

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
STANDARD AGREEMENT
STD 213 (Rev. 04/2020)

AGREEMENT NUMBER 24G27117	PURCHASING AUTHORITY NUMBER (If Applicable) SOS-0890
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1. This Agreement is entered into between the Contracting Agency and the Contractor named below:

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME
Secretary of State

CONTRACTOR NAME
Lake County

2. The term of this Agreement is:

START DATE
June 01, 2025 or upon approval, whichever is later

THROUGH END DATE
June 30, 2026

3. The maximum amount of this Agreement is:
\$15,789.00; Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Zero Cents

4. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the following exhibits, which are by this reference made a part of the Agreement.

Exhibits	Title	Pages
Exhibit A	Scope of Work	4
Exhibit B	Budget Detail and Payment Provisions	4
Exhibit C*	General Terms and Conditions	GTC 02/2025
+ -Exhibit D	Special Terms and Conditions	4
+ -Exhibit E	Additional Provisions	3
+ -Exhibit F	Resolution	
+ -Exhibit G	HAVA Activity Report	1

Items shown with an asterisk (*), are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of this agreement as if attached hereto.
These documents can be viewed at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources>

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES HERETO.

CONTRACTOR

CONTRACTOR NAME (if other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership, etc.)
Lake County

CONTRACTOR BUSINESS ADDRESS 325 N. Forbes Street	CITY Lakeport	STATE CA	ZIP 95453
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PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Maria Valadez	TITLE Registrar of Voters
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CONTRACTOR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CONTRACTING AGENCY NAME Secretary of State			
CONTRACTING AGENCY ADDRESS 1500 11th Street	CITY Sacramento	STATE CA	ZIP 95814
PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING	TITLE		
CONTRACTING AGENCY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED		
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES APPROVAL	EXEMPTION (If Applicable) SCM Vol 1. 4.04.A.2		

EXHIBIT A
Scope of Work**1. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT**

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide the County of Lake with Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Federal funds, CFDA Number 90.404, administered by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) "for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized under sections 101, 103, 104 of HAVA" subject to the provisions of this Agreement and all requirements of state and federal law, regulations and procedures.

2. APPROPRIATE USES OF HAVA FUNDS

HAVA funds received pursuant to this contract shall be used for reimbursement for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized under sections 101, 103, 104 of HAVA for costs reasonably incurred for:

- A. Cybersecurity: Activities related to the improvement and enhancement of county cybersecurity, which includes:
- Penetration testing and any associated remediation
 - Red team exercises and any associated remediation or mitigation
 - End point detection
 - Multi-factor authentication for all devices including
 - Mobile Device Management
 - Mobile Threat Defense
 - Segregating election information technology
 - Enhancements for network security including
 - Network Threat Detection
 - Network Threat Protection
 - Network Access Control
 - Identification of public facing vulnerabilities and configuration errors through cyber hygiene scans or other methods and any associated remediation
 - Patching, patch management, and vulnerability management
 - Anti-Malware protection
 - Malicious domain blocking and reporting (MDBR)
 - Application Security
 - Application Whitelisting
 - Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection
 - Third party software and/or hardware in support of improving the county's cybersecurity capabilities
 - Software, hardware or consulting services and/or any

associated information technology installation directly related to cybersecurity risks which may include

- Application Development Security
- Software Supply Chain Management
- Identity Lifecycle Management
- Monitoring of systems and applications to prevent and detect data breaches or fraud including interconnected systems which may include
 - Security Continuous Monitoring 24x7
 - Cloud Security Monitoring
 - Insider Threat Detection
 - Log Management
 - Threat Intelligence Platform
 - Application Security
 - Operational Technology Security
- Staff or consultant time associated with implementation of any of the above activities

B. Physical Security: Activities related to the improvement and enhancement of county physical security which includes:

- Staff time or consulting services to improve security practices and documentation, including drafting and documenting information security policies and procedures, emergency planning, and continuity of operations
- Crisis response kit
- First aid supplies
- Panic alarms
- Intrusion detection systems
- Restricted access controls
- Security cameras or other surveillance equipment
- Emergency generator
- Physically securing servers hosting county voter registration, election information systems, and voting technology
- Securing storage or offsite locations used for election equipment and supplies
- Additional services that improve security

C. Security and Privacy Awareness Training: Creating awareness and educating employees and other users of information systems on the information security risks associated with the activities related to their job roles, as well as their responsibilities in complying with an organization's security policies and procedures designed to reduce these risks. Training for staff that encompass essential knowledge and skills that help maintain the security and integrity of elections, including:

- User awareness training
- Phishing training
- Social engineering training
- Combatting mis/dis/mal information
- De-escalation and conflict resolution
- Emergency drills

- Tabletop exercises
- D. Incident Response: Costs related to responding to an election security incident, including:
- Staff time or consulting services for incident response plan drafting and preparation
 - Staff time or consulting services to identify an attack, minimize its effects, contain damage, and remediate the cause to reduce the risk of future incidents
- E. Items presumed not to be reimbursable:
- The following is a partial list of items presumed to not be reimbursable and not inclusive of all items that are not reimbursable. The list is provided only for the purpose of providing guidance. The Secretary of State shall be the sole determiner if an expenditure is reimbursable.
- Costs not directly related to election infrastructure security.
 - Overhead costs
 - Computers/Laptops/Tablets.
 - Blackberries/Smartphones (handheld computer).
 - Other office equipment, including but not limited to fax machines, copiers and scanners, unless prior approval has been obtained from the granting agency.
 - Office supplies, including but not limited to paper, pens and post-it notes.
 - Travel Costs

3. CONDITION FOR RECEIVING FUNDS

The County may seek reimbursement for the activities identified above, provided that the County certifies as part of the reimbursement claim that it has done all of the following:

- A. Utilized the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) no cost Cyber Hygiene Web Application Scanning service, or other equivalent cyber hygiene scanning service (<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/cyber-hygiene-web-application-scanning>). At least one County employee or agent attended one of the regional tabletop training sessions sponsored by the Secretary of State or CISA.
- B. Conducted privacy and security awareness training including cyber security best practices for all elections related staff.
- C. Completed an incident response plan detailing how elections staff detect, respond to, and recover from network security incidents.

In addition, as a condition of receiving reimbursement for the activities

Lake County

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identified above, the County shall certify as a condition of reimbursement that the County has done one or more of the following:

- D. Deployed reliable antivirus software and kept it up to date.
- E. Implemented a firewall and kept it up to date.
- F. Deployed an intrusion detection system and kept it up to date.
- G. Deployed the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) Endpoint Detection Response program, or other equivalent end point protection and is kept up to date (<https://www.cisecurity.org/insights/spotlight/cybersecurity-spotlight-endpoint-detection-and-response-edr>).
- H. Adopted a .gov Top-Level Domain or are currently in the transition process (<https://get.gov/registration/>) for obtaining a .gov Top-Level Domain.

Invoices must include itemized list of costs prior to reimbursement.

4. PROJECT CONTACTS

- The program representatives during the term of Agreement will be:
County: Maria Valadez (707) 263-2372
SOS: Mike Darling (916) 695-1151 or Philip Kumsar (916) 279-1729.
Email: electioncontracts@sos.ca.gov

EXHIBIT B
BUDGET DETAIL AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS

1. Invoicing and Payment

- A. For services satisfactorily rendered, and upon receipt and approval of the invoices submitted with supporting documentation, the State agrees to compensate the County for actual expenditures incurred in accordance with the rates specified herein, which is attached hereto and made a part of this Agreement.
- B. Invoices shall include the Agreement Number and shall be submitted not more frequently than monthly in arrears:

Preferred Method in electronic format (PDF) via email
AccountsPayable@sos.ca.gov.

Hard copies, though not required, may be sent to:

Office of Secretary of State
Attention: Accounts Payable
P.O. Box 944260
Sacramento, CA 94244-2600

- C. Counties will be reimbursed as specified in Exhibit A Section 2, Appropriate Uses of HAVA Funds

2. Budget Contingency Clause

- A. It is mutually agreed that if the Budget Act, or a HAVA Spending Plan or Spending Plan amendment, of the current year and/or subsequent years covered under this Agreement does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this Agreement shall be of no further force and effect. In this event, the State shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to County or to furnish any other considerations under this Agreement and County shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of this Agreement.
- B. If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act, or by a HAVA Spending Plan or Spending Plan amendment, for purposes of this program, the State shall have the option to either cancel the Agreement with no liability occurring to the State, or offer an agreement amendment to County to reflect the reduced amount.

3. Federal Funds

- A. It is mutually understood between the parties that this contract may have been written for the mutual benefit of both parties before ascertaining the availability of congressional appropriation of funds, to avoid program and fiscal delays that would occur if the contract were executed after that determination was made.
- B. This contract is valid and enforceable only if the United State Government for the fiscal year 2024/2025, for the purpose of this program makes sufficient funds available to the state. In addition, this contract is subject to any additional restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the Congress or to any statute enacted by the Congress that may affect the provisions, terms, or funding of this contract in any manner.
- C. The parties mutually agree that if the Congress does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this contract shall be amended to reflect any reduction in funds.
- D. The department has the option to invalidate the contract under the 30-day cancellation clause or to amend the contract to reflect any reduction in funds.

4. Prompt Payment Clause

Payment will be made in accordance with, and within the time specified in Government Code Chapter 4.5, commencing with Section 927.

5. Failure to Properly Claim Maximum Amount of HAVA Funds

Notwithstanding any provision of Agreement, County shall be entitled to receive only those amounts for fully supported and appropriate claims which are properly submitted, pursuant to the provisions of Agreement and all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and procedures.

6. Basis of Claims

Subject to the provisions of Exhibit B Section 8, below related to the applicability of [CFR-200](#), all claims for HAVA funds under this program must be based on invoices submitted by County. All invoices or agreements that are the subject of any claims must relate directly to expenditures authorized pursuant to Exhibit A Section 2 ('Appropriate Uses of HAVA Funds').

7. Processing of Claims

The Secretary of State shall establish the criteria and processes for submitting claims under this program. Such criteria shall include requirements that all claims:

- A. Contain a face sheet that summarizes each expenditure made as set forth in Exhibit A 'Scope of Work';
- B. Include the total amount of the claim;
- C. Include the agreement number on the face sheet;
- D. Identify whether additional claims are expected to be submitted;
- E. Include signed County staff HAVA Activity Reports, please see sample which is Exhibit G, for each employee and County's employee for whom reimbursement for time is being claimed. (Vendors who receive payment from HAVA funds are required to submit timesheets for any work paid for as time and materials); or,
- F. Requests for reimbursement for personnel costs, whether regular county employees or temporary staff, should be backed up with HAVA timesheets. However, sensitive personal identifying information (PII) should not be included. If the County uses a computer-based payroll system that is coded to reflect time spent on HAVA and non-HAVA projects, the County does not need to submit time sheets. However, for any request for reimbursement for personnel services, the County must submit a summary that shows the type of staff, numbers of positions claimed and time spent on each type of HAVA-related project, along with the costs of payroll and benefits for those hours. The County must also verify that coded electronic payroll records are kept on file and are available for Secretary of State questions and audit purposes.
- G. Include a copy of the contract with the contractor if the contractor's invoice does not describe the activities undertaken in such a manner that the State can determine whether the activities comply with the provisions of this Agreement.

8. Application of 2CFR200

[2CFR – Part 200](#) (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards) and [2CFR – Part 225](#) ("Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments"), incorporated herein by reference, to the extent applicable, shall govern with respect to all aspects of this program.

9. Retroactive Payments

Counties may claim reimbursement for expenses and activities permissible under the terms of this agreement that occur after June 1, 2025, and on or before June 30, 2026.

10. Payments Of Claims

Payments made by the State with respect to any claim shall be sent directly by the State Controller's office to the County.

11. Deadline For Submitting Claims

The deadline for submitting any claim under this program is June 30, 2026.

12. Multiple Claims

County can submit multiple claims for HAVA funds authorized above, within the aggregate limit established for County.

13. Documentation To Be Submitted

Each claim shall include a cover page that identifies the activity or service in Exhibit A and the dollar amount associated with each activity or service for which funds are being sought. Each claim shall also include originals or true copies of all invoices, agreements, or other documentation that support the claim, including all documentation required by Office of Management and Budget.

14. Order Of Processing

Claims shall be processed by the Secretary of State in order of receipt.

Exhibit C
General Terms and Conditions

PLEASE NOTE: This page will not be included with the final agreement. The General Terms and Conditions will be included in the agreement by reference to Internet site:

<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources/Page-Content/Office-of-Legal-Services-Resources-List-Folder/Standard-Contract-Language?search=GTC>

EXHIBIT D
SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. AUDITING

- A. Receipt of HAVA funds by a county indicates agreement to establish a dedicated HAVA account for these funds. Therefore, any payment received by County pursuant to this program shall be deposited in a separate, segregated account and any payment made by County related to this program shall be paid from that account whether or not the County has paid the vendors for services rendered before submitting invoices to the State.
- B. Any recipient of federal funds to meet the Help America Vote Act requirements agrees to be audited pursuant to federal and state law. Accordingly, all documents and electronic files must be produced upon request by the auditors. CFDA Number for this contract is 90.401. The audit may include a review of all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of County as they relate to any HAVA funds. County shall also provide access to all employees having knowledge of the HAVA funds program to assist the auditor. County shall provide a copy of any document, paper, or electronic record requested by the auditor;
- C. OMB Circular A-133 ("Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations"), and OMB Circular A-87, incorporated herein by reference, shall govern with respect to all aspects of this program. The provisions of these circulars may be found at https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/OMB/circulars/a133_compliance/2016/pt1.pdf
- D. County shall maintain records in a manner that:
 - 1. Accurately reflects fiscal transactions with necessary controls and safeguards;
 - 2. Provides complete audit trails, based whenever possible on original documents (purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, timesheets, cancelled warrants, warrant numbers, etc.);
 - 3. Provides accounting data so the costs can readily be determined throughout Agreement period.
- E. Records shall be maintained for three years after expiration of

Agreement and for at least one year following any audit or final disposition of any disputed audit finding;

- F. If the final disposition of any disputed audit finding is determined to be a disallowed cost that the Secretary of State has paid the County, the County shall return to the Secretary of State an amount equal to the disallowance.
- G. County shall permit periodic site visits by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee or designees to determine if any HAVA funds are being used or have been used in compliance with Agreement and all applicable laws;
- H. Upon request, county shall report to the Secretary of State at least once every 90 (ninety) days until all funds received have been expended, on the status of HAVA funds received, in a manner determined by the Secretary of State

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. The program is conditioned on State receiving reimbursement from the federal government pursuant to HAVA Section 303(a).
- B. HAVA funds can only be used for the purposes for which the HAVA funds are made;
- C. No portion of any HAVA funds shall be used for partisan political purposes. All County staff providing services are required to sign an agreement, please see Exhibit E Section 1, to abide by the Secretary of States' policy to refrain from engaging in political activities that call into question the impartiality of the Secretary of State's Office. County is to submit agreement signed by each employee of contractor's firm who worked for County pursuant to this Agreement with the County's first invoice.
- D. The provisions of the federal *Hatch Act* shall apply to employees working for state and local entities receiving HAVA funds. The *Hatch Act* may be reviewed at <https://osc.gov/Services/pages/hatchact.aspx>;
- E. Any interest earned by County on money received pursuant to this Agreement must be reported in writing to the Secretary of State within 30 days of expiration of this Agreement. All interest must be used by the County for the purposes of implementing activities allowable under this Agreement;

- F. Failure by any eligible County to execute a contract within 90 days of the date on which this contract is made available shall constitute an express desire to forego funds;
- G. Funds not claimed by County within 90 days of the end date of this contract, or any funds claimed by a county that are not approved for county use by the Secretary of State within 180 days of the end date of this contract, shall be reallocated and may only be used to meet Section 303(a) of HAVA;
- H. If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act for purposes of this program, the State shall have the option to either cancel Agreement with no liability occurring to the State, or offer an Agreement amendment to County to reflect any reduced amount;
- I. Agreement is subject to any restrictions, limitations or conditions enacted or promulgated by the United States Government, or any agency thereof, that may affect the provisions, terms or funding of Agreement in any manner;
- J. Pursuant to federal policy, Agreement may be terminated by the State with 30-day written notice to County;
- K. County warrants by execution of Agreement, that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by County for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the State shall, in addition to other remedies provided by law, have the right to annul this contract without liability, paying only for the value of the work actually performed, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee;
- L. Nothing contained in Agreement or otherwise, shall create any contractual relation between the State and any subcontractor or vendor, and no subcontractor shall relieve County of its responsibilities and obligations hereunder. County agrees to be as fully responsible to State for the acts and omissions of its subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by any of them as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by County. County's obligation to pay its subcontractors is an independent obligation from the State's obligation to make payments to County. As a result, State shall have no obligation to pay or to enforce the payment of any

moneys to any subcontractor or vendor of County;

- M. Pursuant to federal law, by signing this agreement or execution of this purchase order the Contractor certifies under the penalty of perjury that the contracting entity is not excluded or ineligible from federal assistance programs and thereby is not on the federal government's list of suspended or debarred entities.

Pursuant to federal law, as a component of the procurement process, the Contractor must review the federal government's list of debarred and suspended vendors and ensure no contract award is provided to a vendor on this list. This list may be viewed at SAM.gov. (formerly at www.epls.gov).).

- N. Upon request, county agrees to provide the Secretary of State with a summary report on its activities under this agreement following each election for which funds are expended that includes: the method used to determine the need for funding an eligible activity, including the reliance on an advisory committee or advisory groups, surveys or any other methodology used to assess the need for the eligible activity; the activity performed and funded; the amount of funding expended; the category or categories of need being met; and any performance metric or assessment of the quality of the activity, including unsolicited public comment, advisory committee or advisory group comment, public comment solicited through surveys and on-site assessments conducted by the County, its agents or others.

Exhibit E
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Secretary Of State Policy Regarding Political Activity in the Workplace

SECRETARY OF STATE POLICY REGARDING POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE
WORKPLACE

The Secretary of State is the state's chief elections officer. It is, therefore, imperative that staff in the Secretary of State's Office, and those who contract with the Secretary of State's Office, refrain from engaging in any political activity that might call into question the office's impartiality with respect to handling election issues. Accordingly, the policy of the Secretary of State's Office with respect to political activity in the workplace, a copy of which will be given to every employee in the Secretary of State's office and incorporated as an attachment to contracts with the Secretary of State's Office, is as follows:

- A. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office shall engage in political campaign-related activities on state-compensated or federal-compensated time, except as required by official duties, such as answering inquiries from the public. In those cases where the contractor with the Secretary of State's Office is a county, the term "contractor" shall apply only to county elections office employees, county employees redirected to work temporarily for the county elections office, or any person, firm, company or business that provides reimbursable election-related services to a county elections office in furtherance of a contract. This prohibition shall not apply while an employee is on approved vacation or approved annual leave. This prohibition shall not apply to activities engaged in during the personal time of an employee.
- B. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office shall use any state property in connection with political campaign activities. It is strictly prohibited to schedule political campaign-related meetings or to conduct political campaign-related meetings in state office space, even if after normal working hours.
- C. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office shall use his or her official status with the Secretary of State's Office to influence political campaign-related activities or to confer support for or indicate opposition to a candidate or measure at any level of government.

- D. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office may be involved with political campaign-related telephone calls, letters, meetings or other political campaign-related activities on state-compensated or federal-compensated time. Requests by employees to switch to alternative work

schedules, such as 4-10-40 or 9-8-80 work weeks, or to take vacation in order to accommodate political campaign-related activities or to attend political campaign functions, will be judged in the same manner and on the same basis as any other requests of this nature (i.e., existing needs of the office and discretion of the division chiefs).

- E. The receipt or delivery of political campaign contributions or photocopies thereof on state property is strictly prohibited, as is the use of office time or state resources (e.g., intra-office mail or fax machines) to solicit or transmit political campaign contributions.
- F. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office may authorize any person to use his or her affiliation with the Secretary of State's Office in an attempt to suggest that the employee's or contractor's support or opposition to a nomination or an election for office or a ballot measure is of an "official," as distinguished from private, character.
- G. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office may display political campaign-related buttons, posters, or similar materials in areas visible to individuals who are in public areas of the Secretary of State's Office; nor may an employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office display political campaign-related posters or other materials on windows facing out of the state office building.
- H. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office may use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or attempting to affect the results of an election or a nomination for any public office.
- I. No employee of or contractor with the Secretary of State's Office may directly or indirectly coerce or solicit contributions from subordinates in support of or in opposition to an election or nomination for office or a ballot measure.
- J. An employee who is paid either partially or fully with federal funds, including the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), is subject to the provisions of the federal Hatch Act, and is, therefore, prohibited from being a candidate for public office in a partisan election, as defined in the federal Hatch Act. However, any employee who is to be paid

either partially or fully with funds pursuant to HAVA, shall first be consulted about the proposed funding and be informed about the prohibitions of the federal Hatch Act. The employee, whenever possible, shall be given the opportunity to engage in employment that does not involve HAVA funding.

- K. Provisions limiting participation in political campaign-related activities as provided for in this policy statement shall be included in every contract with the Secretary of State's Office.

If you have questions concerning these restrictions, please refer them to the Secretary of State Office contact person listed on the contract in Exhibit A

2. Executive Order N-6-22-Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. The EO directs state agencies to terminate contracts with, and to refrain from entering any new contracts with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the State determine Contractor is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this agreement. The State shall provide Contractor advance written notice of such termination, allowing Contractor at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the State.

[illegible]