



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

SALLY W. NAGY  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

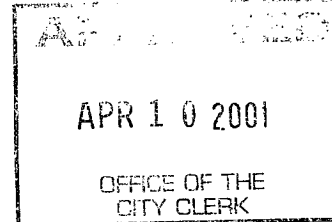
April 2, 2001

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City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:



**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE FROM MATRIX  
NETWORK SOLUTIONS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$192,059.54**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide - All districts

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution, which suspends formal competitive bidding, accepts the results of informal competitive bidding conducted by the Technology Division of Administrative Services, and authorizes the City Manager to execute the purchase of computer hardware from Matrix Network Solutions, LLC in the total amount of \$192,059.54.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Dennis Ybarra, IT Administrator, 264-7527

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** April 10, 2001

**SUMMARY:**

There are several urgent projects that require the acquisition of new computer hardware. Due to the urgent nature of these projects, the ASD-Technology Division conducted an expedited informal competitive bid for five servers. This report recommends that the City Council accept the results of this informal competitive bid and award the purchase contract to Matrix Network Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$192,059.54.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

None.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**1. What Computer Hardware is Being Acquired**

- A. Applications Server Cluster
- B. Centralized Shared Disk Storage System
- C. GIS Production Server
- D. Citywide Web Production Server
- E. Citywide Web Test Server

The critical applications that will run on these computers are described below. What the requested hardware components have in common is the benefits that they will bring: increased reliability and capacity over the existing aging equipment. The number of users and the processing volumes in the critical applications continue to increase rapidly. Existing equipment is inadequate to run the applications, leaving us open to the risk of failure.

The Applications Server Cluster and the Shared Disk Storage System will be linked together to achieve an enhanced level of reliability and performance. The linking of these components allows them to share processing load and enables components to continue running even if one of them fails. A new fully integrated Computer Interconnected Storage Technology has emerged that provides better means to manage storage, easily modify storage configurations, and allocate storage dynamically and automatically on an as-needed basis to multiple application servers with greater reliability and better performance. Another benefit is the ability to expand capacity later, as required, at a lower cost, rather than having to purchase a whole new server.

**2. Why This Computer Hardware is Required**

The following information technology projects and systems require new hardware on which to run their respective software applications. Systems A through C will share the Applications Server Cluster and the Shared Disk Storage System.

**A. Planning and Building Permits Plus System**

The mission-critical Permits Plus System in the Planning and Building Department is running on hardware that is aging and experiencing capacity constraints. There have been some scattered reliability problems in the past, which have affected public counter operations. There is currently no redundancy for the Permits Plus server. In addition, the smaller test server in use today cannot effectively simulate the live environment.

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When the decision was made to disperse some operations to North Natomas, a plan for new hardware was developed for the performance of basic print and file sharing operations at that location. After collaboration between the staff from the Planning and Building Department and Neighborhood Services Code Enforcement units, the plan was revised to combine resources and so meet the needs of both Permits Plus and the City Code systems. The existing, aging hardware will be redeployed to North Natomas to perform the basic functions needed there, and to provide an adequate test environment for Permits Plus.

#### **B. Neighborhood Services City Code System**

The key issue for the critical Neighborhood Services Department City Code System is redundancy. Currently, if the hardware goes down, there is no backup. When the proposed new hardware is acquired, the increased reliability of the Applications Server Cluster and the Shared Disk Storage System will significantly reduce the risk of failure.

#### **C. Automated Help Desk System**

The ASD-Technology Division has recently acquired and is implementing an automated Help Desk system that will improve customer service for Help Desk functions citywide. The system will improve service in support of Groupwise, the wide area network, office automation software, mainframe systems, etc. Unlike Permits Plus and City Code which are existing systems, this is a new system that needs hardware on which to run. Again, coordination between the ASD-Technology Division and the administrators of the Permits Plus and City Code systems enabled the pooling of resources.

#### **D. Geographic Information System (GIS) Web Site**

The server currently running the public GIS site at [citymaps.cityofsacramento.org](http://citymaps.cityofsacramento.org) must be used for both production and testing purposes. Therefore, when testing activities occur, they must be conducted on the production server, which disrupts service to the public. A new server is needed so that it can house the production system. The existing server will then be used for testing. In addition, new applications being developed now, including Economic Development, will require greater capacity than the current hardware provides.

#### **E. Citywide General Internet Public and Test Systems**

Currently, the City's public web pages are housed on a Sun server. The Sun operating system is not in widespread use in the City, and thus there is limited expertise on the part

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of City staff for its support. More importantly, Sun is not compatible with the internet software tools commonly in use today. Finally, there is no separate test server, which means that service on the public site may be disrupted when changes are made. More sophisticated, interactive internet systems now on the horizon will require thorough testing to ensure their integrity before being released to the public. A new production and a new smaller test server, which utilize the more mainstream Windows NT operating system, are needed now.

**3. The Informal Competitive Bidding Process**

Specifications for the five servers were distributed to the following six vendors. The results are as follows:

1. Western Blue
2. GE Capital IT Solutions
3. Capital Datacorp
4. Matrix Network Solutions, LLC (ESBD)
5. Compaq Computer Corporation
6. Special Order Systems (ESBD)

Five bids were received. The highest was \$ 234,899.30. Matrix Network Solutions, LLC was the low bidder at \$192,059.54.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The funding sources that will be used for this acquisition are as follows:

- \$50,000 Planning and Building CIP AA66
- \$25,000 Neighborhood Services Organizations 4651, 4652, 4653 Operating Budget
- \$57,508 ASD-Technology Division Operating Budget
- \$59,551 Technology CIP AB46

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Ongoing administrative and maintenance activities, which are not made for purposes of a public works construction project, do not constitute a "project" and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15061(b)(1), 15378(b)(3).

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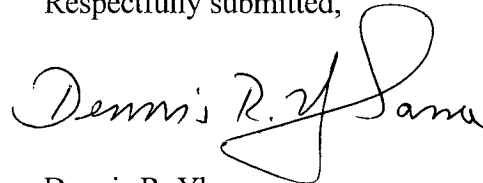
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

The hardware purchase recommendation is in accordance with the provisions of City Code Section 3.56.230(C), which authorizes suspension of formal competitive bidding upon a two-thirds vote of the City Council.

**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**

Two of the firms to whom the bid was sent are certified ESB vendors. Matrix Network Solutions, LLC, to whom it is recommended that the award be made, is a City-certified ESBD.

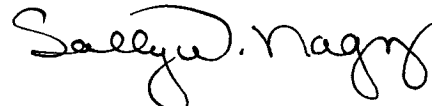
Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Ybarra  
IT Administrator

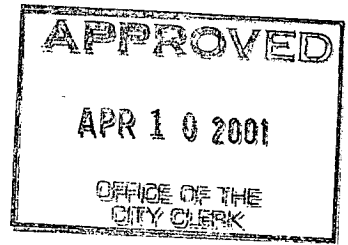
RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

Approved:



Sally W. Nagy  
Chief Information Officer

Robert P. Thomas  
City Manager



**RESOLUTION NO.** *2001-197*

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION SUSPENDING FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE FROM MATRIX NETWORK SOLUTIONS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$192,059.54.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:**

1. In the best interest of the City of Sacramento, formal competitive bidding is hereby suspended for the purchase of computer hardware; AND
2. The results of informal competitive bidding conducted by the Technology Division of Administrative Services are accepted; AND
3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the purchase of the hardware in the amount of \$192,059.54 from Matrix Network Solutions, LLC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_