

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Communications Division  
Broadband, Video and Market Branch**

**RESOLUTION T- 17537  
October 27, 2016**

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESOLUTION T-17537: Approval of funding for the Rural and Regional Consortia grant applications of the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium, the Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Consortium, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium in the amount of \$493,216.**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This Resolution approves grant funding in the amount of \$493,216 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Regional Urban Consortia Account (Consortia Account) for the grant applications of the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC), the Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Consortium (RCCBC), and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (SJVRBC). These three projects will further broadband deployment, access and/or adoption in their regions.

By furthering broadband deployment, access and adoption, these projects are expected to enhance public safety in the Eastern Sierra, the Redwood Coast, and the San Joaquin Valley in the event of fire, flooding, and earthquakes.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On September 2, 2015, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1262 (Wood, Chapter 242, Statutes of 2015) that reallocated \$5 million from the CASF Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account to the CASF Consortia Account, thus making additional funds available for consortia activities. Prospective applicants were invited to submit new proposals on January 29, 2016. The recent application process is consistent with Decision (D.) 11-06-038, with the addition of a performance review for applicants with prior Consortia grant experience.

### III. APPLICANT REQUEST

On January 29, 2016, IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC submitted grant applications for CASF Consortia funding.<sup>1</sup>

*Applicants:*

**IMBC** represents Inyo and Mono Counties. It is a first-time applicant, but was previously part of Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESC) with eastern Kern County.<sup>2</sup> ESC was approved for a \$450,000 Consortia Account grant in February 2012 (Resolution T- 17355).<sup>3</sup> The fourth year extension of the program ended in February 2016. ESC's prior consortia grant funded activities included: data collection on broadband infrastructure, generate solutions to critical gaps in service and to increase customer adoption, and establish a list of high priority projects that encourage service providers and communities to take action.<sup>4</sup>

**RCCBC** was created in 2007 as a regional network in the three counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity. In December 2011, RCCBC received a three-year grant from the Consortia Account for a total of \$450,000 for activities including creating funding plans for middle-mile and last-mile deployment; developing and implementing training plans and programs; and providing support to remove barriers that impede the advancement of wireless broadband deployment (Resolution T-17349). The 2011 grant was granted a one-year time extension and ended in December 2015.<sup>5</sup>

**SJVRBC** was formed in 2011 to continue activities previously performed by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and its Advanced Communications Services Work Group. It represents the 8 counties of the San Joaquin Valley including: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

In December 2011, SJVRBC received a \$450,000 three-year grant from the Consortia Account to expedite the provision of broadband access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley; promote accessibility and adoption of broadband in targeted underserved communities and populations; expand and replicate successful model programs to increase broadband access and bridge the digital divide; accelerate deployment of

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<sup>1</sup> Fifteen applications were submitted by January 29, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> ESC now contains only eastern Kern County. It also has submitted an application which is currently under review. If both applications are approved, CD would ensure no funding overlap.

<sup>3</sup> IMBC represents about 80% of the geographic area of ESC.

<sup>4</sup> Approximately \$450,000 in total expenditures has been requested/paid apart from summit expenses.

<sup>5</sup> Approximately \$450,000 in total expenditures has been requested/paid apart from summit expenses.

broadband infrastructure through telemedicine and telehealth technology; and work with neighboring regional consortia to ensure the development of a cohesive infrastructure (Resolution T-17349). The 2011 grant was granted a six-month time extension and ended in June 2015.<sup>6</sup>

### *Proposals*

**IMBC** requests \$105,216 for a two-year program in order to pursue grant-related activities.<sup>7</sup> Specifically, IMBC proposes to focus on producing tools and data that will promote adoption and last mile infrastructure development in Inyo and Mono Counties, and take advantage of available capacity from Digital 395. IMBC further proposes to establish an advisory council to inform its Board of Directors on last mile development strategies, public outreach, and potential private and public investments. It also plans to create resources such as web based maps, studies on demand aggregation and the benefits of public wifi, as well as a communications strategic plan and a broadband economic development strategy.<sup>8</sup> IMBC also proposes to develop a user's manual to effectively assist local businesses to utilize internet resources.

**RCCBC** requests \$208,000 for a two-year program for activities focused on infrastructure deployment and reliability. RCCBC proposes to assist providers in wireline deployment along Highway 299 (between Eureka and Cottonwood) and Highway 101 (between Eureka and Crescent City), to assist the Klamath River Broadband Initiative in its construction and deployment efforts; to monitor AT&T's upgrade progress;<sup>9</sup> and to ensure community involvement by hosting public meetings and annual Broadband Forums.

**SJVRBC** requests \$180,000 for a three-year program to continue its efforts in promoting accessibility and adoption of broadband, accelerating deployment of broadband infrastructure within the regional healthcare industry, and collaborating with neighboring regional broadband consortia to ensure the development of cohesive inter-regional strategies.<sup>10</sup> SJVRBC further proposes to collaborate with the California

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<sup>6</sup> Approximately \$448,000 in total expenditures has been requested/paid apart from summit expenses.

<sup>7</sup> IMBC originally requested \$147,304; however, a proposal filed on 1/29/16 to use \$77,000 to redistribute as a "sub-grant" was rejected because D.11-06-038 requires details of grant use to be known at the time of approval. Subsequently, IMBC readjusted its budget and proposed a \$105,216 program.

<sup>8</sup> The Communications Strategic Plan will identify the desired infrastructure to satisfy all regional communications needs for the short and long term, as well as the selected approach to fund and implement the Plan. The Regional Broadband Economic Development Strategic Plan will address how to improve broadband adoption levels and effective use for economic development.

<sup>9</sup> RCCBC will attend AT&T meetings on upgrade plans, monitor outages, and document impact of outages.

<sup>10</sup> SJVRBC will conduct quarterly meetings with other Regional Broadband Consortia to share best practices and/or challenges as well as funding opportunities.

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to ensure public safety from a rural and San Joaquin Valley perspective is included in the State's FirstNet strategy.<sup>11</sup>

The Telecommunications Governance Branch provides strategic planning, direction, and coordination to Client Agencies for public safety communications. Our goal is to strengthen public safety communications governance through open forums as stated in the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communications Strategic Plan, and ensure all public safety entities have a voice in the process while continuing to leverage existing infrastructure to improve interoperability in California.

#### IV. NOTICES

On February 18, 2016, CD posted a list of applications received on the Commission's CASF Consortia Account webpage,<sup>12</sup> and sent email notices regarding the proposed projects to its CASF Distribution List.

#### V. PROJECT REVIEW

##### A. Project Eligibility

IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC applications are eligible because they meet the minimum criteria established by D.11-06-038 and CD's review of how efficiently and cost-effectively previously granted Consortia funds were spent as a basis for awarding any new and/or additional funding.

##### B. Project Criteria Evaluation

Proposals from previously funded Regional Consortia were considered in the context of past performance in implementing their Action Plan and Work Plan. Additionally, CD evaluated all proposals with respect to the criteria defined in D.11-06-038, Attachment G, Scoring Criteria. The criteria includes: (1) Work Plan, (2) Action Plan, (3) Budget, (4) Regional Consortium's/Members Experience, and (5) Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements. CD's evaluation of these three projects is summarized below.

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<sup>11</sup> FirstNet is an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed, wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. Cal OSE is responsible for the planning and deployment of the FirstNet network in California. Through a grant from NTIA, Cal OSE published the FirstNet in California PROCESS ROADMAP (<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/PublicSafetyCommunicationsSite/Documents/002-ProcessRoadmap-FirstNetinCalifornia-FINAL-2-9-15.pdf#search=firstnet>).

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=908>

*Past Performance*

**IMBC**

While Inyo and Mono Counties were part of ESC, ESC facilitated the filing of several CASF infrastructure grant applications,<sup>13</sup> defined unserved and underserved priority communities, collected broadband demand data, provided equipment and internet training in anchor institutions, introduced internet tools and training to businesses, seniors, and the general public, assisted a local agency in establishing public wifi in the town of Bishop, promoted broadband adoption, and met with public agency and commercial broadband stakeholders.

**RCCBC**

RCCBC's accomplishments of the past four years include: securing funding plans for middle mile and last mile deployment along Highway 36 and Highway 199, and the Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative; providing support to CASF grantees with permitting, right of way, and environmental issues; holding quarterly meetings attended by representatives of the regions as well as outside the regions to share policy and deployment activities; hosting annual broadband forums;<sup>14</sup> and assisting in the preparation and submission of a CASF grant application, the Digital 299 Broadband project,<sup>15</sup> for middle mile and last mile fiber backhaul along Highway 299 and 101.

**SJVRBC**

SJVRBC's accomplishments in the past four years included supporting the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Project (CVNGBIP);<sup>16</sup> establishing a bilingual call center at Fresno State to guide internet subscribers through the service activation process; identifying the Shafter Municipal Fiber Network as a model to other communities considering a public broadband infrastructure project; developing final strategies connecting health clinics with medical centers in the regions; and creating the

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<sup>13</sup> ESC has assisted Race Communications and Inyo Networks with their completion of CASF Infrastructure Grant applications.

<sup>14</sup> A total of three Annual Forums were held attended by representatives from Tribes, Government, Libraries, Health Care, Education, and Telecom Providers to discuss broadband issues, and state and federal policy around telecommunications.

<sup>15</sup> Digital 299 Broadband, as proposed, is a \$72.8 million project that will deliver ultra-fast broadband to rural Northern California between Redding and the California coast. An application is pending before the Commission for a \$51 million grant from the CASF Infrastructure Grant account.

<sup>16</sup> CVNGBIP is a \$66.6 million project to improve the availability of comprehensive broadband networking infrastructure throughout 18 counties within the California Central Valley area, including the 8 counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

Fresno State Parent University, which provides classes in Digital Literacy, Parenting Skills, and English Language Comprehension.

During the previous grant cycle, the Fiscal Agents for ESC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC<sup>17</sup> filed appropriate documentation with reimbursement requests, and fulfilled other consortium-related responsibilities.

#### *Work Plan*

**IMBC's** Work Plan contains discrete, clear tasks and deliverables, with acceptable timelines for completion (see Appendix A). The Work Plan is directly related to the Action Plan and its goals. For example, IMBC plans to launch a "Regional Branding Initiative" with the goals of expanding broadband adoption, more cost effective use of internet resources, and enhancing economic development by attracting visitors and new residents with the technological advantages that broadband capacity provides.

**RCCBC's** Work Plan contains discrete, clear tasks and deliverables, with acceptable timelines for completion (see Appendix B). Activities itemized in the Work Plan are consistent with the Action Plan. For example, for the Digital 299 Broadband project, RCCBC will provide assistance to the applicant during the application, funding as well as permitting phases of the project.

**SJVRBC's** Work Plan contains discrete, clear tasks and deliverables, with acceptable timelines for completion (see Appendix C). Activities itemized in the Work Plan are consistent with the Action Plan. For example, to ensure that the San Joaquin Valley is included in the State's FirstNet strategy, SJVRBC will provide input to Cal OES to define public safety from the San Joaquin Valley's perspective, collaborate with Cal OES to conduct a FirstNet presentation at the regional forum, and collaborate with Cal OES to develop a state strategy to bundle broadband resources that benefit both public safety and unserved/underserved community needs.

#### *Action Plan*

**IMBC** provided a clear Action Plan consistent with program requirements defined in D.11-06-038. IMBC proposes to produce adoption and infrastructure- related studies and initiatives, and to establish advisory groups to enhance public decision making, as well as a website to keep the public informed of broadband progress. These are consistent with the "core responsibilities" outlined in D.11-06-038.

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<sup>17</sup> SJVRBC had a period of less than stellar documentation. Only after discussion with staff, SJVRBC filed appropriate documentation with their reimbursement request.

**RCCBC** provided a clear Action Plan consistent with program requirements defined in D.11-06-038. In its Action Plan, RCCBC proposes to promote adoption by involving communities in public meetings, to promote broadband availability by assisting in the deployment of broadband infrastructure, and to ensure broadband sustainability by monitoring AT&T's upgrade progress are consistent with the "core responsibilities" outlined in D.11-06-038.

**SJVRBC** provided a clear Action Plan consistent with program requirements defined in D.11-06-038. SJVRBC proposes to increase the rate of broadband adoption by continuing to implement Fresno State Parent University digital literacy trainings, goal to promote broadband deployment by facilitating partnerships between Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and anchor institutions in the provision of broadband public infrastructure, and to accelerate deployment of additional broadband infrastructure within the healthcare industry by facilitating/encouraging partnerships between ISPs and hospitals/clinics are consistent with the "core responsibilities" outlined in D.11-06-038.

#### *Budget*

**IMBC** had initially proposed a \$147,304 budget overall including a project that would re-distribute CASF funds to community organizations chosen at a later date by the Consortium to assist with access and adoption barriers ("sub-grants"). This request is a deviation from the requirement established in D.11-06-038, Section 6.4.2, which states that the "Work Plan should include more detailed functions and activities related to implementing the Action Plan." As such, CD could not approve this request given that specific projects could be identified (since it requires a future selection process). IMBC later adjusted its budget without the "sub-grants," and CD staff determined that the revised \$105,216, two-year budget is reasonable for the tasks proposed.

**RCCBC's** budget request of \$208,000 covers a two-year period. CD staff determined that the budget is reasonable for the tasks proposed and should be adopted.

**SJVRBC's** budget request of \$180,000 covers a three-year period. CD staff determined that the budget is reasonable for the tasks proposed and should be adopted.

#### *Regional Consortium's/Members' Experience*

**IMBC** and its members have experience with community groups and have demonstrated success in helping to achieve broadband deployment in the region, particularly as part of ESC. They have also had success in building regional, collaborative broadband related efforts. Members have direct experience with

managing broadband services at worksites. Members have worked with a culturally and linguistically diverse community.

**RCCBC** operates as a network for member organizations. All member organizations are public entities<sup>18</sup> that have a diverse group of stakeholders with a long history of working on broadband issues. They have direct experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities and continue to be active in broadband issues in the region.

**SJVRBC**'s members have direct experience with broadband deployment and adoption efforts. They held scheduled and noticed meetings regularly to discuss infrastructure project proposals, and provided guidance and direction to the 4 Work Groups (Infrastructure Work Group, Digital Literacy/Education Work Group, Telehealth Work Group, and Agtech Work Group) to further regional deployment, accessibility and adoption of broadband services.

#### *Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements*

**IMBC** representation includes local city and counties who have formed a Joint Powers Agreement Agency to work on issues of regional importance. Two elected officials from each of Inyo and Mono Counties, the City of Bishop, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes serve as Consortium members. CD received four endorsements from local governments, and five endorsements from a school district superintendent, a hospital, a fire district, and business representatives.

**RCCBC** representation includes city and county agencies, and regional rural and economic development interests. CD received eight endorsements from local governments, tribal entities, an economic development organization, and an academic institution.

**SJVRBC** representation includes government entities, service providers and industry associations, economic development corporations and business development centers, local educational agencies and institutions of higher education, health delivery organizations, community-based and nonprofit organizations, and accessibility advocates. Seven endorsements from local government entities, schools, a community-based organization, and a telecommunication provider were also received.

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<sup>18</sup> Member organizations of RCCBC include the Board of Supervisors of Del Norte Humboldt and Trinity counties, Access Humboldt, the California Center for Rural Policy, and Redwood Region Economic Development Commission.



## V. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

CD staff has determined that IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC applications qualify for funding. They all scored at least 70 of 100 points with clear and detailed proposals. CD staff's evaluation of these proposals finds that they meet the requirements of D. 11-06-038, and support broadband deployment, access, and adoption. CD staff recommends approval of these proposals.

## VI. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC are required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of CASF funds as specified in D.11-06-038. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to the following:

### A. Execution and Performance

CD staff will coordinate start dates with each consortium grantee. The estimated start date is November 1, 2016. By receiving a CASF grant from the Commission, IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC agree to comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the grant and thus submit to the jurisdiction of the Commission with regard to disbursement and administration of the grant.

Should IMBC, RCCBC, or SJVRBC fail to complete the project in accordance with the terms of the CPUC approval as set forth in this resolution, IMBC, RCCBC, or SJVRBC must reimburse some or all of the CASF funds it has received. If IMBC, RCCBC, or SJVRBC fails to perform in good faith, or in accordance with the expectations set forth in its Action Plan, Work Plan and Consent Form, as affirmed in the affidavit, the Commission may withhold subsequent grant disbursement or suspend or terminate the Consortium grant, as warranted.

Any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying the Commission approval of the Consortium grant must be communicated in writing to the Communications Director at least 30 days before the anticipated change, and may be subject to approval by either the Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective.

### B. Summit Requirement

D.11-06-038 directed CD staff to schedule and host on at least an annual basis a Regional Consortia Learning Community Summit, and required all consortia receiving

California Advanced Services Fund grants to attend the Summit. D.11-06-038 allocated up to \$10,000 per consortium for summit attendance. In Resolution T-17529, the Commission modified this requirement so that at least one summit during the grant implementation period will be organized.<sup>19</sup>

C. Fiscal Agent

D.11-036-038 requires:

Each regional Consortium must retain at least one Fiscal Agent with lead responsibility and legal authority to represent the Consortium for purposes of sponsoring the application, and for administration of Consortium activities, including receipt and disbursement of Consortium grant funds. In any event, the Fiscal Agent must affirmatively agree, on behalf of the Consortium, to comply with the Commission's directives and conditions relating to the review, approval, and administration of any Consortia application grants. This requirement is to provide assurance that Consortium members or contractors retained by the Consortium are capable and committed to delivering on the commitments to be funded.<sup>20</sup>

CD staff reviewed the applications and determined that all three applications meet this requirement. Specifically, for each application, the Fiscal Agent signed an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of his or her knowledge, all statements and representations made in Consortium application are true and correct, and affirmed to fulfill the requirements of the CPUC with respect to grant administration.<sup>21</sup>

Each Fiscal Agent provided CD staff with a name of a qualified representative to carry out the duties and responsibilities described, and the Fiscal Agent will be the primary contact regarding the consortium's fiscal matters.

The Fiscal Agent shall comply with all rules and requirements set forth in D.11-06-038, including but not limited to ensuring implementation of the approved Work Plan within the allocated budget (in conjunction with the consortium program manager), and shall be responsible for notifying CD of any proposed changes to Work Plan or budget during the course of the grant cycle.

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<sup>19</sup> Resolution T-17529 was adopted by the Commission on August 18, 2016.

<sup>20</sup> D.11-06-038, p. 25

<sup>21</sup> The City of Bishop, Fiscal Agent for IMBC, the Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation, Fiscal Agent for RCCBC, and the California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fiscal Agent for the SJVRBC, have affirmed to fulfill the requirements of the CPUC with respect to grant administration.

D.11.036-038 further requires each Consortia grantee to:

...maintain books, records, documents and other evidence sufficient to substantiate expenditures covered by the grant, according to generally accepted accounting practices. Each Consortia grantee shall make these records available to the Commission upon request and agrees that these records are subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within three years after the Grantee incurred the expense being audited. A Consortia grantee shall provide access to the Commission upon 24 hours' notice to evaluate work completed or being performed pursuant to the grant.<sup>22</sup>

D. Distinguishing CASF from other Financial Resources

D.11-06-038 requires that the consortium take steps to ensure that that CASF grant budget does not duplicate funding from other non-Consortia Account funding.<sup>23</sup> All grantees must ensure that *only* CASF-approved activities will be billed to the Consortia Account, and activities obligated to other funding resources will not be billed to the CASF Consortia Account.

Prior to initiation of Work Plan activities, the Fiscal Agents for IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC must communicate to CD staff how they will ensure that billing to discrete funding sources does not overlap.

E. Payments

D.11-06-038 requires that submission of invoices from and payments to the grantees shall be made at quarterly intervals. Specifically, D.11-06-038 states:

In order to receive a progress payment, the Consortium must first submit the Quarterly Progress Report to the Communications Division, together with all requests for payment and reimbursement supported by relevant invoices receipts, etc. ... Further, the Quarterly Progress Report shall indicate the actual date of completion of each task/milestone as well as problems/issues encountered and the actions taken to resolve these problems/issues. The Quarterly Progress Report will be submitted and certified under penalty of perjury.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> D.11-06-038, p. 29.

<sup>23</sup> Any proposed consortium budget must expressly exclude any costs for activities or programs within the consortia region that are separately funded from any other sources in order to ensure that California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grants do not duplicate funding from any other sources. (D.11-06-038, Ordering Paragraph 11, p. 40.)

<sup>24</sup> D.11-06-038, p. 30.

Furthermore, documentation should substantiate the consortium's progress in following its proposed Action Plan, Work Plan, with the approved budget. Billing should only be for activities related to broadband deployment, access, and adoption.

F. Project Audit

The Commission's Communications Division has delegated authority to initiate any necessary audit, verification, and discovery of consortium members relating to grant funding activities to ensure that CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission adopted rules and standards.<sup>25</sup>

IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC's invoices and other relevant records will be subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within three years of completion of the grant funding.

G. Lobbying and Advocacy Efforts

Consortia members are free to advocate on any legislation of their choosing. However, no work on proposed state legislation including meetings, travel, or lobbying may be billed to or reimbursed by the CASF Consortia Grant program

H. Reporting

All grantees must submit quarterly progress reports on the status of the project irrespective of whether grantees request reimbursement or payment.<sup>26</sup> Quarterly progress reports must begin the first quarter after the Commission approval of the grant proposal. Quarterly reports are due February 1, 2017, May 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, and so on for the remainder of the grant period, irrespective of payment requests.

**VII. SAFETY IMPACT**

By furthering broadband deployment, access and adoption, these projects are expected to enhance public safety in the Eastern Sierra, the Redwood Coast, and the San Joaquin Valley in the event of fire, flooding, or earthquakes.

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<sup>25</sup> D.11-06-038, p. 29; see also P.U. Code § 270.

<sup>26</sup> Id at p. 30.

## VIII. COMMENTS

In compliance with P.U. Code Section 311(g)(1), a Notice of Availability was e-mailed on September 23, 2016 informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>. This letter also served to inform parties that the final conformed Resolution the Commission adopts will be posted and available at this same website.

Access Humboldt, a member organization of RCCBC submitted a letter to CD on October 17, 2016 in support of this Resolution.<sup>27</sup> CD did not receive any comments on this resolution.

## VIII. FINDINGS

1. On September 2, 2015, the Governor signed legislation (AB1262) that reallocated \$5 million from the CASF Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account to the CASF Consortia Grant Account.
2. Fifteen prospective grantees filed applications on January 29, 2016. CD posted each applicant's name, contact information, and coverage area by county on the CPUC Consortia Account webpage on February 18. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC appear on this list.

CD reviewed each of these three applications according to the guidelines, requirements, and evaluation criteria adopted in D.11-06-038, which include regional consortium representation and endorsements, regional consortium's/members' experience, action plans, work plans, and budgets. CD also evaluated the applications based on the merits of each proposal, past performance including achievements, fiscal responsibility and cost effectiveness. The remaining nine applications will be considered for subsequent resolutions.

3. Based on its review, CD determined that all three projects meet eligibility requirements. CD further determined that the proposed projects qualify for funding under D.11-06-038.
4. CD recommends CASF consortia grant approval of total funding of \$493,216 for the three consortia.

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<sup>27</sup> Access Humboldt's letter of support was not served to parties set forth on the service list.

5. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC are required to comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the granting of CASF funds as specified in D.11-06-038 and this Resolution.
6. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC are required to expressly exclude any costs for activities or programs from the proposed consortium budget that are separately funded from any other sources in order to ensure that CASF grants do not duplicate funding from any other sources.
7. The Commission finds CD's recommendation that all three projects meet eligibility requirements and the proposed projects qualify for funding under D.11-06-038, to be reasonable and consistent with Commission orders and, therefore, adopts such recommendation.
8. D.11-06-038 directs CD to schedule and host a Regional Consortia Learning Community Summit, and authorizes \$2,000 per person for up to five delegates annually for each approved consortium. Resolution T-17529, adopted on August 18, 2016 reduced the frequency of the summit to at least one during the implementation of the reallocated \$5 million during this grant cycle.
9. A notice was emailed on September 23, 2016, informing the parties of record in Decision 11-06-038 of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's website <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/documents/>. This letter also informed parties that the final conformed Resolution adopted by the Commission will be posted and available at this same website.
10. Access Humboldt, a member organization of RCCBC submitted a letter to CD on October 17, 2016 in support of this Resolution. CD did not receive any comments on this resolution.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Commission shall award \$105,216 to the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC); \$208,000 to Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Consortium (RCCBC); and \$180,000 to San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (SJVRBC). All awards are based on the descriptions of the projects as described herein. Work plans are in the attached appendix.

2. Payments to the CASF recipients shall be in accordance with guidelines adopted in D.11-06-038 and in accordance with the process defined in the "Payments" section of this Resolution.
3. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC each must retain at least one Fiscal Agent with lead responsibility and legal authority to represent the Consortium for purposes of sponsoring the application and administration of Consortium activities, including receipt and disbursement of Consortium grant funds.
4. The Fiscal Agent must affirmatively agree, on behalf of the Consortium, to comply with the Commission's directives and conditions relating to the review, approval, and administration of any Consortia application grants.
5. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC shall comply with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with the CASF funds award as specified in D.11-06-038 and this Resolution.
6. Prior to commencement of the grantee's program, the Fiscal Agent must provide CD with the method chosen to distinguish funding sources and billing practices, to ensure that CASF payments are not duplicated by other sources.
7. The disbursement of funds shall be subject to the requirements set forth in D.11-06-038 including the submission of quarterly progress reports and supporting documentation for payment reimbursement, yearly status reports for informing the legislature, and a completion report to be submitted with the final payment request. By receiving a CASF grant from the Commission, IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC agree to comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the grant and thus submit to the jurisdiction of the Commission with regard to disbursement and administration of the grant.
8. IMBC, RCCBC, and SJVRBC must use the grant funds solely for the approved project as described in the Consortia Commission-approved Action Plan and Work Plan, (or approved revisions to such Plans and budgets).
9. Any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the grant (e.g., changes to Action Plan, Work Plan, budget or designated Fiscal Agent, etc.) must be communicated in writing to the Communications Division Director at least 30 days before the anticipated change, and may be subject to approval by either the Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective.

10. The Commission may withhold or terminate grant payments to IMBC, RCCBC, or SJVRBC if the consortium does not comply with any of the requirements set forth in Decision 11-06-038 and this Resolution.
11. In the event that IMBC, RCCBC, or SJVRBC fails to complete the project in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission and this Resolution, the consortium, represented by the Fiscal Agent, will be required to reimburse some or all of the CASF funds that it has received.
12. The commencement of the grant cycle will be November 1, 2016.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on October 27, 2016. The following Commissioners approved it:

/s/ Timothy J. Sullivan

TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN  
Executive Director

MICHAEL PICKER  
President  
MICHEL PETER FLORIO  
CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL  
LIANE M. RANDOLPH  
Commissioners

Commissioner Carla J. Peterman, being necessarily absent, did not participate.



Resolution T- 17537  
CD/AG6

## **APPENDIX**

**APPENDIX A**  
**Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Work Plan**  
**Year 1**

Activity	Description	Oversight	Estimated Start	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable	Budget
1A	IMBC Advisory Council	Inyo County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Informed decision making with clear direction for ongoing consortia activity	\$1,500
1B	IMBC Provider Council	Inyo County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Strategies to inform adoption campaigns; informed sub-grant awards; cogent local government investments.	\$1,500
1C	Demand Aggregation Studies	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q2			X	X	Strategies and partners for future infrastructure deployment.	\$4,500
1D	Service Level Interactive Map	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Strategies to inform infrastructure deployment and demand aggregation.	\$3,092
2A	Policy Review & Update	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q4	X	X	X	X	Standardized policy adoption.	\$0
2B	Regional Branding Initiative	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q4	X	X	X	X	Regional brand associated with appropriate broadband adoption and deployment.	\$15,000
2C	Communications Strategic Plan	Mono County	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q4			X	X	Regional Communications Strategic Plan	\$10,000
2D	Economic Development Strategy	Mono County	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q4			X	X	Regional Broadband Economic Development Strategic Plan	\$10,000
3A	Online Presence Case Studies	Mono County	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q4				X	Updated metrics on business benefit relative to having an online presence.	\$5,000
3B	Public WiFi Case Study	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q4					White paper or formal case study on benefits and shortcomings of Public WiFi.	\$12,500
4A	IMBC Website	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	X	X	X	X	IMBC website; Consortium exposure; regional awareness.	\$8,300
4B	Broadband Access Tool	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	X	X	X	X	Broadband Access Tool distributed in web, app, and print formats.	\$7,840
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>\$79,232</b>	

## Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Work Plan Year 2

Activity	Description	Oversight	Estimated Start	Target Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable	Budget
1A	IMBC Advisory Council	Inyo County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Informed decision making with clear direction for ongoing consortia activity	\$500
1B	IMBC Provider Council	Inyo County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Strategies to inform adoption campaigns; informed sub-grant awards; cogent local government investments.	\$500
1C	Demand Aggregation Studies	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q2	X	X			Strategies and partners for future infrastructure deployment.	Carryover
1D	Service Level Interactive Map	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Strategies to inform infrastructure deployment and demand aggregation.	\$2,832
2A	Policy Review & Update	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q4					Standardized policy adoption.	\$0
2B	Regional Branding Initiative	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q4	X				Regional brand associated with appropriate broadband adoption and deployment.	\$5,000
2C	Communications Strategic Plan	Mono County	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	Regional Communications Strategic Plan	Carryover
2D	Economic Development Strategy	Mono County	Y1 Q3	Y2 Q4			X	X	Regional Broadband Economic Development Strategic Plan	Carryover
3A	Online Presence Case Studies	Mono County	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q4				X	Updated metrics on business benefit relative to having an online presence.	Carryover
3B	Public WiFi Case Study	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q4	X	X	X	X	White paper or formal case study on benefits and shortcomings of Public WiFi.	\$12,500
4A	IMBC Website	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	X	X	X	X	IMBC website; Consortium exposure; regional awareness.	\$2,388
4B	Broadband Access Tool	Mono County	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	X	X	X	X	Broadband Access Tool distributed in web, app, and print formats.	\$2,264
									<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,984</b>

**APPENDIX B**  
**Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Consortium**  
**Work Plan**

		Redwood Coast Connect							
		Work Plan Year 1							
Activities/Tasks	Who Manages	Start Date	Completion Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable	
Digital 299 application phase (note if application is not approved 299 work will be done with Frontier under CAF 2 Program)	Connie Stewart	12/1/2016	4/1/2017	x	x			Issues with CASF 299 application are addressed	
Digital 299 matching funds (note if application is not approved 299 work will be done with Frontier under CAF 2 Program)	Connie Stewart/Judy Morris	12/1/2016	9/30/2017	x	x	x		Pledges are solidified and funding is received by the provider	
Digital 299 permitting phase-assistance is provided to assure local permittees are keeping to proposed permitting schedule. (note if application is not approved 299 work will be done with Frontier under CAF 2 Program)	Connie Stewart	9/1/2017	9/30/2018				x	Permits are obtained by provider	
Work with Statewide Partners such as RCRC ( Rural County Representatives of California); California Broadband Task Force; the Select Committee on the Digital Divide in Rural California	Connie Stewart	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Deployment and Adoption challenges are reduced	
Assist Frontier Communications with CAF 2 Deployment and Adoption	Connie Stewart	Ongoing (2020 is the deadline for the CAF 2 program)		x	x	x	x	98% deployment and 80% adoption occurs in the region by 2020; Digital equity	
Assist as needed KRRBI permitting phase	Connie Stewart	12/1/2016	9/30/2017	x	x	x		Permits are obtained by provider	
Monitor AT&T's progress upgrading (attending AT&T meetings on upgrade plans; reporting continued outages and documenting impact of outages)	Connie Stewart	12/1/2016	4/1/2017		x	x		upgrade occurs	
Implementation of local Dig Once policy/Conduit Inventory	Connie Stewart	6/1/2017	12/30/2017			x	x	Local Ordinance(s) passed	
Host RCC Annual Broadband Forum	Gregg Foster	7/1/2017	9/30/2017			x		Forum is held attended by 100+ people	
Track Mergers and Federal Policy	Sean McLaughlin	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	RCC input on federal issues is provided	
Participate in Consortia activities	Connie Stewart	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Active participation	
Fiscal oversight	Steve Karp	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Fiscal integrity-- Billing, audit, administration	

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Redwood Coast Connect								
Work Plan Year 2								
Activities/Tasks	Who Manages	Start Date	Completion Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable
Digital 299 permitting phase (note if application is not approved 299 work will be done with Frontier under CAF 2 Program)	Connie Stewart	9/1/2017	9/30/2018	x	x	x		Permits are obtained by provider
Digital 299 building phase (note if application is not approved 299 work will be done with Frontier under CAF 2 Program)	Connie Stewart	1/1/2018	9/30/2018			x	x	RCC provides assistance as needed; build occurs
Assist as needed KRRBI building phase	Connie Stewart	4/1/2018	12/30/2018		x	x	x	RCC provides assistance as needed; build occurs
Work with Statewide Partners such as RCRC ( Rural County Representatives of California); California Broadband Task Force; the Select Committee on the Digital Divide in Rural California	Connie Stewart	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Deployment and Adoption challenges are reduced
Host RCC Annual Broadband Forum	Gregg Foster	7/1/2018	9/30/2018		x			Forum is held
Assist Frontier Communications with CAF 2 Deployment and Adoption	Connie Stewart	Ongoing (2020 is the deadline for the CAF 2 program)		x	x	x	x	98% deployment and 80% adoption occurs in the region by 2020; Digital equity
Participate in Consortia activities	Connie Stewart	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Active participation
Track Mergers and Federal Policy	Sean McLaughlin	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	RCC input on federal issues is provided
Hwy 101 application phase	Connie Stewart	3/1/2017	11/30/2018		x	x	x	Deployment provider is found and application is prepared
Fiscal oversight	Steve Karp	Ongoing		x	x	x	x	Fiscal integrity

## APPENDIX C San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium Work Plan

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium								
Work Plan Year 1								
Activities/Tasks	Who Manages	Start Date	Completion Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable
1. Parent University Outreach	JG	02/01/17	10/31/17		x (2)	x (6)	x (2)	10 new school sites providing digital literacy workshops for parents and a minimum of 180 workshop sessions
2. Fresno State Refresh Outrea	DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x (3)	x (2)	x	5 new commitments from public or private partnerships for donation of refurbished computers with a minimum of 50 refurbished computers distributed to low income families
3. Community Outreach	JG/DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Distribute a minimum of 5,000 fliers promoting access to low cost internet opportunities and partner with local media outlets minimum of 12 live sessions
	DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Facilitate a minimum of 300 new internet subscriptions
4. Facilitate Partnership between ISP's and Anchor Institutions to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved rural communities	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Assist 1 rural community to provide last mile broadband internet access
5. AgTech	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Obtain funding for at least 1 AgTech pilot site
5. AgTech	JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Facilitate quarterly trainings for farmers/producers to utilize broadband for drones, machines, apps, real time water sensors and "Inputs" (fertilizer and pest control) management, energy demand and soil conditions.
	JG	11/01/16	10/31/17		x			Promote and Participate in the West Hills College Ag Hackathon
	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Participate in Statewide AgTech Roundtable discussions
6. Telemedicine/Telehealth	SG/DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Generate an inventory of hospitals/clinics that are positioned to adopt telemedicine/telehealth
	SG/DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Identify funding opportunities to support infrastructure partnerships between ISP's and healthcare providers
	SG/DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Facilitate match-making between ISP's and hospitals/clinics focusing on rural communities
	SG/DV	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Incorporate patient portal utilization trainings into the Parent University digital literacy trainings in partnership with healthcare providers
7. Regional Consortia Network	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Conduct quarterly meetings to share best practices and/or vet challenges
8. FirstNet	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Provide input to OES to define public safety from a rural and San Joaquin Valley perspective
	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17				x	Collaborate with OES to conduct a FirstNet presentation at a future regional forum to inform public stakeholders
	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Collaborate with OES to develop a state FirstNet strategy to bundle broadband resources that benefit both public safety and unserved and underserved community needs
	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Advocate to ensure that FirstNet includes interior and rural areas of the state
	SG/JG	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Leverage FirstNet broadband resources to enhance broadband infrastructure and adoption in the San Joaquin Valley
9. Administration	SG/WS	11/01/16	10/31/17	x	x	x	x	Prepare progress and financial reports, maintain website and marketing materials

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San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium								
Work Plan Year 2								
Activities/Tasks	Who Manages	Start Date	Completion Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable
1. Parent University Outreach	JG	02/01/18	10/31/18		x (2)	x (6)	x (2)	10 new school sites providing digital literacy workshops for parents and a minimum of 180 workshop sessions
2. Fresno State Refresh Outrea	DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x (3)	x (2)	x	5 new commitments from public or private partnerships for donation of refurbished computers with a minimum of 50 refurbished computers distributed to low income families
3. Community Outreach	JG/DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Distribute a minimum of 5,000 fliers promoting access to low cost internet opportunities and partner with local media outlets minimum of 12 live sessions
	DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Facilitate a minimum of 300 new internet subscriptions
4. Facilitate Partnership between ISP's and Anchor Institutions to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved rural communities	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Assist 1 rural community to provide last mile broadband internet access
5. AgTech	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Obtain funding for at least 1 AgTech pilot site
5. AgTech	JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Facilitate quarterly trainings for farmers/producers to utilize broadband for drones, machines, apps, real time water sensors and "inputs" (fertilizer and pest control) management, energy demand and soil conditions.
	JG	11/01/17	10/31/18		x			Promote and Participate in the West Hills College Ag Hackathon
	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Participate in Statewide AgTech Roundtable discussions
6. Telemedicine/Telehealth	SG/DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Generate an inventory of hospitals/clinics that are positioned to adopt telemedicine/telehealth
	SG/DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Identify funding opportunities to support infrastructure partnerships between ISP's and healthcare providers
	SG/DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Facilitate match-making between ISP's and hospitals/clinics focusing on rural communities
	SG/DV	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Incorporate patient portal utilization trainings into the Parent University digital literacy trainings in partnership with healthcare providers
7. Regional Consortia Network	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Conduct quarterly meetings to share best practices and/or vet challenges
8. FirstNet	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Provide input to OES to define public safety from a rural and San Joaquin Valley perspective
	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18				x	Collaborate with OES to conduct a FirstNet presentation at a future regional forum to inform public stakeholders
	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Collaborate with OES to develop a state FirstNet strategy to bundle broadband resources that benefit both public safety and unserved and underserved community needs
	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Advocate to ensure that FirstNet includes interior and rural areas of the state
	SG/JG	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Leverage FirstNet broadband resources to enhance broadband infrastructure and adoption in the San Joaquin Valley
9. Administration	SG/WS	11/01/17	10/31/18	x	x	x	x	Prepare progress and financial reports, maintain website and marketing materials



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San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium								
Work Plan Year 3								
Activities/Tasks	Who Manages	Start Date	Completion Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcome or Deliverable
1. Parent University Outreach	JG	02/01/19	10/31/19		x (2)	x (6)	x (2)	10 new school sites providing digital literacy workshops for parents and a minimum of 180 workshop sessions
2. Fresno State Refresh Outreach	DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x (3)	x (2)	x	5 new commitments from public or private partnerships for donation of refurbished computers with a minimum of 50 refurbished computers distributed to low income families
3. Community Outreach	JG/DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Distribute a minimum of 5,000 fliers promoting access to low cost internet opportunities and partner with local media outlets minimum of 12 live sessions
	DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Facilitate a minimum of 300 new internet subscriptions
4. Facilitate Partnership between ISP's and Anchor Institutions to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved rural communities	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Assist 1 rural community to provide last mile broadband internet access
5. AgTech	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Obtain funding for at least 1 AgTech pilot site
5. AgTech	JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Facilitate quarterly trainings for farmers/producers to utilize broadband for drones, machines, apps, real time water sensors and "inputs" (fertilizer and pest control) management, energy demand and soil conditions.
	JG	11/01/18	10/31/19		x			Promote and Participate in the West Hills College Ag Hackathon
	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Participate in Statewide AgTech Roundtable discussions
6. Telemedicine/Telehealth	SG/DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Generate an inventory of hospitals/clinics that are positioned to adopt telemedicine/telehealth
	SG/DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Identify funding opportunities to support infrastructure partnerships between ISP's and healthcare providers
	SG/DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Facilitate match-making between ISP's and hospitals/clinics focusing on rural communities
	SG/DV	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Incorporate patient portal utilization trainings into the Parent University digital literacy trainings in partnership with healthcare providers
7. Regional Consortia Network	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Conduct quarterly meetings to share best practices and/or vet challenges
8. FirstNet	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Provide input to OES to define public safety from a rural and San Joaquin Valley perspective
	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19				x	Collaborate with OES to conduct a FirstNet presentation at a future regional forum to inform public stakeholders
	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Collaborate with OES to develop a state FirstNet strategy to bundle broadband resources that benefit both public safety and unserved and underserved community needs
	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Advocate to ensure that FirstNet includes interior and rural areas of the state
	SG/JG	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Leverage FirstNet broadband resources to enhance broadband infrastructure and adoption in the San Joaquin Valley
9. Administration	SG/WS	11/01/18	10/31/19	x	x	x	x	Prepare progress and financial reports, maintain website and marketing materials