



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Agricultural Commissioner
Department No.: 051
Agenda Date: February 4, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Jose Chang, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Contact Info: Matthew Maiten, Deputy Commissioner/Sealer (805)-681-5600
SUBJECT: Sole Source Purchase of Radian Research Electric Meter Testing System

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Waive competitive bidding for the purchase of a Radian Research RB-20 Bantam Plus testing unit for the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures Office (AGWM), and authorize the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office to purchase this equipment in the amount not to exceed \$40,000 as a sole source procurement from Radian Research Inc., without being required to conduct a formal bid process (Majority Vote); and
- b) Approve a Budget Revision Request No. 0010273 to increase appropriations of \$40,000 in Department of Agricultural Commissioner, Weights and Measure for Capital Assets, funded by release of Restricted Weights and Measures Fund Balance; and
- c) Determine that the above action involves government funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities and is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4).

Summary Text:

This item authorizes the sole source purchase of a Radian Research Bantam RB-20 electric meter for use by the AGWM Consumer Protection Division’s program to test, inspect, and enforce regulatory specifications and tolerances on privately owned domestic utility electric meters. Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the AGWM is requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the purchase at a cost of approximately \$35,000 (plus sales tax and shipping (Attachment A), as a sole source procurement.

This equipment is an invaluable tool used by the AGWM to perform state-mandated inspections on these commercial devices countywide and to be readily available to respond to consumer complaints.

Background:

Under Division 5, Chapter 2, Section 12210 of the California Business and Professions Code, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) mandates the County Sealer to test and inspect commercial devices, and tools, appliances and accessories connected to those devices within their county based on performance frequencies established by the Secretary of CDFA.

The County has over 5,500 privately owned and operated electric utility submeters, installed mainly in mobile home parks, trailer parks, and apartment buildings. These devices maintain a registration permit with the AGWM, Consumer Protection Division. For the required frequency of inspection, every 10 years, approximately 500 of these commercial devices are tested and certified annually.

To maintain the required inspection frequency for commercial devices mandated by CDFA, the purchase of this specialized equipment is needed. This testing equipment must meet national standards and must have metrological traceability and certified to specifications by the US Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST traceability and certification is required for equipment to be used as legal standards in the enforcement of weights and measures laws in the State of California.

For many years, the AGWM has used the Knopp FS-9 watt-hour meter tester. However, this equipment and the company that produced it have been obsolete now for over a decade. Recently, this testing equipment become inoperable. Since repairing this device cannot be performed, a replacement is required.

Radian Research Inc. has been in business since 1982 supplying electric meter standards. Radian Research, Inc. is a recognized world leader in Energy Reference Standards and Meter Testing Systems. For this industry, Radian Research is the only manufacturer of domestic watt-hour meters whose testing standards meet NIST certification and traceability.

Testing, inspecting, and enforcing these commercial utility meters ensures that the public receives what they pay for, provides greater consumer confidence in these transactions, and protects the consumer and the public from fraudulent activities. The purchase of the Radian electric meter testing equipment will keep the County of Santa Barbara in compliance with current mandated requirements and the inspections conducted will ensure fair marketplace competition and public confidence in these transactions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This equipment purchase is not a budgeted expense.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY [24/25]			Total
9726- Fund Balance	\$40,000			\$40,000
Total				\$40,000

Narrative:

This Radian Bantam RB-20 testing equipment will be purchased with funds from the AGWM Weights & Measures Restricted Fund Balance. This Fund Balance was set up in 2010 for the purpose of weights & measures activities as outlined in California Business & Professions Code Chapter V.

Special Instructions:

Please send a minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Radian RB-20 Bantam Proposal

Attachment B – Budget Revision Request No. 0010273

Authored by:

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