

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Clerk of the Board Use Only**  
**Meeting Date** / / **Held Until** / /  
**Agenda Item No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Agenda Item No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** County Administrator

( ) **4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Peter Rumble

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-3776

**Board Date:**  
10/20/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** Board of Supervisors technology enhancements

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:** Approve contract with Granicus Inc. to implement live and archived web-streaming video for the Board of Supervisors and other County meetings and announcements and delegate authority to the County Administrator to execute the contract and any minor amendments that may be needed to extend Granicus services to other County bodies, so long as such amendments do not increase the annual contract budget by more than \$15,000.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD**

**Estimated Cost** \$ 81,000

**Contingencies** \$  
(Fund Name:)

**Amount Budgeted** \$ 81,000

**Unanticipated Revenue** \$  
(Source:)

**Other Avail Approp.** \$  
(Explain below)

**Other Transfer(s)** \$  
(Source:)

**Additional Requested:** \$

**Add'l Funds Requested:** \$

**Explanation (if required):** Estimated start up costs are approximately \$51,000 with ongoing annual costs of approximately \$30,000.

**Prior Board Action(s):**

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:**

The Board could decide not to move forward with these technology enhancements.

**Background:**

The Board of Supervisors has a strong desire to make County government more transparent and accessible to the public, highlighted by the inclusion of public outreach and community engagement as a key component of the County's strategic plan. To that end, the Board recently increased the amount of information available to the public by posting electronic copies of agenda items on-line. However, the public is fairly limited in its ability to view Board of Supervisors meetings, as meetings are not broadcast live to the public, rather recorded and aired at another time on public access television.

Governments across the Country have turned toward technology solutions to increase public access to information. One of these solutions is web-streaming video of public meetings. The recognized leader in this type of technology solution is Granicus, Inc., based in San Francisco. Granicus provides both live and archived web-streaming of public meetings, and allows a viewer to access on-line documents while viewing the related discussion of the item. Anyone with access to an internet connection can view live or prior meetings, and the meetings can continue to be broadcast on the local public access television stations. By implementing this type of solution, governments have significantly improved their outreach and accessibility to the public.

Looking beyond public meetings, Granicus can be applied broadly across the County. Each Supervisor can deliver on-line video messages to their districts to provide updates on critical issues facing the County; the public can provide input on issues in front of the Board via an electronic comment feature; departments can provide public service announcements related to current issues such as energy sustainability, health, safety, parks access, and permitting; internally, the County can streamline training and significant workload efficiencies can also be achieved for the Clerk of the Board, as the agenda and minutes process is improved via Granicus. Because of these benefits, the County Administrator recommends that your Board invest in this technology.

The County selected Granicus via single-source justification, which County Purchasing has approved. While County Information Systems is involved in this project, the department does not have the resource capacity to develop this type of solution internally, and the development costs would far exceed the cost of Granicus. Granicus is the paramount provider of this type of solution and offers features that are exclusively available through their software, and the introduction of Granicus will introduce efficiencies in County operations, likely producing cost savings.

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Granicus Contract

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

**Vote:**

**Background:** (Continued)

Estimated start-up costs are approximately \$51,000 with monthly ongoing costs of approximately \$2,500 (\$30,000 annual). The Technology Investment Fund has been identified as the funding source for the start-up costs, and the County's non-departmental budget will fund ongoing costs, as the benefits of this project are County-wide. The proposed agreement has a one-year term, which will automatically renew for three additional years, unless the County elects to discontinue the service.

Implementation of Granicus is anticipated to be January 2010, starting with the broadcasting of Board of Supervisors meetings, then expanding to County departments and other meeting bodies as possible and desired. Several departments (including Human Resources, PRMD, the Water Agency, Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Health Services, and Human Services) have been contacted regarding the outreach possibilities available through this tool and all have expressed a strong interest to participate should the County move forward with it.

**Requested Board Action**

1. Approve the Granicus agreement and delegate to the County Administrator authority to execute the contract and make any minor amendments to the contract as may be needed to include other County meeting bodies that wish to use Granicus, so long as such amendments do not increase the contract budget by more than \$15,000 per year.