

Siskiyou County

Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Phase 1	Amounts
Phase 1: Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$258,956.58
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$368,246.57
Phase 1: 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$86,318.86
Phase 1: Total System Cost	\$345,257.47
Phase 2	
Phase 2: Remaining Allocation Amount	\$109,289.99
Phase 2: 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$36,429.99
Phase 2: Total System Cost	Unknown at this time

Phase 1 -- Voting System:

AccuVote Precinct Ballot Tabulators – 40 Units
AccuVote Central Ballot Tabulators – 6 Units

Phase 1 -- Vendor:

Diebold Election Systems, Inc.

Phase 1 -- Acquisition Schedule:

Siskiyou County has secured the Phase 1 voting system equipment and this new equipment was implemented during the November 2000 General Election.

Phase 1 -- Project Completion Date:

The Phase 1 voting system was fully implemented during the November 2000 General Election. The Phase 2 voting system has not yet been determined.

Phase 1 -- Staff Recommendation:

Siskiyou County's "Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package" meets the requirements for completeness. The AccuVote voting system being used by Siskiyou County is certified for use in California.

While Siskiyou County's current voting system appears to meet the requirements for reimbursement under Proposition 41, it should be noted that any money allocated for this system would considerably

reduce the amount of money the county will have to purchase another voting system during their second phase.

Siskiyou County's decision to convert to this new optical scan voting system was based upon several factors including: (1) the systems cost-effectiveness; (2) the simplicity of use by voters; and (3) the system efficiency in reducing the amount of time it takes to produce election results on Election Day.

The apparent success of Siskiyou County's voting system conversion can be directly linked to the extensive vendor support with the training of their election staff members and precinct board members and the major media campaign to introduce and promote the new voting system to their voters.

Siskiyou County's "Phase 1" optical scan equipment does not fully address the new state and federal requirements for accessibility. The county's accessibility plan does include the availability of precinct supplies for voters with specific needs, handicapped accessibility voting booths, table-top voting booths, magnifier strips, and easy-grip pens. It should be noted that Siskiyou County's current AccuVote voting system allows for the compatibility with DRE voting units to be used for voters with specific needs, including visual disabilities.

To fully comply with state and federal law, Siskiyou County plans to incorporate a "Phase 2" into their overall plan and intends to purchase one DRE unit for each of their polling places. Siskiyou County, in their initial application, originally projected that they would begin their "Phase 2" plan in 2003; however, they have amended their projection for their "Phase 2" to take place during fiscal year 2004-2005.

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

It is our recommendation to approve Siskiyou County's "Phase 1 -- Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$258,956.58.