

Contra Costa County

Phase 2 -- Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Phase 2	Amounts
Phase 2: Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$2,018,156.25
Phase 2 Remaining VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$2,027,472.99
Phase 2: Staff Recommended 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$672,718.75
Phase 2: Total System Cost	\$2,690,875.00
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$9,316.74
Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	\$3,105.58

Phase 2 Voting System:

Hardware:

ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals (Optical Scan) – 668 Units
Pitney Bowes Olympus II Relia-Vote Base System – 1 Unit

Vendor:

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

Acquisition Schedule:

Contra Costa County has secured their Phase 2 voting equipment. Contra Costa County anticipates using the additional AutoMARK units for the first time at the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Contra Costa County projects that their Phase 2 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 Contra Costa County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan, as the system is a paper-based optical scan voting system.

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Contra Costa County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness. The ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals are certified for use in California.

The deployment of Contra Costa County's Phase 2 AutoMARK voting equipment will bring the county into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the state accessibility requirements. One AutoMARK unit will be placed in every polling place in Contra Costa County. The AutoMARK units will allow voters with a variety of disabilities to vote privately and independently. The AutoMARK offers touch screen capabilities but is not a vote-recording device. The AutoMARK unit will display the voter's ballot on a tilt screen with adjustable fonts and allows the voter to vote by touching selections on the screen. A voter may choose to utilize the audio function and vote using the keypad accessory. The screen is blank when the audio functions are in use. After the voter reviews their selections, using either method, the AutoMARK will print the voter's selection on their ballot with the voter's choices clearly and cleanly marked.

Contra Costa County is planning to purchase the Pitney Bowes Olympus II Relia-Vote Base System for use in conjunction with their ES&S ballot counting system for absentee ballots. Contra Costa County asserts that the Relia-Vote system will enable them to increase security of returned absentee ballots, improve the accuracy of sorting the absentee ballots into counting groups, and provide a complete audit trail of the ballots from the time the ballots arrive in the election office. The county believes that it is imperative to modernize the processing and preparation for counting the increasing number of absentee ballots. The Relia-Vote system is a third-party combination of hardware and software to support the county's voting system and does not itself require certification as a voting system for use in California.

Contra Costa County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted detailed invoices for their Phase 2 voting equipment. Please note that the staff proposed Phase 2 funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The "Election Support Service" listed in the Contra Costa County contract with ES&S and the "extended price" and "annual license fee" items on the Pitney Bowes quotation list would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Contra Costa County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$2,018,156.25.