

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 12/3/05
Department: Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Budget Unit: 062
Agenda Date: 12/13/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joseph E. Holland
Clerk, Recorder and Assessor & Registrar of Voters

STAFF CONTACT: Billie Alvarez,
Elections Division, ext. 2203

SUBJECT: HAVA Grant Funds

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the County Clerk Recorder and Assessor and Registrar of Voters to execute a contract with the State of California to assist in implementing the requirements of HAVA Section 261, Elections Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) for the period September 9, 2005 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$47,178.41.
- B. Authorize the County Clerk Recorder and Assessor and Registrar of Voters to execute a contract with the State of California for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Section 301 Voting Systems Program for the period ending June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$2,749,794.06.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On October 29, 2002, President Bush signed the "Help America Vote Act of 2002," (HAVA) into law. The legislation aims to improve the administration of elections in the United States by providing funds to replace outdated voting systems, educate voters and create minimum standards in several key areas of election administration.

As directed by HAVA mandates, states and local governments must meet many new federal requirements. California received \$3,345,629 to assist in implementing HAVA Section 261 and \$195 million to assist in implementing HAVA Section 301 requirements. The County's share of the HAVA (EAID) and 301 Funds is

based on the application of the formula used by the Voting Modernization Board to allocate funds authorized by the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 (Proposition 41 formula). The formula is based on number of registered voters, polling places and number of eligible voters over the last four elections.

1. Santa Barbara County was allocated \$47,178.41 in (EAID) HAVA funds to assist in implementing the requirements of HAVA Section 261. These funds can be used to provide individuals with a full range of disabilities the same opportunity, access and participation as other voters. These opportunities include improving polling place accessibility, training election officials and poll workers on how to best promote equal access for voters with disabilities and providing information regarding the programs that are available.
2. Santa Barbara County was allocated \$2,749,794.06 in HAVA 301 funds to assist in complying with the requirements of HAVA Section 301. HAVA Section 301 (a) requires that each voting system used in a federal election on or after January 1, 2006 must:
 - Permit the voter to verify privately and independently the votes selected before casting a ballot and must permit the voter to change or correct a ballot before it is cast;
 - Notify the voter of “overvotes” before the ballot is cast, i.e. if the voter has selected more candidates than permitted and the consequences of “overvoting”;
 - Produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for such system;
 - Be accessible to voters with disabilities, including voters with visual impairment, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The "Help America Vote Act of 2002," (HAVA), is a federal law that created minimum standards for states to follow in the areas of voting systems, polling place accessibility, and election administration.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There will be no impact on the County's General Fund as a result of entering into these contracts and accepting these funds.

There is no impact on County facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please sign a resolution and issue a minute order authorizing the execution of these agreements to the Department.

Concurrence:

None