



County of Santa Cruz

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S OFFICE
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 100, SANTA CRUZ, CA 950604073
(831) 454-2500 FAX (831) 454-2660

GARY A. KNUTSON, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Chief Deputy Auditor-Controllers
Pam Silbaugh, Accounting
Suzanne Young, Audit and Systems
Kathleen Hammons, Budget and Tax

February 4, 2002

AGENDA: February 12, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: **Web-based Financial Reporting Application**

Dear Members of the Board:

In fiscal year 1994-95 we began using the online financial management system FAMIS. Since that time we have updated the system to a new release version for the year 2000, have made revisions and modifications to accommodate new legal and reporting requirements, and have created additional reports to meet the needs of the departments. However, the reporting module of FAMIS does not have the flexibility to effectively produce the wide variety of specialized reports and access to data that our users require.

We have reviewed the situation with the County Administrative Office, Information Services and Public Works, and there is a consensus that a web-based solution will best meet the County's needs. Simpler Systems, Inc. proposes a hosted, web-based financial reporting application to allow users to access current and historical financial data exported from the County's mainframe financial system. The application will be hosted by Simpler Systems, who will be responsible for all server hardware, software and maintenance. We have looked at several systems and found that this system, which was designed specifically for financial applications, provides the nicest and easiest to use features.

The proposed system will:

- Permit easy online access of current and historical data to all FAMIS users, including remote locations, without special transmission links,


- Allow departments to download data into spreadsheet or database applications for specialized reporting,
- Provide departments with the ability to choose and print their financial reports as they need them, and
- Eliminate the huge volume of paper reports that are currently generated by FAMIS and manually distributed.

The cost of Simpler Systems' services include a one-time Setup and Configuration fee of \$15,000, and an ongoing Application Hosting fee of \$750 per month. As a result of savings in the purchase of the check printing system, we have sufficient savings in our budget to accommodate this acquisition.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Approve the transfer of \$18,000 from Software to Professional Services, and
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute the needed purchase order and contract with Simpler Systems, Inc.

Sincerely,

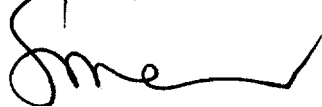


Gary A. Knutson
Audit & -Controller

Attachments

cc: County Administrative Office, Auditor-Controller

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello, County Administrative Officer



County of Santa Cruz
Proposal for Reporting Application

This proposal is for a hosted, web-based financial reporting application to allow County staff to access current and historical financial data exported from the County's mainframe financial system. The application will be hosted by Simpler Systems, who will be responsible for all server hardware, software and maintenance.

Reporting Features

- o Simple chart of account criteria selection via drop-down lists;
- o Hyperlinks on displayed data elements allowing drill-down to other more detailed reports;
- o Dynamic creation and download of printable reports in PDF format;
- Dynamic creation and download of displayed data to client workstation in Microsoft Excel (.xls) or comma-delimited (.csv) formats.

General Application Features

- o Secure user ID / password-based authentication mechanism to identify users;
- Role based data filtering to limit user access to balances and transactions based on chart of account segments;
- Administration pages for maintaining users, roles, and notifications;
- User-maintainable preferences for chart of account criteria;
- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption for all client communication.

Data Transfer features

- Secure internet file transfer of chart of account, balance, and/or transaction data to Simpler Systems application server;
- o Fully automated and scheduled data transfer process requiring no user interaction;
- Simple data file formats (fixed-length, delimited, or xml);
- Built-in data compression to minimize bandwidth usage.

System requirements

- Client: Microsoft Internet Explorer (version 4.0 or greater) or Netscape Navigator (version 4.08 or greater)
- Web and Database Server: None (hosted by Simpler Systems).

Pricing:

Pricing is comprised of two components:

- One-time Setup and Configuration fee: \$15,000.
- Ongoing Application Hosting fee: \$750 per month.

Proposed Reports

Data	Groupings	Columns
General Ledger	By Fund By Fund, Sub-Fund	Beginning Balance, YTD Debits, YTD Credits, Ending— Balance
Revenues	By Index By Fund By Fund, Sub-Fund By Function By Program By Organization By Project (?) By Grant (?)	Adopted Budget, Adjusted Budget, YTD Actual, Remaining Balance
Expenditures	By Index By Fund By Fund, Sub-Fund By Function By Program By Organization By Project (?) By Grant (?)	Adopted Budget, Adjusted Budget, YTD Actual, Encumbrances, Remaining Balance
Transactions	By Index By Object By Sub-Object	(To be determined)
Payments	By Vendor	(To be determined)



Simpler Systems, Inc.

225 E Carrillo, Suite 202 • Santa Barbara, CA 93101 • (805) 882-1848

County of Santa Cruz

Hardware and Software Configuration for Web Reporting Application

Hardware

- 1 GHz or greater Intel Pentium III CPU
- 1 GB or greater **RAM**
- 18 GB or greater disk space (RAID 0 or **RAID** 5 recommended)
- Backup device

Software

- Windows 2000 Server Service Pack 2
- Microsoft IIS 5.0
- Microsoft ASP.NET Premium Edition
- Microsoft **SQL** Server 2000 Service Pack 2
- Famatech Remote Administrator 2.1

Other

- 128-bit SSL Server Certificate

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION
OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR FUNDS

0040

Department: Auditor-Controller

Date: Feb 4, 2002

TO: Board of Supervisors / County Administrative Officer / District Board

I hereby request your approval of the following transfer of budget appropriations and/or funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 19 2002

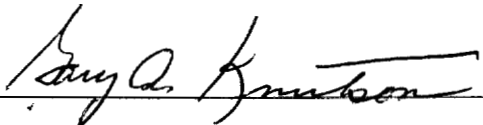
AUDITORS USE ONLY			
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BATCH #	
DATE	Keyed By:

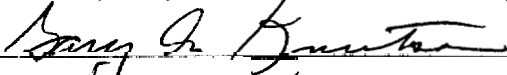
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Explanation:

Transfer savings for web-based financial reporting application - Simpler Systems, Inc.

Name:  Title: Auditor-Controller

Auditor-Controller's Action: I hereby certify that unencumbered balance(s) is/are available in the appropriations/funds and in the amounts indicated above.

Auditor-Controller, by , Deputy Date: 2/5/02

County Administrative Officer's Action: ☒ Recommended to Board ☐ Approved ☐ Not Recommended or Approved

County Administrative Officer:  Date: _____

State of California } As the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, I do hereby certify that the foregoing request for
County of Santa Cruz } ss. transfer was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer by an order
duly entered in the minutes of said Board on

_____, 19____, By NA, Deputy Clerk

(A-C)* Desc: _____ Item: - Budget Transfer

Distribution:

White-Board of Supervisors
Yellow-Auditor-Controller

BRD. NAME

AGENDA DATE

ITEM NO.

Green-County Administrative Officer
Pink-Originating Department

Goldenrod-Departmental Control Copy

A-C Review		