

Sonoma County

Project Documentation Plan Staff Report

Summary

Sonoma County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$2,880,074.40
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$3,269,773.85
County 3:1 Required Matching Amount	\$960,024.80
Total System Cost	\$4,727,549.20
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$389,699.45
Remaining 3:1 Matching Amount	\$129,899.82

Voting System:

Hardware: Hart eSlate Electronic Voting Appliance (DRE) – 700 Units
Judge Booth Controller (JBC) – 350 Units
Verified Ballot Option (VBO) Printers – 700 Units
Disabled Access Unit Upgrade (DAU) – 700 Units

Software: 6.1 Software Version

Vendor:

Hart InterCivic

Acquisition Schedule:

Sonoma County received and used 350 eSlate units during the June 6, 2006 Primary Election and anticipates receiving the remaining 350 eSlate units prior to the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Project Completion Date:

Sonoma County anticipates 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 Sonoma County include the Verified Ballot Option (VBO) printers, which are a VVPAT component.

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

Sonoma County has implemented a blended voting system. Sonoma County will continue to use its existing Mark-A-Vote optical scan voting equipment and will supplement the voting system with the placement of one eSlate DRE unit in every polling place in the county. Sonoma County believes that the deployment of eSlate DRE units will bring the county into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the state accessibility requirements. While Sonoma County has up to 350 polling places in a major election, the county is purchasing the additional 350 eSlate units to allow for testing, programming, precinct officer training, and equipment delivery when there are back-to-back elections.

Sonoma County will be required to conform to the Secretary of State's October 5, 2005 directive regarding requirements for voting systems. Specifically, Sonoma County will be allowed to use the above-stated blended independently tested and certified voting systems together to meet federal and state requirements so long as their interface is limited to the exchange of aggregated vote totals. The county plans to duplicate onto Mark-A-Vote duplicate ballots all votes cast on the e-Slate machines using the DAU print-out as the ballot image, thereby enabling all votes to be counted on a single tally system.

Sonoma County's initial phase in modernizing their voting equipment will allow the county to maintain their paper-based optical scan system to assist in accommodating their ever-growing absentee voter population, while adhering to state and federal accessibility requirements. Sonoma County had over 70% of its ballots cast via absentee ballot in the June 2006 Primary.

Sonoma County is currently developing a comprehensive voter outreach plan to target voters with disabilities and a plan to educate all voters in the county about the availability and use of the new eSlate DRE equipment. The county has increased its poll worker training to allow poll workers additional education on the blended system set-up and operation procedures. The county plans to evaluate the overall impact and effectiveness of the new system by surveying poll workers. Based upon this feedback, the county will adjust procedures as necessary to best serve its voters.

Sonoma County's project plan explicitly states that it is the county's desire and intention that the remaining Proposition 41 allocation continue to be available to Sonoma County for future voting system modernization plans.

Sonoma 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, initial annual fee, and optional extended warranty line items listed in the Sonoma County contract with Hart InterCivic would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Sonoma County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$2,880,074.40.