

Sutter County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Sutter County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$497,078.20
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$497,078.90
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$165,692.73
Total System Cost	\$1,501,401.04

Voting System:

Hardware:

Precinct System: AVC Edge II DRE (Touch Screen) version 4.3.320 – 225 Units
VeriVote (DRE Printers) – 295 Units

Absentee System: Optech 400-C Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) version 1.10.5 – 1 Unit
Optech Insight Precinct Ballot Counters (Optical Scan) version HPX 1.40,
APX 2.06 CPX 1.12 – 2 Units

Software: WinEDS version 3.0134

Vendor:

Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Sutter County's plan estimates delivery of their new voting equipment in April 2006. The actual delivery terms of their vendor contract are more ambiguous. The contract language states that the delivery and set-up date "is estimated to be completed within 4 months" from the date of the contract. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Project Completion Date:

Sutter County projects that their project completion date will be upon certification of the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

The AVC Edge DRE units being purchased by Sutter County include the VeriVote printers, which are a VVPAT component.

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Staff Report:

Sutter County's Project Documentation Plan meets the minimum requirements for completeness. The staff recommends requesting that an additional acquisition schedule and project timeline be provided once the county and the vendor have established actual delivery dates.

The Sequoia AVC Edge II DRE units, the VeriVote printers, the Optech Insight units, and the Optech 400-C units are certified for use in California. The software used to run the AVC Edge units currently has a "condition" on the certification for its use, as the software cannot be used in a primary election. This condition is expected to be resolved prior to the June 6, 2006 Primary Election; however, no application has yet been received by the Secretary of State's Office for consideration of the updated system, and unless such an application is brought forward by the vendor before the end of January, it appears unlikely that the Sequoia AVC Edge II DRE units with the VeriVote printers would be able to be used during the June 6, 2006 Primary Election.

Sutter County will be converting from the Mark-A-Vote optical scan voting system. Sutter County will use their Optech 400-C optical scan as their absentee system and plans to use the two Optech Insight optical scan machines as back-up to the 400-C. The county will be implementing the AVC Edge DRE II units as their precinct-based system in all of their polling locations during the June 6, 2006 Primary Election. Sutter County believes that the deployment of DRE units in all polling places will bring the county into full compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), as the DRE system provides access to those voters with disabilities, and it also will satisfy the second-chance voting requirements by not allowing over-votes and identifying under-votes to each voter.

The county is aware that the change to the new voting system will require a voter outreach and education program and will necessitate significant changes in staff and poll worker training. Sutter County plans to contract with an outside consultant to assist in the development and implementation of a project plan to fully implement the new voting system. The county has identified staff in their county Registrar of Voters Office, Administration Office and Information Technology Department to monitor the voting system conversion.

Sutter County will only receive VMB payments once they have submitted invoices for the purchase of the 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 installation, training, and outreach costs listed in the Sutter County plan would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends requesting that an additional acquisition schedule and project timeline be provided once the county and the vendor have established actual delivery dates.

It is our recommendation that Sutter County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$497,078.20.