

Nevada County

Phase 2 - Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report Summary

Phase 2	Amounts
Staff Recommended & County Requested Funding Award Amount	\$9,888.00
Remaining VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$ 115,704.96
County Match Amount	\$3,296.00
County's Estimated Total System Cost	\$13,184.00
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$105,816.96
Remaining County 3:1 Match Amount	\$26,454.24

Voting Equipment:

Hardware: Balotar Ballot on Demand Printer Version 2.2.0.011

Vendor: ES&S

Acquisition Schedule:

Nevada County purchased the ES&S Balotar Version 2.2.0.011 in March of 2016.

Project Completion Date:

Nevada County had the ES&S Balotar Version 2.2.0.011 fully functional for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election.

Staff Report:

Nevada County's Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness.

In 2002, the Voting Modernization Board awarded Nevada County funds that helped the county to upgrade to the Hart Optical Scan/DRE voting system. Phase 2 of Nevada County's modernization efforts began in 2007. At that time, the county purchased an optical scan precinct and central count system as well as e-Slate units from Hart Intercivic, Inc. using a combination of federal, state, and county funds.

Since 2001, the number of voters requesting vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots has more than tripled. Of the county's 68,000 plus voters, 77.63% have requested permanent VBM status, with a possible additional 5% (depending on the election) residing in an all-mail ballot precinct. Nevada County maintains that the purchase of a ballot on demand (BOD) system will help it keep up with the increasing number of VBM voters in its county.

Nevada County
Phase 2 - Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Nevada County anticipates that the ES&S Balotar will continue to improve the process by which they provide daily vote-by-mail and over-the-counter ballot requests. Every election requires a different set of ballots, known as "ballot types," which vary according to the combination of federal, state, county, and local district offices that are up for election, as well as any measures that have qualified for the ballot. During an election year, Nevada County can have up to 25 different ballot types.

The County must provide a sufficient number of ballots for each voter along with enough coverage in each ballot type to allow for newly registered voters, provisional voters, and spoiled or replacement ballots. The number of ballots ordered must also take into account expected voter turnout for a given election.

Additionally, now that VoteCal (the statewide voter registration system) is the system of record in California, conditional voter registration (CVR) (Chapter 497, Statutes of 2012) takes effect. With CVR, voters can now register up until the close of the polls on election day, greatly complicating the task of estimating how many ballots, and of what type, to order.

Nevada County believes the ballot on demand printers will allow the county to reduce ballot printing costs somewhere between 25 and 45 percent, greatly minimize ballot spoilage, and help manage the issues that have been created by conditional voter registration.

This upgrade in voting equipment has been used to improve the administration of elections. Ballot on demand printers increase security by eliminating the need to store pre-printed ballots while simultaneously lessening the potential for human error when providing ballots to voters over-the-counter at the elections office. The Board has previously reimbursed Placer County for their purchase of a similar ballot on demand printer. The Balotar, specifically, is already used in both Solano and San Joaquin counties.

Nevada County's efforts to modernize the way they handle both the increasing number of VBM voters and the impending same day registration of voters, while saving an estimated \$6,962 in taxpayer money by using ballot on demand printers can certainly be seen as in line with the spirit of the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002.

Nevada County reports that the Balotar is easy to use, even by individuals who are "non-technical." This will greatly simplify the training Nevada County provides to its poll workers, or, if Nevada County does expand its operation to include vote centers as provided for in SB 450 (Chapter 832, Statutes of 2016), to the additional county employees or temporary workers who will staff the vote centers.

The Balotar Printer System has been approved by the Secretary of State's office (SOS) for use in California since August of 2012.

Additionally, after meeting the criteria of Hart InterCivic, ES&S requested approval for its Balotar Printer System to print ballots produced by the Hart Voting System specifically in Nevada County. The Secretary of State approved and authorized ES&S to manufacture and finish Hart BallotNow

Nevada County
Phase 2 - Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

ballots utilizing the Balotar ballot on demand print system using the OkiDATA C711 printer in September of 2015.

Please note that the staff-proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The ballot sheet processing fees listed in the Nevada County contract with ES&S would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Also, while recommending the approval of funding for the purchase of two ballot on demand printers, we would like make it clear to the County that the cost for ink or paper for the ballot on demand printers is not a reimbursable expense under Proposition 41.

Nevada County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its voting equipment.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Nevada County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$9,888.