
Santa Clara County

Additional Funding Round – Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Summary

Santa Clara County	Amounts
Initial Allocation Amount	\$9,503,395.64
Phase 1 - October 15, 2003	
Total System Cost	\$18,904,509.48
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$9,503,395.64
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$3,167,798.55
Amount Dispersed to County	9,503,395.64
Remainder from Initial Allocation Amount	\$0.00
Additional Funding Round	
Additional Funding Round Allotment	\$1,550,553.74
Total Equipment Cost	\$2,067,404.98
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$1,529,268.74
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$509,756.25
Remaining Additional Funding Round Allotment	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$21,285.00
Remaining County Match Amount	\$7,095.00

Additional Funding Round Voting Equipment:

Hardware: 2 Relia-Vote Vantage FlexLine mail sorting machines
12 Opex Model 72 rapid extraction machines
CradlePoint routers
Smart UPS devices

Vendor: BlueCrest
Opex
Knowink
SHI

Acquisition Schedule:

The County took delivery of the equipment in August-September 2019.

Project Completion Date:

All the equipment was placed into service by the June 7, 2022, Primary Election.

Staff Report:

Santa Clara County's Additional Funding Round Project Documentation Package meets the requirements for completeness.

In 2003, Santa Clara County implemented its initial voting modernization strategy with the purchase of the Sequoia AVC Edge Touch Screen and Sequoia Optech 400 C Systems. The VMB reimbursed the County for these systems, which replaced their Pollstar punch card voting system.

The County has since replaced the Sequoia system with the Dominion Democracy Suite, Dominion Ballot on Demand and KNOWink electronic pollbooks. The new systems were in place for the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election and allowed for conditional voter registration and voting at all vote centers, reducing the need for provisional voting and expediting post-election canvass processes.

The County's implementation of the Voter's Choice Act resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots cast. In the November 3, 2020, Presidential Election approximately 804,000 voters opted to vote by mail, compared to 534,000 who voted by mail in the November 8, 2016, Presidential Election, an increase of 50%. In response to the County's increasing VBM turnout, they re-assessed their VBM processing equipment and determined they were using aged equipment which was prone to system failure and mechanical breakdown risks that could not be eliminated, due to age.

For the Additional Funding Round, the County seeks reimbursement for the expansion of its existing voting system to increase efficiency and eliminate the risks associated with using outdated equipment. The County acquired 12 Rapid Extraction Desks (REDs), which were placed in service for the September 2021 Recall Election, and 2 mail sorting machines, which were placed in service for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election. The REDs removed laborious manual processes which allowed the county to reduce staffing requirements from dozens of extra-help staff down to one operator. The efficiency gained from the REDs allows staff to focus on other tasks critical to the timely completion of post-election canvassing procedures. The mail sorting machines streamline the processing of VBM ballots by removing manual activities and allowing the county to run the two sorters simultaneously.

The County also requests reimbursement for the acquisition of 150 CradlePoint routers and 450 Smart UPS devices which they placed in service for the November 3, 2020, Presidential Election. The county experienced brief connectivity issues at vote center locations during the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election and acquired these devices to mitigate such occurrences from future elections. The devices optimize power supply and connectivity, mitigate downtime, and positively impact the overall experience for voters and vote center workers.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Santa Clara County's Additional Funding Round Project Documentation Plan be approved, and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$1,529,268.74.

**Voting Modernization Board
Santa Clara Non-Allowable Expenses**

Santa Clara County Additional Funding Round Allotment	Amounts
VMB Approved Allotment	\$ 1,550,553.74
County 3:1 Match Required	\$ 516,851.25

Santa Clara Additional Funding Round Non-Allowable Expenses	Amounts
Service for Opex Model 72 Rapid Ballot Extractors	\$ 28,380.00
Additional Funding Round Total Non-Allowable Expenses	\$ 28,380.00
<i>Additional Funding Round Estimated Total Equipment Cost</i>	<i>\$ 2,067,404.98</i>
<i>Additional Funding Round Total Non-Allowable Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 28,380.00</i>
<i>Additional Funding Round Total Allowable Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 2,039,024.98</i>

Santa Clara Additional Funding Round	Amounts
Recommended Funding Award (75% of Allowable Expenses)	\$ 1,529,268.74
Match (25% of Allowable Expense Match Amount)	\$ 509,756.25
Total Allowable Expenses	\$ 2,039,024.98

Santa Clara Additional Funding Round Remainder	Amounts
Remaining VMB Approved Allotment Amount	\$ 21,285.00
Remaining 3:1 County Match Required	\$ 7,095.00