

Yolo County

Project Documentation Package Staff Report

Summary

Yolo County	Amounts
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$1,085,882.12
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$1,085,882.12
3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$361,960.71
Estimated Total System Cost	\$2,053,248.45

Voting System:

Hardware: Hart eSlate Electronic Voting Appliance (DRE) – 132 Units
Judge Booth Controller (JBC) – 130 Units
Disabled Access Unit Upgrade (DAU) – 130 Units
Verified Ballot Option (VBO) Printers – 140 Units
High Volume Kodak Scanners – 5 Units

Vendor:

Hart InterCivic

Acquisition Schedule:

Yolo County acquired its optical scan voting equipment prior to the 2006 Primary Election and it was used for the first time during that election. Yolo County secured the new DRE equipment in September of 2006 and this equipment was used for the first time during the November 2006 General Election.

Project Completion Date:

Yolo County fully implemented its new voting system equipment during the November 2006 General Election.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

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

Staff Report:

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

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Yolo County began comprehensively researching a replacement to their punch card voting system in 2003. Yolo County converted from the Datavote punch card scan voting system.

Yolo County chose to purchase the Hart Intercivic optical system because the equipment allowed the county to maintain a paper-based optical scan system for the majority of its voters while adhering to state and federal accessibility requirements. The county implemented the optical scan conversion at the June 2006 Primary Election. The county found that their voters responded predominately favorably to the new system and gained insight during this election to enhance their voter education by emphasizing the correct way to mark the new optical scan ballots. Yolo County will continue to use the optical scan technology as its primary voting system and has a policy to only encourage the use of their DRE units by people who cannot independently vote a paper ballot.

Yolo County deployed the e-Slate DREs at all of their polling sites during the November 2006 General Election. Yolo County believes that the deployment of DRE units in all polling places brought the county into full compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), as the eSlate units provide access to those voters with disabilities and also satisfy the second-chance voting requirements by not allowing over-votes and identifying under-votes to each voter.

Yolo County hired computer technology students from the University of California, Davis and trained them to provide technical support and instruction at polling places. These students were paired with Yolo County staff to deliver the e-Slate and other voting equipment on Election Day and assisted the poll workers in setting up the equipment. The county offered their voters with disabilities hands-on demonstrations on the use of the equipment prior to the Election. Yolo County has also solicited election-specific feedback from its poll workers in questionnaires delivered to each polling place. Based upon this feedback, the county will adjust procedures and training as necessary to best serve its voters.

Yolo 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 only for voting equipment hardware and software. The professional services, optional extended warranty line items, and Fusion and InFusion software listed in the Yolo County contract with Hart InterCivic would not be covered as reimbursable claims under Proposition 41.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Yolo County's Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award letter be issued in the amount of \$1,085,882.12.