

San Diego County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report (REVISED)

Summary

San Diego County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount*	\$16,726,146.64
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$16,726,146.64
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$5,575,382.31
Total System Cost	\$30,778,583.19

*With Conditions

Voting System:

Hardware: AccuVote-TSx (Touch Screen) version 4.4 – 10,200 Units
AccuVote-OS (Optical Scan) – 4 Units

Software: GEMS Software Version 1.18.18

Vendor:

Diebold Elections Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

San Diego County began receiving their new voting equipment in late December 2003. The county plans to begin using this equipment at the March 2, 2004 Presidential Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

San Diego County has projected that their project completion date will be upon certification of the November 2004 General Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

San Diego County's contract with Diebold includes a provision to retrofit the touch screen units to comply with the Secretary of State's new VVPAT directive at no additional cost to the county.

Staff Recommendation:

San Diego County's "Project Documentation Package" meets all of the requirements for completeness. The AccuVote-OS Optical Scan units are certified for use in California. The AccuVote-TSx Touch Screen units are **conditionally** certified for use in California. Appropriate federal approval is pending for the AccuVote-TSx Touch Screen voting system.

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San Diego County is converting from a Votomatic punch card voting system. The Votomatic punch card voting system was decertified and the county is required under a Federal court order to replace their system before March 1, 2004.

San Diego County is the third largest county in California with approximately 1.3 million registered voters. San Diego County's Registrar of Voters office began its Request For Proposal (RFP) process in July 2002. After evaluating ten proposals, a nine-member Source Selection Committee recommended that Diebold Elections Systems, Inc. be awarded the contract. The selection was made based upon the vendor's familiarity with California elections as well as the pricing and the vendors overall commitment for continued customer service and training.

San Diego is required to provide ballots in three languages, English, Spanish and Tagalog. The AccuVote-TSx units allow ballots to be displayed in multiple languages and are fully ADA compliant. One unit in every polling location will have the capacity to provide an audio ballot to assist voters who are blind or have visual impairments enabling them to vote unassisted.

San Diego plans to begin using the new voting equipment at the March 2, 2004 Presidential Primary Election. They do not plan to implement remote early voting until the November 2004 General Election. The county plans to survey voters after the March 2, 2004 election to evaluate the effectiveness and overall voter confidence and satisfaction with the new voting system.

San Diego indicated that they also plan to purchase a "Precinct Control Module" that will activate the voter access card for the touch screen system and has the functionality to be used as an electronic roster for future elections. They indicated that this component would not be used until the November 2004 General Election. Please note that this module is **not yet** certified for use in California; therefore, any cost associated with this device would not be eligible for reimbursement under the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002.

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

It is our recommendation to approve San Diego County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$16,726,146.64 subject to the following conditions:

No payment shall be made until the Secretary of State notifies the Voting Modernization Board that each of the following is true:

- 1) documentation has been received by the Secretary of State that the AccuVote-TSx Touch Screen voting system has received appropriate federal approval; and
- 2) the AccuVote-TSx Touch Screen voting system has been certified by the Secretary of State without special conditions; and
- 3) an image of each of the voted ballots cast on each of the AccuVote-TSx Touch Screen units at the March 2, 2004 statewide primary election will be or has been printed out on paper during the official canvass of that election, the cost of which will be or has been borne by Diebold Elections System, Inc. (The requirement to print out images of all ballots cast on AccuVote-TSx touch screen units at the March 2, 2004 Primary Election will be applied to all counties using AccuVote-TSx touch screen units at that election.)