipment and associated election process. The county has retained an outside consultant to visit polling places in the county on Election Day to provide the county registrar with a report about successes and any issues with the new voting system.

Calaveras 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.

Calaveras County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its 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 and installation line items listed in the Calaveras County contract with ES&S would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Calaveras County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$194,438.25.