

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 7/8/04
Department Name: Auditor-Controller
Department No.: 061
Agenda Date: 7/20/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 0
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert W. Geis, C.P.A.
Auditor-Controller

STAFF CONTACT: John Torell
x2102

SUBJECT: Professional Services Contract with Simpler Systems

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve and authorize the purchasing agent to execute Change Order No. 1 to the Auditor-Controller purchase order contract with Simpler Systems in the amount of \$75,000, to accommodate development of the County's new property tax system, for a total contract in the amount of \$165,000.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

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

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Auditor-Controller has an annual purchase order contract with Simpler Systems to provide for on-going maintenance and improvements of the County's Financial Information Systems budgeted at \$90,000 annually. The Auditor-Controller in a joint effort with the Assessor and Treasurer-Tax Collector is developing a new property tax system to replacing the aging mainframe property tax systems. In-house staff will do the majority of the development. However, we use Simpler Systems as an architect for systems development and currently we are in the process of converting data into a new property system data model. The additional \$75,000 will fund this effort through September. Our current purchase order contract runs from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

These in-house development efforts have been successful in the implementation of the Financial Information Network, Budget Systems and Payroll applications. As an example of the cost to buy a system San Diego County has budgeted \$30 million to replace their property applications, \$30 million for their financial applications and \$30 million for their payroll applications. Ventura County spent approximately \$12 million for their payroll applications and San Luis Obispo County is spending approximately \$15 million for payroll and financials.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The Auditor-Controller budget has sufficient appropriation in its professional services line item to accommodate this change order and has designated funds for systems automation that can be used when necessary for this important project. These systems manage \$45 billion in assessed property valuation for 120,000 parcels and process \$450 million in annual property tax collections that are distributed to cities, special districts, school districts and the County. Approximately 20% of the cost of development is reimbursable from cities and special districts through property tax administration fees. School districts that receive 60 % of the property taxes are exempt from the fee.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Assessor

Treasurer-Tax Collector