



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

August 18, 2021

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Dean C. Logan,  Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE, INC. (ES&S) FOR INCOMING VOTE BY MAIL (VBM) AUTOMATED SIGNATURE VERIFICATION SERVICES

This is to inform your Board of our intent to enter into sole source contract negotiations with ES&S for the Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's (Department) Incoming Vote By Mail (VBM) Automated Signature Verification (ASV) services.

The County of Los Angeles has approximately 5.8 million registered voters. Under new legislation, all registered voters are mailed a VBM ballot, and have the option of voting by mail. The expanded VBM program has increased accessibility to voters. During the Presidential Election in November of 2020, we saw a significant increase in VBM activity. ES&S processes incoming VBM envelopes returned by voters using eight (8) specialized Mail Ballot Verifier (MBV) scanners that are loaded with specialized ASV software. The scanners are used to verify voters' handwritten signatures on all incoming return ballot envelopes against official signatures stored in Department's Election Management System (EMS) database. Each scanner can verify up to three thousand (3,000) envelopes/signatures per hour or up to 24,000 per hour if all 8 MVBs are in use. After the signatures are verified, the Department removes the voted ballots from the envelopes and counts them through the election tally process.

BACKGROUND

The County has been using the Data Information Management System (DIMS) as its Election Management System (EMS) since 1999. DIMS is integrated with the California Secretary of State (SOS) VoteCal system. The integration between DIMS and VoteCal routes voter record data asynchronously through a dedicated SOS router on the County's core network. New and updated voter registration records are uploaded to VoteCal and synced with our local instance of DIMS. This data exchange is continuous. Millions of records may be transferred per month between DIMS and VoteCal. These records are used to verify signatures on VBM envelopes.

Because DIMS is at the end of its life cycle, RR/CC will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new EMS in the Fall of 2021. The new EMS will provide a host of services, including integration to a new Automated Signature Verification system. It is necessary to extend the existing ES&S contract to allow for the solicitation and implementation of a new EMS, and in parallel the solicitation and engagement of a new signature verification system and services that will be compatible with the new EMS.

We will ask for Board-approval of a sole source contract with ES&S with a term of two (2) years, two (2) option years, and six month-to-month extensions (total 4.5 years). The sole source contract will allow ES&S to continue providing incoming VBM automated signature verification services as we transition into a new EMS. ES&S will continue supporting all upcoming elections, including the Countywide Gubernatorial Elections in 2022, where millions of ballots will be processed.

CLOSING

ES&S has provided excellent services during the term of the existing contract which will expire on December 31, 2021. In accordance to Board Policy 5.100, we will proceed to enter into negotiations with ES&S for a new sole source contract for incoming VBM ballot material processing services after the four-week notification period unless otherwise directed. The negotiated contract with ES&S is expected to be presented at the Operations Cluster Meeting on October 27, 2021 and placed on the Board Agenda for your approval no later than November 16, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Williams, Contracts and Grants Manager, at (562) 383-2539.

DCL:JG:AN
NH:VW:jw

c: Chief Executive Office
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Board Deputies
Chief Information Office
County Counsel