

Tehama County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Tehama County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$386,407.44
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$386,407.44
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$128,802.48
Total System Cost	\$709,469.38

Voting System:

Hardware: AVC Edge DRE (Touch Screen) version 4.0 – 148 Units
Optech 400 C (Optical Scan) – 1 Unit

Software: AVC Edge Firmware Version 4.2
Optech 400 C Software Version 1.02B AKA IVC

Vendor:

Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.

Acquisition Schedule:

Tehama 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:

Tehama County projects that their project completion date will be upon certification of the November 2004 General Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

Tehama County's contract with Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. does not contain an explicit "upgrade" option for retrofitting the DRE units with a VVPAT component. Tehama County plans to wait for clarification from the Secretary of State on the exact specifications to be required for the VVPAT before they negotiate with Sequoia to retrofit the DRE units.

Staff Recommendation:

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

Tehama County considered only Direct Recording Equipment (DRE) units for polling places and optical scan for absentee and vote by mail ballots. This consideration was made largely due to the new federal Help America Vote Act requirements and new state law requirements regarding accessibility. The county also believed that it would be too complicated for poll workers and the voters to have two different systems at the polling sites. According to Tehama County, Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. was selected in part due to their commitment to service including working with their staff to ensure a successful transition to the new voting system.

Tehama County's decision to replace their current Datavote punch card system was based on the following: (1) the new voting system technology would provide a simplified voting experience; (2) would reduce burdens on poll workers; (3) increase accessibility and independence for voters with special needs; and (4) would assist in alleviating voter concerns about the use of punch card ballots.

Tehama County will use their new voting system for the first time at the March 2, 2004 Presidential Primary Election and plans to conduct a rigorous public relations program to educate voters on the use of the new voting system. Due to the small size of the county, they anticipate having the opportunity to talk to all of the poll workers individually while preparing for the March 2004 Election. The feedback that they have received thus far from poll workers on the new voting system has been very enthusiastic. The county plans to provide the poll workers and voters' evaluation forms and surveys to get feedback on the new voting system. Based upon this feedback they will adjust procedures as necessary to best serve the voters of their county.

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

It is our recommendation to approve Tehama County's "Project Documentation Package" and issue a "Funding Award" letter in the amount of \$386,407.44.