PLACER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brad Fenocchio, Placer County District Attorney
Richard E. Colwell, Deputy CEO/Director of Administrative Services

DATE: April 26, 2005

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve the Purchase of District Attorney Case Management Software, Implementation Services, and the Lease of Required Hardware

ACTION REQUESTED
Approve and sign an agreement for the purchase of a District Attorney Case Management system from Constellation Justice Systems, Inc.; approve the lease of required hardware and related software and services; and authorize the Purchasing Manager to execute the related contractual documents for a total cost of $379,500 and a contingency of $35,000.

BACKGROUND
Placer County implemented the current District Attorney's Case Management System in 1996. The current application was designed primarily for the Courts and was selected by the District Attorney's Office so that data could be shared with the Courts, which were already using the application. The current application consists of three modules, two of which the vendor has informed the District Attorney that will no longer be enhanced or even supported for their prosecutor clients. Furthermore, the current application uses an outdated obsolete data base structure developed in 1982, and the vendor has cancelled plans to develop a modern data base, such as Oracle or Microsoft SQL, to replace the old one.

Although the current application is still functioning, the old data base structure makes data retrieval cumbersome, and the application no longer meets the statistical needs of the District Attorney's Office. The Office requires a more modern relational data base that is capable of pulling statistical information from any item or field related to a case. Because of its outdated data base structure, it is impossible to create some types of reports using the current application.

The District Attorney's Office considered different options for replacing the outdated, obsolete application. One option was to retain and upgrade the current application.
However, it was determined that the necessary modifications would be very costly and time intensive and would still leave the District Attorney's Office with a case management application written for courts instead of prosecutors. In addition, this option would make the system a custom application that would continue to be costly to maintain. Therefore, it was decided that a new system was the better option.

The District Attorney's Office compiled an extensive list of functional requirements and then evaluated eleven case management systems currently available on the market. After the initial review, eight vendors/applications were eliminated from further consideration because they were either not specifically a District Attorney application, were not designed for an office the County's size, were primarily a custom system developer, or did not meet the criteria of the needs assessment. After extensive review of the remaining four applications, including product reviews, product demonstrations, and site visits, the District Attorney's Office determined that Constellation Justice Systems' product, DAMION case management system, was clearly the one that best satisfied the District Attorney's functional and technical requirements.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
The current case management system is at the end of its life cycle, the technology is obsolete, and the vendor is no longer supporting two of the three modules that the District Attorney uses on a daily basis. While there was an option for the vendor to build two custom applications as replacements for their discontinued modules, that option was extremely expensive and would not ensure future enhancements.

The District Attorney is seeking a replacement case management system that has been written specifically for a prosecutor's office; an application that has been installed at a California site and operating successfully for at least two years; an application that has interfaced and shared data with another law enforcement agency; a vendor that continues to receive positive reviews from customers regarding the service and support. Constellation Justice Systems and their DAMION case management application meet all those requirements.

In addition to updating the current application to new technology, using DAMION will allow new efficiencies in the Office. Today, District Attorney staff manually enter and verify data that with the new application can be obtained automatically from the County's Public Safety System, thereby reducing the time required to run reports and perform data entry, reducing data entry errors, and increasing the amount of time available to prepare cases for court. The document imaging component of DAMION will allow discovery materials to be copied to CD, vastly reducing time required now to make paper copies, reducing the risk of misplacing or losing paper documents, and reducing the expense of off-site storage of paper files. The application also includes an ad hoc report writing tool that is easy to use, in the event that none of the sixty reports that the vendor will provide meets the Office's needs.

The DAMION case management system will run on the County's enterprise wide high speed data network, will be accessible by all District Attorney staff, and will include security features to ensure that only authorized individuals enter or view specific information.

We respectfully request your Board's approval to purchase Constellation Justice System's DAMION case management system.
FISCAL IMPACT
There will be a one-time cost of $379,500 as well as a contingency of $35,000 and annual ongoing costs of $63,000. Funds for the acquisition of the Case Management System are available within the District Attorney’s FY04/05 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Fenocchio
Placer County District Attorney

Richard E. Colwell
Deputy CEO/Director of Administrative Services

Cc: Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer
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    Bob Gummow, Chief Investigator
    Clark Moots, Deputy Director of Information Technology
    David Seward, Purchasing Manager