

Humboldt County

Phase 3 – Project Documentation Plan Staff Report Summary

Humboldt County	
Initial Allocation Amount	\$986,044.95
Total System Cost	\$884,099.29
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$472,397.62
County 3:1 Matching Amount	\$157,465.87
Amount Dispersed to County	\$472,397.62
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$513,647.33
Total System Cost	\$720,244.48
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$313,833.48
County 3:1 Matching Amount	\$406,411.00
Amount Dispersed to County	\$313,833.48
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$199,813.85
Total System Cost	\$259,259.47
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$133,922.00
County 3:1 Matching Amount	\$125,337.47
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$65,891.85
Remaining County 3:1 Matching Fund Amount	\$21,963.95

Phase 3 Voting System:

Hardware: Elevate Ballot Scanner and Signature Recognition

Vendor: Fluence Automation

Acquisition Schedule:

Humboldt County has secured the Phase 3 equipment and will implement for the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

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Project Completion Date:

Humboldt County will fully implement the use of this new voting equipment by the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Staff Report:

Humboldt County's Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness.

In Humboldt County's Phase 1 of election modernization, they purchased the Hart eSlate accessible units to comply with the Help American Vote Act (HAVA) standards. For Phase 2 they purchased their DFM Associates Election Management System (EMS) and the HART eScan optical scan system. For Phase 3, Humboldt County has purchased the Fluence Automation Ballot Scanner in order to modernize Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot processing. Currently, over 60% of the County's voters are permanent VBM voters, and the County is considering a switch to the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) model, which would increase the amount of VBM ballots that will require processing.

Prior to purchasing this machine, the County's process was completely manual which was neither cost effective nor efficient. This VBM processing equipment will be used to sort, scan, and process incoming ballot envelopes at high speed while capturing and verifying signatures. Additionally, the system will interface with the County's EMS to upload data, generate reports, and track the status of scanned envelopes. Incorporating this technological advancement with each of these functions will considerably support the County with processing ballots quickly without forfeiting accuracy.

Humboldt anticipates reducing VBM-related labor costs by an estimated 60% each election year in addition to increasing efficiency in auditing, tracking, and preparing ballots for tabulation.

Humboldt County is not requesting the total remaining funds but intends to come back later to purchase equipment to help them transition to the VCA model.

Humboldt County will only receive VMB payments once it has submitted all detailed invoices for its VBM processing equipment. Please note that the staff-proposed funding award is based upon allowable reimbursement under Proposition 41 for the voting technology components. The extended service maintenance line items listed in the Humboldt County contract with Fluence Automation would not be covered as a reimbursable claim under Proposition 41. A chart of non-allowable expenses is attached detailing all ineligible expenses from Humboldt's Phase 3 of Voting Modernization.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our staff recommendation that Humboldt County's Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan be approved and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$133,922.00.

**Voting Modernization Board
Humboldt Non-Allowable Expenses**

Humboldt Initial VMB Formula Allocation	Amounts
VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$ 199,813.85
County 3:1 Matching Amount	\$ 49,953.46

Phase 3 Non-Allowable Expenses	Amounts
Annual Software Maintenance	\$ 17,543.23
Election Ballot Definition Spanish/Tagalog	\$ 13,786.00
Phase 2 Total Non-Allowable Expenses	\$ 31,329.23
<i>Phase 3 Estimated Total System Cost</i>	<i>\$ 259,259.47</i>
<i>Phase 3 Total Non-Allowable Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 31,329.23</i>
<i>Phase 3 Total Allowable Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 227,930.24</i>

Humboldt Phase 3	Amounts
Recommended Funding Award (75% of Allowable Expenses)	\$ 133,922.00
Match (25% of Allowable Expense Match Amount)	\$ 125,337.47
Total Allowable Expenses	\$ 259,259.47

Humboldt Phase 4	Amounts
Remaining VMB Approved Allocation Amount	\$ 65,891.85
Remaining 3:1 County Required Matching Amount	\$ 16,472.96