

San Bernardino County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

San Bernardino County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$7,995,027.76
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$7,995,027.76
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$2,665,009.25
Total System Cost	\$13,695,027.00

Voting System:

Sequoia AVC Edge (Touch Screen) – 4000 Units
Sequoia Optech 400 C – (Optical Scan) – 4 Units

Vendor:

Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

San Bernardino County has secured the optical scan portion of their voting system equipment and this new equipment was implemented during the October 7, 2003 Statewide Special Election. The county plans to have the new touch screen equipment acquired and in use in time for the November 2003 UDEL election and the March 2004 Presidential Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

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

Staff Recommendation:

San Bernardino County's "Project Documentation Package" meets all of the requirements for completeness. The Sequoia AVC Edge Touch Screen and Sequoia Optech 400 C systems are certified for use in California.

San Bernardino County converted from a Pollstar punch card voting system. The Pollstar punch card voting system was decertified and San Bernardino County was under a Federal court order to replace their system before March 1, 2004.

San Bernardino County's Registrar of Voters completed a Request For Proposal (RFP) process that included responses from nine vendors. The county used an evaluation team as well as other County employees to evaluate the vendor proposals and equipment. San Bernardino considered only Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) units for polling places and optical scan for absentee and vote by mail ballots.

The county believed that it would be too complicated for the poll workers to work with two different systems; therefore they decided to only provide the DRE units at the polling sites. The county will implement their new voting system in two phases. The first phase will include the use of the Optech 400 C optical scanned ballots for the October 7, 2003 Statewide Special Election and the November 2003 UDEL elections. The second phase includes integrating the optical scan for absentee ballots while placing the DRE's at the polling sites.

San Bernardino County believes the new voting system will provide a simplified voting experience, reduce burdens on poll workers, increase accessibility and independence for voters with special needs and will remove the potential for voter error and ambiguity that is possible with punch card ballots.

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

It is our recommendation to approve San Bernardino County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$7,995,027.76.