

Santa Clara County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Santa Clara County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$9,503,395.64
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$9,503,395.64
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$3,167,798.55
Total System Cost	\$18,904,509.48

Voting System:

Sequoia AVC Edge (Touch Screen) – 5,500 Units
Sequoia Optech 400 C – (Optical Scan) – 3 Units

Vendor:

Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Santa Clara County began receiving their new optical voting equipment in August 2003 and received their final shipment of touch screen units at the end of September 2003. The county plans to begin using this equipment at the November 2003 UDEL election and also at the March 2004 Presidential Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Santa Clara County has projected that their project completion date will be upon certification of the March 2004 Presidential Primary Election.

Staff Recommendation:

Santa Clara County's "Project Documentation Package" meets all of the requirements for completeness. The Sequoia AVC Edge Touch Screen and Sequoia Optech 400 C system is certified for use in California and it meets all of the Federal and state accessibility requirements.

Santa Clara County is converting from a Pollstar punch card voting system. The Pollstar punch card voting system was decertified and Santa Clara is under a Federal court order to replace their system before March 1, 2004.

Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters (ROV) began his Request For Proposal (RFP) process in July 2002. Vendor proposals were evaluated by an Evaluation Team, which consisted of representatives from the ROV's office and the County Information Services Department. After reviewing all of the vendor proposals, three certified vendors were chosen to participate in a Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) pilot project. During the DRE Pilot Project, the vendors were required to participate in a "simulated" election in 30 pilot precincts and early voting for the November 2002 Election. The ROV also performed extensive outreach and obtained community input on the three systems. Santa Clara County selected the Sequoia Voting System for the following reasons: (1) easiest to use; (2) system dependability; (3) system's ability to handle multi-languages; (4) ADA compliant, meeting state and federal law; (5) printer receipt capability; and (6) Sequoia's excellent customer service throughout the pilot project.

Santa Clara County plans to fully implement the new AVC Edge Touch Screen and Optech 400 C voting system at their November 2003 UDEL Election.

The County believes that the new DRE system will be less confusing to voters in comparison to the punch card voting. The DRE system will allow the voters to review their choices on the screen before it is cast, accommodates the county's requirement of producing the ballot in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog), and has an audio component for the blind voter permitting them to vote unassisted. The new voting system will also significantly reduce the amount of time to produce election results on Election Night.

Santa Clara County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted invoices for their voting equipment.

It is our recommendation to approve Santa Clara County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$9,503,395.64.