Humboldt County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Humboldt County	Amounts
County Requested & Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	$467,470.58
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	$986,044.95
County 3:1 Required Matching Amount	$155,823.53
Estimated Total System Cost	$884,099.29
Remaining Allocation Amount	$518,547.37
Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	$172,858.12

Voting System:

Hardware: Hart eSlate Electronic Voting Appliance (DRE) – 80 Units
Judge Booth Controller (JBC) – 80 Units
Verified Ballot Option (VBO) Printers – 80 Units
Disabled Access Unit Upgrade (DAU) – 80 Units

Vendor:

Hart InterCivic

Acquisition Schedule:

Humboldt County has secured its new voting equipment and this new equipment was used for the first time during the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Project Completion Date:

Humboldt County anticipates that its project completion date will be upon certification of the November 2007 UDEL election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

The Hart eSlate units purchased by Humboldt County include the Verified Ballot Option (VBO) printers, which are a VVPAT component.

Staff Report:

Humboldt County's Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. The eSlate and corresponding components are certified for use in California.

Humboldt County
Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Humboldt County has implemented a blended voting system. Humboldt County has augmented its existing Diebold AccuVote Optical Scan Precinct Ballot Tabulators with the placement of one eSlate DRE unit in every polling place in the county. Humboldt County believes that the deployment of eSlate DRE units brought the county into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the state accessibility requirements.

Humboldt County was allowed to use the above-stated independently tested and certified voting systems together to meet federal and state requirements so long as their interface was limited to the exchange of aggregated vote totals. The county was required to duplicate onto AccuVote optical scan ballots all votes cast on the e-Slate machines. Humboldt County was required to submit a written report to the Secretary of State's Office about how well the systems functioned and to recommend ways to improve the blended system in the future. The continued authorization to use the blended system will be contingent upon review and evaluation by the new Secretary of State administration.

Given the compressed timeframes in which Humboldt County implemented its new DRE voting equipment, the county plans to make greater efforts to provide outreach to its disabled community and to expand training efforts for poll workers and county staff on how to efficiently operate the new eSlate machines. Prior to the 2007 November County Uniform District Election (UDEL), the county plans to implement new procedures to integrate its blended voting system more efficiently and examine how to improve logistics on Election Day.

Humboldt County's project plan explicitly states that it is the county's desire and intention that the remaining Proposition 41 allocation continue to be available to Humboldt County for future voting system modernization plans.

The "InFusion" voting software listed in Humboldt County's contract with Hart InterCivic has not yet gained certification in California and, therefore, is not eligible for reimbursement under Proposition 41.

Humboldt 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 only for voting equipment hardware and software . The professional services and optional extended warranty line items listed in the Humboldt County contract with Hart InterCivic would not be covered as reimbursable claims under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Humboldt County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of $467,470.58.