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Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

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

VSAP Quarterly Report- 4th Quarter 2012

The following is the fourth quarterly update report of 2012, detailing VSAP activities and accomplishments during the period of September 1- November 30, 2012. These reports are provided to inform your Board and the public on the progress of the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP). This series of quarterly reports is in response to the motion adopted by your Board on September 7, 2010.

During the reporting period, the VSAP continued to work towards the goals of the second phase of the project. In this second phase, the project seeks to 1) identify the voting system design model and technical requirements; 2) identify the procurement and development model that the Department will pursue, including funding for system development and implementation. The following are the activities accomplished during this reporting period:

- Awarded PIF Grant for the VSAP Design Phase
- Refining VSAP Design Phase
- Continued Stakeholder Discussions

VSAP Design Phase Funding

On October 29, 2012, the Quality and Productivity Commission granted \$470,000 in Productivity and Investment Fund (PIF) funding (\$235,000 loan/ \$235,000 grant) to the Department for the execution of the VSAP Design Phase. PIF funds will support the development of detailed voting system design options using an iterative design process that engages stakeholders and is led by an independent design agency.

Refining the VSAP Design Phase

The Department continues preparations to launch the design phase of the VSAP. In this phase, the VSAP seeks to engage an independent design agency to produce a set of voting system design options that meet the needs and expectations of Los Angeles County and its constituents as represented through the VSAP General Voting System Principles and public opinion data collected. The system design options resulting from this phase will be presented through a report which includes descriptions, images, and other physical displays to facilitate communication of the design options to stakeholder audiences. Design options will also be accompanied by a feasibility study evaluating the availability, costs, and longevity of the technology and other physical materials needed to implement each design option.

The design process is a critical phase which will lay the foundation for system engineering, prototyping, manufacturing and implementation during future phases. It is expected to launch in March 2013 and is projected to be a 16-18 week project. We will keep your Board informed on the status and outcome of this process through these reports.

Stakeholder Discussions

The Department continues to meet with stakeholders with the intent of keeping them informed and engaged in the VSAP process. During this period, the Department provided updates to, and facilitated discussions with, the Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office, County Counsel, and the VSAP Advisory Committee. Presentations and discussions were held at the following meetings:

1. Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office and County Counsel – November 9, 2012

The Department has been working closely with staff from the Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office and County Counsel in preparing the Statement of Work for the development of system design options. Constant communication has been maintained with these departments following an initial conference call on November 9, 2012.

2. VSAP Advisory Committee- October 30, 2012

The VSAP Advisory Committee met on October 30, 2012 to discuss VSAP funding, the upcoming design phase, and the plan to establish a VSAP Technical Advisory Committee. A video archive of the meeting can be found at <http://www.livestream.com/larrcc6>

The VSAP Advisory Committee continues to provide the Department guidance as the VSAP moves from conceptualizing to designing and prototyping. The VSAP Advisory Committee is composed of experts, stakeholders, and community leaders from critical constituency groups and communities of interest. The Committee was established in response to a motion adopted by your Board in September 2010, establishing a platform for continued citizen participation and transparency.

About the VSAP

Launched in September 2009, the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) was developed by the Department in response to the growing voting system needs and challenges faced by the County. While the County's current voting system has served the voters of Los Angeles County with accuracy and integrity, the design of these systems and the age of their technology do not offer the technical and functional elasticity necessary to continue to accommodate the growing and increasingly diverse electorate.

The size and diversity of Los Angeles County and the limited voting systems market, however, make it almost impossible to reasonably consider a commercial off-the-shelf voting system solution. Any voting system solution will entail a significant development or customization process in order to satisfy the County's needs, General Voting System Principles and technical requirements.

In response to these needs and challenges, the VSAP takes an unprecedented and comprehensive approach at modernizing the County's voting system. The vision of the project is to implement a voting system through a transparent process that takes into account the needs and expectations of current and future Los Angeles County voters. The VSAP aims at achieving three goals in this process: 1) give current and future Los Angeles County voters an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the assessment and development process; 2) increase voter confidence in the electoral process through the participatory structure of the project; 3) synthesize public input and research to acquire or develop a new voting system for the County.

Stay Connected

More information regarding the Voting System Assessment Project (VSAP) is available to the public online at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap and on the project's Facebook page. The pages on our website and on Facebook are frequently updated with news and information and are a great way to stay connected with the progress of the project between quarterly reports. We strongly encourage public input throughout the process and look forward to continuing to work with your board on this critical project. If you have any questions please contact Monica Flores, VSAP Project Coordinator at (562) 345-8372 or via email at mflores@rrcc.lacounty.gov.