

Sonoma County

Phase 2 – Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Summary

Phase 2	Amounts
Phase 2: Staff Recommended & County Requested Funding Award Amount	\$398,649.32
Phase 2: Remaining VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$405,155.42
Phase 2: Actual County Match Amount	\$311,680.32
Phase 2: County's Estimated Total System Cost	\$710,330.16
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$6,506.10
Remaining County 3:1 Match Amount	\$0

Phase 2 Voting System:

Hardware: APEX VBM signature verification and sorting system

Vendor: Bowe, Bell & Howell Company

Acquisition Schedule:

Sonoma County has secured the Phase 2 equipment and this new equipment was implemented during the two small county elections in November 2009.

Project Completion Date:

Sonoma County projects that its project completion date will be upon certification of the June 8, 2010, Statewide Primary Election.

Staff Report:

Sonoma County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness.

Sonoma County has augmented their existing Mark-A-Vote optical scan voting equipment with the Bowe, Bell & Howell automated vote-by-mail signature verification and sorting system.

The number of permanent vote-by-mail voters has doubled in Sonoma County since the law changed to allow for any voter to apply to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter. This new acquisition will assist Sonoma County to accommodate their ever-growing vote-by-mail voter population. Sonoma County had over 77% of its ballots cast via vote-by-mail ballot in the May 2009 Statewide Special Election, which was a greater voter turnout than at the polls. The county believes that given the increasing number of vote-by-mail ballots it is imperative to modernize their vote-by-mail ballot counting processes. This signature verification and sorting system streamlines the vote-

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by-mail ballot processing. This new automated system processes incoming vote-by-mail ballots at high speed with in-line signature capture, signature verification, and ballots sorted by precinct number. Sonoma County has projected that the implementation of this system will save the County approximately 500 staff hours in major elections and will significantly increase the accuracy in preparing the ballots for tabulation, by decreasing the potential for error.

The Bowe, Bell & Howell automated vote-by-mail signature verification and sorting system is a third-party combination of hardware and software to support the County's voting system and does not itself require certification as a voting system for use in California.

Sonoma County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its voting equipment. Please note that the staff-proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The extended service maintenance line items listed in the Sonoma County contract with Bowe, Bell & Howell Company would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Sonoma County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$398,649.32.