

Shasta County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Shasta County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$1,156,557.13
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$1,156,557.13
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$385,519.04
Total System Cost	\$1,659,035.96

Voting System:

Sequoia AVC Edge DRE (Touch Screen) – 438 Units

Absentee Voting System:

Sequoia Optech 400 C Tabulator (Optical Scan) – 2 Units

Vendor:

Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Shasta County received their new voting equipment in August 2003. The acquisition will be fully completed by early-September 2003. The county plans to use their new voting equipment for the first time at the October 7, 2003 Statewide Special Election.

Project Completion Date:

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

Staff Recommendation:

Shasta County's "Project Documentation Package" meets all of the requirements for completeness. The Sequoia AVC Edge DRE and Optech 400 C Tabulator systems are certified for use in California. Shasta County's previous system was the Votomatic system. The Votomatic voting system has been decertified and Shasta County is under a federal court order to replace their system before March 1, 2004.

Shasta County considered only Direct Recording Equipment (DRE) units for polling places and optical scan for absentee and vote by mail ballots. This consideration was made largely due to the new federal Help America Vote Act requirements and new state law requirements regarding accessibility.

Shasta County's overall strategy for selecting the Sequoia voting system is as follows: (1) the system will provide a simplified voting experience for the voter; (2) it will reduce burdens on poll workers; (3) it will increase accessibility and independence for voters with special needs; (4) it will remove the potential for voter error and the ambiguity associated with the old Votomatic punch card system; and (5) the system was selected in part for Sequoia's commitment to service by working closely with the county staff to ensure a successful transition to the new voting system.

Shasta County planned to begin installation of the new voting system for use at their November 2003 UDEL election. Due to logistical problems, Shasta County no longer had access to their legacy Votomatic voting system. Therefore, they were forced to move up the implementation date for the new voting system to the October 7, 2003 Statewide Special Election. While the October 7, 2003 Statewide Special Election was unforeseen, it will allow Shasta County to use their new voting system in one statewide election and one county UDEL election before the March 2, 2004 Presidential Primary Election.

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

It is our recommendation to approve Shasta County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$1,156,557.13.