

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4009  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0071  
(916) 319-2071  
FAX (916) 319-2171  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
10152 MISSION GORGE ROAD  
SANTEE, CA 92071  
(619) 441-2322  
FAX (619) 441-2327

**E-MAIL**

Assemblymember.Voepeel@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly  
California Legislature



**RANDY VOEPEL**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
VICE CHAIR: AGING AND LONG-  
TERM CARE  
INSURANCE  
BUDGET  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

**SUBCOMMITTEES**  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON  
EDUCATION FINANCE

May 25, 2017

Communications Division  
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)  
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
505 Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Support for Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc. "ConnectAnza Phase 2"  
CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application - Garner Valley, Mountain Center and Pinyon  
Pines- Inland Empire Region CPUC Priority Communities

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc. and their proposed fiber optic based broadband project, ConnectAnza. This project would serve an area of my district that is often overlooked because of its extreme rural qualities.

This project will provide more than 1,000 Garner Valley and Pinyon area residents with access to high speed internet service. Historically, this entire area has been neglected by other broadband providers primarily due to its rural qualities; a low population density makes the concept of investing in and operating a true high speed network unprofitable for these carriers.

However, Anza Electric's not-for-profit business model is exactly the right fit for this vital and modern amenity. Their 66 year record of serving the area with affordable and reliable electric energy service gives them the necessary experience and infrastructure to successfully install and operate a high speed fiber optic network. They already own and maintain over 10,000 poles and other structures necessary for the installation of the cable, and the easements necessary to route the system through have been in place since the Cooperative's inception. Additionally, as a 501(c)(12) cooperative, excess operating margins are returned to their members in the form of patronage capital. This will ensure the lowest possible cost for subscription service.

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The success of the first phase of the ConnectAnza project has proven that Anza Electric is capable of delivering on their promises. They are nearing completion of over 300 miles of aerial fiber optic lines, capable of delivering gigabit speed internet to the entire area's 10,000 residents. More than 500 services are already active, with 1,500 more signed up; these numbers are testament to the success of the first phase of the program.

Anza and Aguanga businesses already benefit from the reliable ConnectAnza service. Local residents finally have the option of telecommuting. Those travelling through the area have access to Wi-Fi capabilities at the restaurants, shops and other local businesses. The Public Park and Community Hall offer free online access to residents. Virtual medical services are available for the first time. The offered VOIP telecommunications capability enables area residents to have a reliable, low cost option for telephone service. Emergency response services are now able to respond faster and with more accurate geo-positioning services. Garner Valley and Pinyon residents deserve these same benefits.

The economic development improvements for this underserved area are vital to its long term viability. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Voepel".

Randy Voepel  
Assemblyman, 71<sup>st</sup> District