

Sacramento County

Phase 2 -- Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Sacramento County Phase 2	Amounts
Phase 2: Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$3,798,314.82
Phase 2: Remaining VMB Allocation Amount	\$3,798,314.82
Phase 2: Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	\$803,941.68
Phase 2: Total Estimated System Cost	\$5,007,500.00

Phase 2 Voting System:

Hardware: ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals (Optical Scan) – 1,000 Units

Software: UNITY Election Management Software version 2.4.3

Vendor:

Elections Systems and Software, Inc. (ES&S)

Acquisition Schedule:

Sacramento County began securing their Phase 2 voting equipment after the Secretary of State certified the use of the AutoMARK system in August 2005. Sacramento County anticipates using the AutoMARK units for the first time at the November 8, 2005 Special Statewide Election.

Project Completion Date:

Sacramento County projects that their Phase 2 project completion date will be upon certification of the November 8, 2005 Special Statewide Election.

Accessible Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (AVVPAT):

The AVVPAT requirement does not apply to Sacramento County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan, as the system is a paper-based optical scan voting system.

Staff Report:

Sacramento County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness. The ES&S AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals are certified for use in California.

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The deployment of Sacramento County’s Phase 2 AutoMARK voting equipment will bring the county into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the state accessibility requirements.

One AutoMARK unit will be placed in every polling place in Sacramento County. The AutoMARK units will allow voters with a variety of disabilities to vote privately and independently. The AutoMARK offers touch screen capabilities but is not a vote-recording device. The AutoMARK unit will display the voter’s ballot on a tilt screen with adjustable fonts and allows the voter to vote by touching selections on the screen. A voter may choose to utilize the audio function and vote using the keypad accessory. The screen is blank when the audio functions are in use. After the voter reviews their selections, using either method, the AutoMARK will print the voter’s selection on their ballot with the voter’s choice clearly and cleanly marked.

Sacramento County will use the same voter outreach and poll worker training strategies used during their Phase 1 plan. The county plans to conduct an extensive outreach program to introduce the new AutoMARK units to county voters through demonstrations at community events and meetings, as well as to individuals and the local media. The county plans to provide poll workers and voters with surveys to evaluate the AutoMARK units.

Sacramento County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted detailed invoices for their Phase 2 voting equipment. Please note that the staff proposed Phase 2 funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The “Election Support Service” list in the Sacramento County contract with ES&S would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Sacramento County’s Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$3,798,314.82.