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Picture Link: [Inglewood USD accounting staff get OPRA Purchase Requisition preview from PPS trainer Witt Schenck](#)

Inglewood School District Teams with OPRA

Marina del Rey CA – Delays, extra cost, red tape and paper handling were among the primary reasons the Inglewood Unified School District School (IUSD) Board has ordered all staff members to save the paper and streamline these processes using Internet based "OPRA" technology supplied by Marina del Rey based Package Products and Services, Inc. (PPS).   The district's technology department, under the leadership of Dr. James Beckwith and Chris Johnson (project manager), advised the board that several of the district's cumbersome paper processes could be eliminated, while at the same time capitalizing on the Internet Infrastructure already in place.

Despite being a long time partner with and subscriber of the Los Angeles County's Department of Education's (LAUSD) accounting system, efforts from IUSD to effect a solution have been delayed several years. Many of the continued problems are associated with a county wide implementation of a massive conversion to a "People Soft" ([PSFT](#)) system has confounded administrators, frustrated board members and ultimately created delays in delivering needed goods and services to the classrooms of IUSD and other districts within the LAUSD. Eventually it is expected that the "People Soft" program may address some of these issues, however in the meantime IUSD's technology department was directed by the board to find an interim solution.

"I put in a purchase request for some equipment in March of 2001 and did not get an approved order until September", says Chris Johnson of IUSD, "by that time the price had come down and the equipment was no longer easily available." The OPRA system is designed to eliminate such snags by using intuitive Internet protocols and the power of a connected browser to simplify the approval and delivery processes. "It's all about accountability and performance," said Warren Wagner a representative of the OPRA system. "We have seen this time and time again. When we tell a school district that their system can be up and running and everyone trained within a few days, they are skeptical because of experiences with vendors such as "People Soft" taking months or even years to implement. A couple of days after we receive the final go-ahead, everyone gets nervous because we have actually installed the system overnight and are ready to train. They never expect us to be ready so quickly. But when our people sit down and actually show them how to use the system the nervousness goes away because using OPRA is just like using any other Web Site, and it's actually fun. Most importantly the client suddenly has control of the process and the client's users are informed at each and every step of the process. Everyone comes out a winner."

The return on investment of such a system is the really good news. According to the Gartner Group, paper processing of such orders could cost an organization more than the total cost of the order itself, with estimates exceeding hundreds of dollars per order. Because all of the OPRA system modules keep the originating "customer" informed, through email, status screens, and even wireless pagers, there is a sudden dramatic drop in customer phone calls to check on status. "If you're a purchasing manager, you might be working on a project when you get interrupted by a phone call from a site. The person on the line wants to know what happened to their widgets. It could take 15 minutes on the phone (times 2), 15 minutes to 1 hour or more to research (sometimes times 2 or 3), and then another 15 minutes (times 2 again) to follow up with the caller and another 15 minutes to mentally get back to your important project. Multiply that by everyone's hourly rate and you can see that just the inquiries alone are costing dearly. OPRA reduces the costs to pennies rather than hundreds of dollars." notes Wagner.

PPS Systems, Inc. is a privately held company with headquarters in Marina del Rey, California. PPS was the first in the nation to provide a 100% Web-based "Work Order System" in 1996. PPS now provides and hosts its complete line of OPRA Web-based software modules to several government and corporate clients supporting thousands of transactions on a daily basis. PPS's depth of understanding of government and K-12 and college school districts is augmented by Wagner himself who since 1997 has served on the State of California's "Computer Education Advisory Panel" which has directed educational technology related laws within the state.

The service that is described above relates to a natural expansion of the utilization of the company's expertise and services available. Interested parties may contact PPS at 800-545-4888 or email at sales@opras.net.

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