

Placer County

Phase 3 – Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Summary

Placer County	Amounts
Initial Allocation Amount	\$2,015,870.78
Phase 1 - May 10, 2004	
Total System Cost	\$2,019,868.11
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$1,514,901.08
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$504,967.03
Amount Dispersed to County	1,495,010.33
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$520,860.45
Phase 2 - April 1, 2014	
Total System Cost	\$420,967.00
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$315,725.00
County Actual Match Amount	\$105,242.00
Amount Dispersed to County	315,725.00
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$205,135.45
Phase 3 – May 10, 2022	
Total System Cost	\$47,052.25
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$35,289.19
County Actual Match Amount	\$11,763.06
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$169,846.26
Remaining County Match Amount	\$56,615.42

Phase 3 Voting System:

Hardware:

Model 72 Rapid Extraction Desk (RED) Envelope Extractor (Opex)
 PowerVault NX3240 Tailor Made Storage Server (Dell)

Vendor:

Opex
 Dell

Acquisition Schedule:

1. **December 2021**– Submit Application for Funding Consideration and Project Documentation Forms to Voting Modernization Board (VMB)
2. **May 2022** – Receipt of Funding Letter from VMB authorizing use of funds for purchase of equipment
3. **July/August 2022** – Presentation to Board of Supervisors requesting authorization to purchase Ballot Extractor and voting system data storage
4. **December 2022** – Delivery of equipment
5. **February/March 2023** – Election Staff implementation
6. **Spring 2024** – Placed into service for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election

Project Completion Date:

Spring 2024

Staff Report:

Placer County’s Phase 3 Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness, pending submission of signed vendor agreements and invoices.

As background, Placer County proposed modernizing its voting system in three phases.

In 2004, in Phase 1 of its strategy, the County was reimbursed by the Board for the purchase of Global AccuVote-OS (Optical Scan) units, AccuFeed Ballot Feeder units, and GEMS Software from Diebold Elections Systems, which were fully implemented for the March 2002 Primary Election.

In 2006, the County purchased a touch screen component to meet HAVA Title III voting system requirements.

In Phase 2 of its voting modernization strategy, the County was reimbursed for the purchase of an Agilis vote-by-mail sorting/scanning system, a Sentio ballot printing system, and AccuVote-OS memory cards from Dominion Voting Systems. The equipment was implemented for the November 2014 General Election.

In 2020, the California Secretary of State notified all counties of its intent to withdraw certification and conditional approval of all California voting systems not tested and certified to California Voting System Standards (CVSS), which decertified the County’s legacy equipment. The County used funds in the state budget to purchase its current voting system – the Dominion Voting Systems Democracy Suite – which meets all current state and Election Assistance Commission

requirements. The County also purchased an Opex Rapid Ballot Extractor with grant monies to address a bottleneck in the processing of an increasing number of vote-by-mail ballots.

The County has seen an increase in the number of registered voters in recent years. In addition, an increasing percentage of voters are opting to cast their votes by mail. At the November 2012 General Election, 67% of voters used vote-by-mail ballots. At the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election, 95% of voters voted by mail. Voters are also returning their vote by mail ballots closer to Election Day. As a result, the County has been challenged to process an increasing number of vote by mail ballots in a diminishing amount of time. The County has managed by increasing work hours and hiring additional temporary staff in an already cramped space.

In Phase 3 of its voting modernization strategy, the County requests funds to purchase a second Model 72 Rapid Extraction Desk (RED) Envelope Extractor, Given the dramatic increases in vote by mail ballots, a second unit is required for two very important reasons. The first is redundancy. A backup is of primary importance should the Opex Extractor stop working for even a small period of time. The second reason is that another unit would allow them to run the ballots coming off of the Agilis unit(s) on separate machines and allow for a greater throughput of ballot envelopes in a shorter window of time. The County also requests funds to purchase a PowerVault NX3240 Storage Server. The storage appliance will be used to store election database and image backups. This appliance will act as a central repository for past election backups. These backups will include the entire election database and all ballot images. Due to the increased storage requirements associated with the Dominion RTR system, significantly increasing the storage capacity is essential to long term storage of past and future election database backups.

The County's estimated purchase date for these items is Fall 2022. Training and implementation are planned in order to allow for full functionality by March/April of 2023. Total project costs are \$47,052.25. The County requests funds from the Voting Modernization Board in the amount of \$35,289.19. The County will provide matching funds in the amount of \$11,763.06.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Placer County's Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan be conditionally approved pending signed vendor agreements, and a Conditional Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$35,289.19. Vendor quotes were provided for the requested items. The funds would be released upon the County's submission of signed vendor agreements and invoices.