



**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

**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**For Agenda Of:** 06/19/07  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
681 5105  
Contact Info: Anne Fearon, Deputy Director of Administration  
681 5171

**SUBJECT: Purchasing Bid Waiver Request for Biscom, Inc.**

**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Other Concurrence:** Purchasing

Yes  No  N/A

**Recommended Action(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Purchasing Manager to issue a purchase order for Biscom, Inc. for 2 FAXCOM fax servers in the amount of \$38,224.53 without a competitive bid. Biscom, Inc. is not a local vendor however is the only authorized seller of this product.

**Summary:**

The Biscom Faxcom Fax Servers are being purchased to replace currently owned fax hardware that the department has had in place for over 5 years. Our current hardware is aged, undersized and will no longer be supported by the company's future product development. These fax servers are the key core technology behind the department's Broadcast Alert System. Public Health's Broadcast Alert System is a mission critical application allowing for the dissemination of press releases and health advisories to the community and functions as a key resource to the County in time of emergency. This system is also imperative to the collection of Confidential Morbidity Reports from providers throughout the County.

There are very few products that met the Department's needs; the Biscom software component is functionally superior to any other product that was researched. Purchasing the complete hardware and software package from this vendor will provide a single warranty for hardware, software and configuration issues. This will eliminate the potential troubleshooting and maintenance conflicts that can arise from using multiple vendors for hardware and software.

**Background:**

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, we are requesting your Board to waive the requirement for a competitive bid for purchase of this system.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted:  Yes     No

Authorizing the Purchasing Manager to issue a purchase order for Biscom, Inc. without a competitive bid will not increase the General Fund contribution or County A87 Plan Overhead. The cost associated with this bid waiver request purchase is included in the Public Health Department's FY 2006-2007 Adopted Budget and can be found in the County's Operating Plan Document on page D-176 in the Information Technology cost center.

There are no facilities impacts as a result of this action.

**Staffing Impact(s):**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 Attn: Margaret A. Granger (805) 681-5367 and one copy of the minute order to Purchasing, Attn: John McMillin.

**Authored by:**

Darrin Eisenbarth, IT Manager, Public Health Department