

Kern County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Kern County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$3,401,866.46
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$3,401,866.46
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$1,133,955.49
Total System Cost	\$4,993,696.00

Voting System:

Diebold Accu-Vote – TS (Touch Screen System) – 1,350 Units

Absentee Voting System:

Diebold Accu-Vote – OS (Optical Scan) Ballot Tabulator – 6 Units

Vendor:

Diebold Election Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Kern County plans to receive their new voting equipment in January 2003. The acquisition will be fully completed by July 2003.

Project Completion Date:

Kern County has projected that their project completion date will be after full implementation of the system at the November 4, 2003 UDEL election.

Staff Recommendation:

Kern County's "Project Documentation Package" meets all of the requirements for completeness. Kern County currently uses the Datavote punch card system. This system was determined to be old, hard to maintain and costly.

To determine the selection for the new voting system Kern County formed a review team of elections and auditor staff and also solicited input from the Kern County Voting Accessibility Committee. The selection of the new system was based upon the following criteria: (1) its use of current technology and software; (2) the successful use of the equipment by other election offices; (3) the straightforward installation and implementation vendor process; (4) the ability for disabled voters to vote unassisted; and (5) overall cost of the system.

Kern County plans to begin installation of the new voting system in January 2003. Their project plan allows for a phased approach for full implementation. The phases will consist of installation and testing of: (1) the server and software; (2) touch screen units; and (3) the optical scan ballot counting units. The final phase of implementation will include a full mock election, with the final test of the system during the November 4, 2003 UDEL election.

During the installation and testing phases, Kern County plans incorporated training for their staff on the new system. They have also built in poll worker training and voter outreach education into their overall project plan. Kern County believes that this implementation period will provide sufficient time to implement the new voting system successfully.

It is our recommendation to approve Kern County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$3,401,866.46.
