

# San Mateo County

## Project Documentation Package Staff Report

### Summary

San Mateo County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$4,569,941.98
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$4,569,941.98
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$1,523,313.99
Estimated Total System Cost	\$10,066,596.49

#### **Voting System:**

**Hardware:** Hart eSlate Electronic Voting Appliance (DRE) – 2,100 Units  
Judge Booth Controller (JBC) – 525 Units  
Verified Ballot Option (VBO) Printers – 2,100 Units  
Disabled Access Unit Upgrade (DAU) – 525 Units

**Software:** 6.1 Software Version

#### **Vendor:**

Hart InterCivic

#### **Acquisition Schedule:**

San Mateo County anticipates receiving its new voting equipment between late-August 2006 and mid-October 2006. The county plans to begin using this equipment in the November 7, 2006 General Election.

#### **Project Completion Date:**

San Mateo 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 Hart eSlate units being purchased by San Mateo County include the Verified Ballot Option (VBO) printers, which are a VVPAT component.

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**Staff Report:**

San Mateo County's Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness. The eSlate and corresponding components are certified for use in California.

San Mateo County began comprehensively researching a replacement to their optical scan voting system in 2004. San Mateo County will be converting from the ES&S Optech III-P Eagle optical scan voting system. The county will be fully converting to DRE technology and will be using only Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) units for polling places in all future elections. During the June 6, 2006 Primary Election, the county successfully conducted a limited deployment of 28 leased eSlate units at nine regional early voting centers, and the eSlate units were very well received by the voters who used them.

San Mateo County plans to deploy the new e-Slate DREs at all 472 polling places so that there will be one fully accessible unit at each polling site during the November 7, 2006 General Election. The county also plans to deploy a small number of eSlate units at two early voting centers. San Mateo 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 eSlate units will provide access to those voters with disabilities and will also satisfy the second-chance voting requirements by not allowing over votes and identifying under votes to each voter. The eSlate units also provide information in the three languages mandated for the county (English, Spanish, and Chinese).

The county plans to increase the number of poll workers per polling location, and the poll worker training will be enhanced to stress the importance of understanding how to operate and troubleshoot the systems to facilitate the county's voters' comfort and confidence in using the new voting system. San Mateo County is developing a comprehensive voter education plan that will emphasize the transparency of the county's election processes, provide instruction about the new system, and address any potential security and accessibility concerns of their voters.

Please note that any costs associated with the eRegistry voter management system software listed under system software expense will not be allowable for reimbursement under Proposition 41, as the software is not currently certified for use in California.

San Mateo 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 professional services and optional extended warranty line items listed in the San Mateo County contract with Hart InterCivic would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is our recommendation that San Mateo County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$4,569,941.98.