

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: November 17, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Review of Alternatives for Broadcast Control System and City Council Chambers Audio / Visual (A/V) Replacement Project

RECOMMENDATION

As requested in budget discussions, consider phased approach to Broadcast Control System and City Council Chambers A/V replacement project prior to initiating a formal procurement process.

BACKGROUND

The City provides live and recorded video of City Council, City Commission, and PUSD Board of Education meetings using an integrated system that includes:

- A broadcast control room, where a technician manages cameras, switching, sound, and graphics during meetings; and
- In-room cameras, sound system, and video displays that are managed from the control room

The last substantial update to broadcast control room equipment and Council Chambers video cameras occurred in 2008. In 2021, a high-quality sound system was installed in Council Chambers, along with a video display solution that supported the need for remote meeting participation while COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

The existing broadcast control room equipment is beyond its expected useful life and has become exceedingly unreliable. In the past two years, six core components have failed beyond ability to repair, and the system has experienced four failures that disrupted regular broadcast capabilities across multiple meetings. In each of these instances, disruptions required over a week and outside support to resolve. The system is built to a technical standard no longer used in the industry and is not inter-operable with equipment available on the market today. Patchwork repairs have become increasingly difficult as replacement parts for older components are not readily available. Secondhand markets that were once a resource can no longer be relied upon.

This is the sixth year that funding for the broadcast control system and Council Chambers A/V replacement project has been included in the adopted budget. Delivery of the project has been delayed due to competing priorities, staff vacancies, turnover, and organizational restructuring.

DISCUSSION

When adopting the FY 2025-26 budget, the City Council requested that staff explore the possibility

of phasing or otherwise modifying the project approach to reduce costs.

After further research and analysis, staff identified three scoping options for consideration, with cost estimates. Each includes replacement of the core broadcast control system, addressing the most urgent needs, and retains the existing sound system. The three scenarios provide a range of options for modernizing the video display solution in the Council Chambers.

A summary of the existing system and scoping options are provided in Attachments 1 and 2.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2025-26 City budget includes \$635,000 in the Equipment Replacement Fund for this project. If the project scope is reduced, remaining funds would be available for other projects in the City's ten-year Equipment Replacement plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Existing System Summary
2. Broadcast Control and City Council Chambers A/V System Scoping Options



Broadcast Control & Council Chambers A/V System

Existing system summary

COMPONENT	FUNCTION	AGE / CURRENT STATUS	ISSUES
Broadcast control system (includes cameras)	• outputs and records live-switched, multi-camera video and audio during public meetings • applies on-screen graphics labeling agenda items	• most components from 2008 or older • past end-of-life	• frequent failures • obsolete components • compatible replacement parts difficult to obtain when elements fail • significant staff time needed to resolve issues and devise patchwork solutions
Council Chambers video displays	• show presentations and other media on audience-facing and dais-facing monitors • allow for remote presentations and participation	• installed in 2021 as an “interim” solution until Chambers A/V upgrade could be completed	• in-room presentations require A/V support through broadcast control room, significantly restricting use for staff or non-broadcast meetings • accidental damage, tripping risk for floor monitors • display is obscured for 1/3 of audience
Council Chambers sound system	• amplifies sound from speakers at dais	• installed in 2021 • functional and high quality	



Broadcast System Replacement Project

Scoping options

SCENARIO	SUMMARY	EST. COST	PRO	CON
A	- replace broadcast control system - upgrade Chambers video display system to allow in-room presentations	< \$150k	- addresses most urgent need - displays are usable outside of broadcast meetings - presentation slides easier to read for online & TV viewers	- messy display situation remains - does not support future upgrades to Chambers A/V
B	- everything in Scenario A - replace floor monitors with individual dais-mounted displays - upgrade display system controls	< \$275k	- room looks better - reduce risk of damage - supports future upgrades to audience-facing displays	- adds complexity, cost - less room at dais for laptops, binders, etc.
C	- everything in Scenario C - replace audience facing display with large high-resolution screen	> \$400k	- professional Chambers A/V setup similar to other cities - better experience for audience members	- adds significant cost - adds complexity and time to design, install and maintain - may require façade or lighting work to accommodate