

Sierra County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Sierra County	Amounts
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$43,825.14
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$43,825.14
Staff Recommended 3:1 Matching Amount	\$14,608.38
Total System Cost	\$130,462.56

Voting System:

Hardware:

AccuVote-OS Precinct Count (Optical Scan) version 1.96.6 – 2 Units

AccuVote-OS Central Count (Optical Scan) version 2.0.12 – 2 Units

AccuVote-TSX with AccuView Printer Module (Touch Screen) version 4.6.4 – 4 Units

Software:

GEMS Software Version 1.18.24

Vendor:

Diebold Elections Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Sierra County anticipates receiving its new voting equipment by late-March 2006. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Sierra County projects that its project completion date will be upon certification of the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

The AccuVote-TSX units with AccuView Printer component being purchased by Sierra County include a voter verifiable receipt printer, which is a VVPAT component.

Sierra County
Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Staff Report:

Sierra County's Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness. The Diebold AccuVote-OS precinct and central optical scan units and AccuVote-TSX touch screen units are certified for use in California.

Sierra County will be converting from the Datavote punch card voting system. Sierra County is the second smallest county in California with approximately 2,200 registered voters and 54% percent of these registered voters are designated as voting by absentee ballot. Sierra County has conducted the last three countywide elections as all-mail ballot elections and asserts that it has received a good response from its voters.

At this time, Sierra County intends to designate all of its precincts as "Mailed-Ballot Precincts" for the upcoming June 6, 2006 Primary Election. The county plans to have one DRE unit within the elections office for voting as needed. Sierra County is aware of the potential for population growth in its county and the possibility that it may no longer be able to conduct "all-mail ballot precinct elections." Therefore, Sierra County's voting system modernization plan includes the purchase of two precinct count units to be used with the DRE units in polling places in the county.

Sierra County plans to notify its voters of the new optical scan system and how to mark ballots, with a special effort to reach out to disabled voters and make them aware of the new touchscreen units that will allow them to vote unassisted. The county intends to involve its two local newspapers to inform voters about the voting system and also plans to distribute flyers to medical and senior facilities in the county on how to mark the new ballots and how to use the new touchscreen voting equipment. The county plans to place a DRE unit at the drop-box location during the November 2006 General Election.

Sierra 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 for voting equipment hardware and software only. The support services line items listed in the Sierra County contract with Diebold would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Sierra County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$43,825.14.