September 12, 2012

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
               Supervisor Gloria Molina
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FROM: Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

VSAP Quarterly Report- 3rd Quarter 2012

The following is the third quarterly update report of 2012, detailing VSAP activities and accomplishments during the period of June 1, 2012- August 31, 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 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:

- National Recognition for VSAP
- Refining VSAP Design Phase
- Secured Funding for the VSAP Design Phase
- Continued Stakeholder Discussions

National Recognition for VSAP

The VSAP was awarded the Freedom Award for Innovation from the National Election Center for its Open Design Search.[1] This national award recoginizes election officials who have successfully implemented innovative practices, and is a part of the Election

Center's Professional Practices Program. The Election Center awarded this recognition to the RR/CC for its unprecedented approach for engaging the public during its Open Design Search. The VSAP's Open Design Search is an innovative initiative that engaged a broad range of experts, designers, and the general public through and online challenge and brainstorming workshops to generate concepts and ideas for the design of a voting system that will meet the unique needs of Los Angeles County's large and diverse electorate.

Refining the VSAP Design Phase

The Department is preparing to launch the design phase of the VSAP. In this phase, the VSAP seeks to engage an independent design agency to synthesize the data that has been collected through the project and produce a set of voting system design options for Los Angeles County. The goal of this design phase is to develop system design options that meet the needs and preferences of voters, satisfy the VSAP General Voting System Principles, are supported by the VSAP Advisory Committe and other critical stakeholders, and can feasibliy be developed and implemented. In order to accomplish these goals, the design phase will develop these design options using an iterative design process that engages voters and other critical stakeholders throughout the project.

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 fesibility study evaluating the availability, costs, and longevity of the technology and other physical materials needed to implement the design option. The feasibility study will provide guidance for developing technical specifications, engineering, and prototyping the system, including the time and costs necessary to complete them. The RR/CC will present these voting system design options to the public at a capstone public engagement forum. During this event voters and other stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

The design process is a critical phase which will lay the foundation for system engineering, prototyping, manufacturing and implementation during future phases of the voting systems modernization project.

VSAP Design Phase Funding

On August 22, 2012, the Productivity Investment Board (PIB) unanimously voted to support granting $470,000 in funding ($235,000 loan/ $235,000 grant) to the Department for the execution of the VSAP Design Phase. If awarded, 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.

The Department submitted a proposal for a $470,000 grant to the PIB (a subcommittee of the Quality and Productivity Commission, which manages the Productivity Investment Fund) on July 13, 2012, with a presentation of that proposal following at the July 25th PIB meeting. At this meeting, the PIB expressed support for a revised version of the proposal, splitting the grant proposal into a 50/50 grant/loan. The Department presented the revised project proposal on August 22nd, at which point the PIB unanimously voted to support the revised proposal and recommend to the Quality and Productivity Commission to award the funding.

The Department will meet with the Quality and Productivity Commission on October 29, 2012, where they Quality and Productivity Commission will vote on funding the proposal.

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 and presentations to, and facilitated discussions with the Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office, Board of Supervisor Deputies, and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. Presentations and discussions were held at the following meetings:

1. Chief Executive Office- June 14, 2012
   The RR/CC met with CEO William T Fujioka, and staff to provide an overview of VSAP accomplishments, next steps, and challenges.

2. CEO, Governmental and Legislative Affairs - July 16, 2012
   The RR/CC met with CEO Intergovernmental and External Relations (IGEA) staff to provide an overview of VSAP legislative/regulatory hurdles and discuss what support will be need from IGEA to address those hurdles.

3. Chief Information Office- July 30, 2012
   The RR/CC met with CIO Richard Sanchez and Henry Balta with the purpose of discussing next steps for the VSAP and a strategy for continued collaboration.

4. Chief Executive Office and Board of Supervisor Deputies- August 8, 2012
   CEO, William T Fujioka hosted a meeting to provide Board of Supervisors staff an update on the VSAP. The RR/CC presented an overview of VSAP accomplishments, next steps, and challenges.

5. Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee- August 28, 2012
   VSAP staff provided VAAC members an update on VSAP activites.

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.