

Santa Barbara County

Phase 3 – Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Summary

Santa Barbara County	Amounts
Initial Allocation Amount	\$2,749,794.06
Phase 1 - January 15, 2003	
Total System Cost	\$1,440,198.00
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$1,080,148.00
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$360,050.00
Amount Dispersed to County	1,000,226.57
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$1,749,567.49
Phase 2 - February 16, 2006	
Total System Cost	\$1,012,033.00
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$720,924.75
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$240,308.25
Amount Dispersed to County	\$720,924.75
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$1,028,642.74
Sale of Equipment Reimbursed by VMB	
Proceeds from Sale refunded to VMB	\$181,700.00
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$1,210,342.74
Phase 3 - January 19, 2022	
Total System Cost	\$1,309,817.00
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$982,363.00
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$327,454.00
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$227,979.74
Remaining County Match Amount	\$75,993.25

Phase 3 Voting Equipment:

Hardware: Agilis VBM Ballot Scanning & Sorting System
 (Runbeck) Sentio Ballot-On-Demand Print System
 (Runbeck) Model 72 Rapid Extraction Desk (Opex)
 Envelope Sealer (Formax)
 Precinct Central Electronic Poll Books (Tenex)
 Cradlepoint devices (CompuWave)
 Duplex envelope printers (TBD)

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Vendor: Runbeck Election Services
Opex
CCI
Technologies
Tenex
CompuWave

Acquisition Schedule:

- The Runbeck Agilis VBM ballot envelope sorter/scanner was delivered in April 2014.
- The Runbeck Sentio BOD print system was purchased in July 2014.
- Three Opex Model 72 ballot extractors were purchased and installed in Spring 2018.
- The Formax FD-430 Envelope Sealer was purchased from CCI Technologies in July 2021 and delivered in August 2021.
- The CompuWave Cradlepoint Devices and peripherals were acquired in October 2021.
- The County anticipates delivery of the Tenex Precinct Central Electronic Pollbook in March 2022.
- The County will go out for bid in early 2022 for the Duplex Envelope Printer with anticipated award, delivery, and installation in April 2022.

Project Completion Date:

- The Agilis VBM ballot envelope sorter/scanner was placed into service for the June 2014 Primary Election.
- The Sentio BOD was placed into service for the November 2014 General Election.
- The Opex Model 72 ballot extractor was placed into service for the June 2018 Primary Election
- The Formax FD-430 Envelope Sealer was placed into service for the September 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election
- The County intends to place the Duplex Envelope Printer into service for the June 2022 Primary Election.
- The County intends to place Tenex Precinct Central Electronic Pollbook for the June 2022 Primary Election.
- The County anticipates placing the CompuWave Cradlepoint Devices into service for the June 2022 Primary Election.

Staff Report:

Santa Barbara County's Phase 3 Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness.

Santa Barbara County proposed modernizing their voting system in three phases. In Phase 1, the County was reimbursed for the purchase of the Diebold AccuVote optical scan voting system. In Phase 2, the County was reimbursed for the purchase of the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal, which brought the County into compliance with HAVA Title III and state voting system

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standards and accessibility requirements. The County has since replaced the voting system components purchased in Phases 1 and 2 with a fully compliant voting system that meets both current state and federal mandates for voting systems, utilizing HAVA 301 funds.

The County's current application requests funds for Phase 3 of its voting system modernization strategy. This phase focuses on improving the efficiency, accuracy, and security of Vote-by-Mail (VBM) processing and polling place voter processing.

The VBM component of Santa Barbara County's voting system has expanded dramatically in recent years. For the 2000 General Election, 30% of the County's voters requested VBM ballots. For the 2018 General Election, 76% of County voters were mailed VBM ballots. In 2020 and 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic, all active registered voters were automatically mailed a ballot for each election in which they were eligible to vote. With the passing of Assembly Bill 37 in 2021, voters will continue to be mailed a ballot for all future elections.

Voters are also returning their ballots closer to Election Day or returning their ballots at the polls or via ballot drop boxes on Election Day. This has challenged the County to process a large number of ballots in a short amount of time while conducting the official canvass required by law.

The County has also looked to increase efficiencies in printing daily VBM ballots for over-the-counter ballot requests. In a general election year there may be up to 80 ballot type combinations for county voters. Conditional or same-day voter registration also requires that elections officials provide ballots to all persons wishing to register after the close of registration up until the close of the polls on Election Day. Together, these factors can make it challenging to estimate and order sufficient ballot types well in advance without unnecessary overages.

To meet these challenges, the County requests funds to be reimbursed for the purchase of automated VBM ballot sorting and signature verification equipment; Ballot-On-Demand (BOD) printing equipment; VBM envelope openers/extractors, sealers, and printers; electronic pollbooks, and connectivity devices. The VBM ballot envelope sorter/scanner allows for a more efficient processing of VBM ballots and automates many chain-of-custody functions. The BOD allows the county to print additional ballot types, as needed. The envelope opener, sealer, and duplex printers improve the efficiency and productivity of the County's operations. The ePollbooks and connectivity devices allow for a higher level of service to voters who choose to vote at a polling place.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Santa Barbara County's Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan be approved, and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$982,363.00.