

Sacramento County

Phase 1 – Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Phase 1	Amounts
Phase 1: Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$3,923,320.50
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$7,721,635.32
Phase 1: 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$1,307,773.50
Phase 1: Total System Cost	\$5,963,397.00
Phase 2	
Phase 2: Remaining Allocation Amount	\$3,798,314.82
Phase 2: Remaining 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$1,266,104.94
Phase 2: Total Estimated System Cost	\$5,007,500.00
Total System Cost For All Phases	\$10,970,897.00

Phase 1 Voting System:

Hardware: ES&S Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) – 1,000 Units
 ES&S Model 650 High Speed Central Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) – 3 Units

Software: ES&S Model 100 version 5.0.0.0
 ES&S Model 650 version 1.2.0.0
 Unity Software version 2.4.3

Vendor:

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

Acquisition Schedule:

Sacramento County has secured the Phase 1 voting system equipment and this new equipment will be implemented during the November 2, 2004, General Election.

Project Completion Date:

The Phase 1 voting system will be fully implemented during the November 2, 2004, General Election. The anticipated Phase 2 voting system, the AutoMark voting system, has not yet completed Federal testing nor has it been scheduled to go through the state certification process.

Accessible Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (AVVPAT):

The AVVPAT requirement does not apply to Sacramento County's Phase 1 Project Documentation Plan, as the system is a paper-based optical scan voting system.

Staff Report:

Sacramento County's Phase 1 – Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. The ES&S Model 100 and 650 optical scan voting system units being used by Sacramento County are certified for use in California.

Due to a federal court order and the de-certification of the Pollstar punch card voting system, Sacramento County was required to convert from the Pollstar voting system before March 1, 2004. As an interim solution to meet the March 1, 2004, conversion deadline, Sacramento County converted to the Mark-a-Vote 312 voting system for the March 2004 Primary Election. While this system complied with the federal court order, Sacramento County did not consider this voting system a long-term solution.

Sacramento County acquired their new ES&S optical scan voting system in June 2004, and this system will be used for the first time during the November 2, 2004, Presidential General Election. Sacramento County believes that the phased approach will allow for an orderly transition to the new ES&S optical scan system, due in part to the new “look and feel” of the system. The ES&S optical scan voting system will no longer require voters to use their Sample Ballots to determine the number that corresponds to each candidate or measure to vote their ballot. With the new voting system the contests will be printed directly on the ballot. The new optical voting system will also offer “second change voting” to all voters who vote at a polling site. Each ballot will be scanned and the voter will be notified if they have over-voted in any contest and will be given the opportunity to correct the ballot before it is cast. Sacramento County has conducted an extensive outreach program to introduce the new ES&S optical scan voting system to county voters through demonstrations at community events and meetings, as well as to individuals and the local media.

Sacramento County's Phase 1 optical scan equipment does not fully address the new state and federal requirements for accessibility. However, Sacramento County does have a comprehensive voter accessibility outreach program that includes: (1) community input through the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee; (2) audiotapes of ballot measures; (3) accessible polling locations; and, (4) outreach programs to assist the disabled community. To fully comply with state and federal law, Sacramento County plans to incorporate a Phase 2 into their overall plan and intends to purchase one accessible touch screen unit for each of their polling places.

While Sacramento County's Phase 1 voting system appears to meet the requirements for reimbursement under Proposition 41, it should be noted that any money allocated for this system would reduce the amount of money the county will have to purchase accessible voting equipment during their second phase.

Sacramento County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted invoices for their Phase 1 voting equipment.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation to approve Sacramento County's Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package and issue a “Funding Award” letter in the amount of \$3,923,320.50.