

Ventura County

Phase 2 -- Project Documentation Plan Staff Report Summary

Phase 2	Amounts
Phase 2: Staff Recommended & County Requested Funding Award Amount	\$523,093.57
Phase 2: Remaining VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$ 1,109,507.64
Phase 2: County Match Amount	\$130,773.39
Phase 2: County's Estimated Total System Cost	\$680,586.05
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$586,414.07
Remaining County 3:1 Match Amount	\$239,062.49

Phase 2 Voting System:

Hardware: APEX VBM verification and sorting system
 OPEX MPE 7.5 Ballot Extraction system

Vendor: Bowe, Bell & Howell Company

Acquisition Schedule:

Ventura County has secured the Phase 2 equipment and this new equipment was implemented during the General Election in November 2010.

Project Completion Date:

Ventura County has fully implemented the use of this new voting equipment.

Staff Report:

Ventura County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness.

Ventura County has augmented their existing Sequoia Optech Insight optical scan voting equipment with the Bowe, Bell & Howell automated vote-by-mail sorting and ballot extraction system.

The number of vote-by-mail voters has expanded significantly in Ventura County since 2004. Nearly half of all ballots cast in the November 2010 General Election were cast using vote-by-mail ballots. The county believes that given the increasing number of vote-by-mail ballots, it is imperative to modernize their vote-by-mail ballot counting processes. The new equipment will allow for in-line signature capture, ballot extraction, and sorting and will streamline the overall vote-by-mail ballot processing. This new automated system will be used to automate the sorting process

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and processing of the returned vote-by-mail ballots and provide a secure storage of vote-by-mail ballots through the canvass process.

Ventura County has projected that the implementation of this system will save the County an estimated 2,160 staff hours in major elections and will significantly increase the accuracy in preparing the ballots for tabulation, by decreasing the potential for error.

The Bowe, Bell & Howell automated vote-by-mail verification and sorting and ballot extraction systems are a third-party combination of hardware and software to support the County's voting system and does not itself require certification as a voting system for use in California.

Ventura County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted detailed invoices for its 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 extended service maintenance line items listed in the Ventura County contract with Bowe, Bell & Howell Company would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Ventura County's Phase 2 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$523,093.57.