

Nevada County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Nevada County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$866,431.28
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$866,431.28
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$288,810.43
Estimated System Cost	\$1,314,818.17

Voting System:

Hardware: Hart eScan Optical Scan – 72 Units
Hart eSlate Electronic Voting Appliance (DRE) – 74 Units
Judge’s Booth Controller (JBC) – 70 Units
Disabled Access Unit (DAU) – 74 Units
Verifiable Ballot Option (VBO) Printers – 75 Units
High Volume Kodak i660 Scanners – 2 Units

Vendor:

Hart InterCivic

Acquisition Schedule:

Nevada County anticipates receiving its new voting equipment between late-August 2007 and mid-September 2007. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Nevada County expects that its project completion date will be upon certification of the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

The Hart eSlate units being purchased by Nevada County include the Verified Ballot Option (VBO) printers, which are a VVPAT component.

Staff Report:

Nevada County’s Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. The eScan and eSlate with corresponding components are certified for use in California.

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Nevada County began comprehensively researching a replacement to their voting system in June of 2004. Nevada County made several attempts to upgrade their voting system to become Help America Vote Act (HAVA) compliant through the request for proposal (RFP) process. The county issued RFPs in October 2004, October 2005, and October 2006.

On June 12, 2007, Nevada County entered into a contract with Hart Intercivic for their new voting system. Nevada County will be implementing a blended optical scan and touch screen voting system. The county believes that the deployment of the one eSlate optical scan unit and one eSlate touchscreen unit in all polling places will bring the county into full compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The eSlate units will provide access to those voters with disabilities and will also satisfy the second-chance voting requirements by not allowing over-votes and identifying under-votes to each voter.

Nevada County plans to use the paper-based optical scan unit as its primary voting system, thus allowing a majority of their voters to vote on a paper ballot. The county believes that this approach will assist in avoiding some of the controversy surrounding the current touchscreen technology while still adhering to state and federal accessibility requirements.

Nevada County is currently developing an extensive voter outreach program to introduce the new voting system to its voters. The county plans to hold demonstrations of the new voting equipment at community events and to involve the local media to promote the new voting system. The county plans to provide its poll workers and voters with evaluation forms and surveys to get feedback on the new voting system. Based upon this feedback, the county will adjust procedures as necessary to best serve its voters.

The "InFusion" and "Fusion" voting software listed in Nevada County's contract with Hart InterCivic has not yet gained certification in California and, therefore, is not eligible for reimbursement under Proposition 41. Furthermore, at this time, the Secretary of State's Office has not received any technical specifications nor any other relevant information on the "TAG" and "SCORE" software components listed in Nevada County's contract with Hart InterCivic. This software has not been provided to the Secretary of State's Office to gain certification to be used with this voting system and, therefore, would also not be eligible for reimbursement under Proposition 41 at this time.

Nevada County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its certified voting equipment. Please note that the staff-proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 only for voting equipment hardware and software. The professional services, optional extended warranty line items, and identified non-certified software listed in the Nevada County contract with Hart InterCivic would not be covered as reimbursable claims under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Nevada County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$866,431.28.