



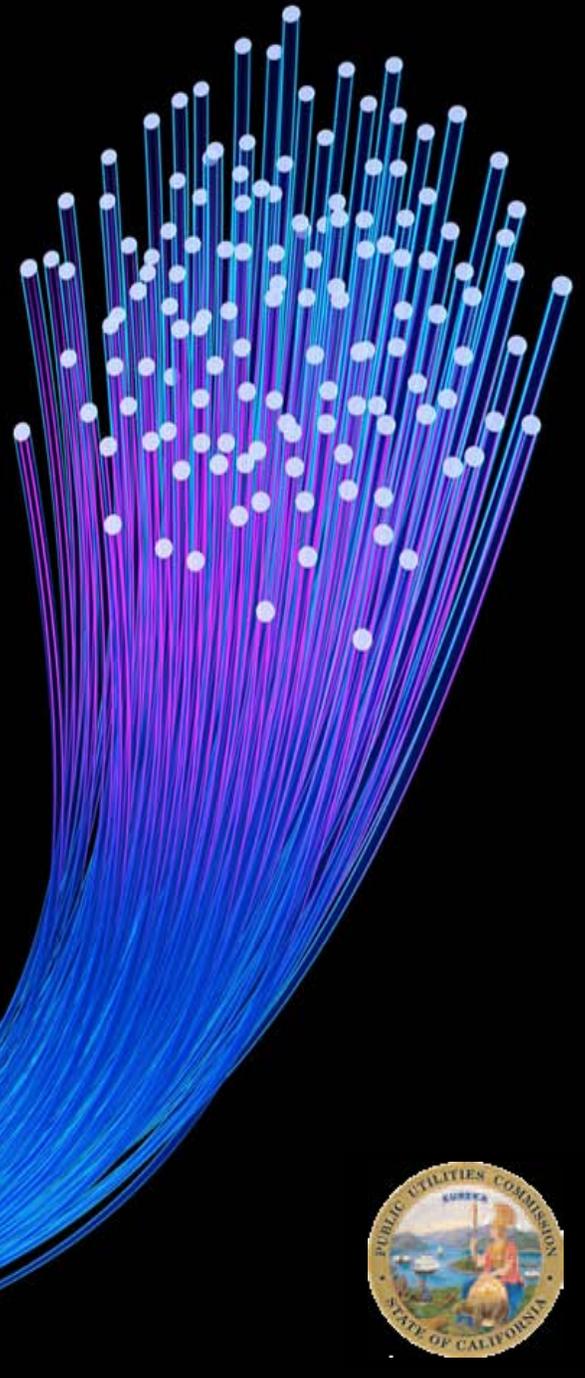
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

# California Advanced Services Fund

## Annual Report

January 2011 – December 2011

March 15, 2012



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## I. Executive Summary

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 281(g)(1), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) submits this annual report to summarize accomplishments in 2011 in the Commission's California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program.<sup>1</sup> Key developments include:

- Enhancements to the original Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account (Infrastructure Grant Account)
- Development of two new CASF accounts, the Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account (Revolving Loan Account) and the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account (Consortia Grant Account); and
- Progress toward bridging the digital divide: 1,115 new households served and increased broadband speeds.

As of December 31, 2011, the cumulative total CASF grant award funding is as follows:

- The Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account: \$40.80 million for 33 projects<sup>2</sup> benefiting 254,796 households.
  - Unserved areas: \$2.31 million for 15 projects benefiting 16,530 households
  - Underserved areas: \$38.49 million for 18 projects benefiting 238,266 households

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission's Communications Division (CD) staff prepared this report.

<sup>2</sup> [The Interim Performance Audit Report \(Volume I\)](#) that the CPUC submitted to the Legislature on April 2011 reported a total of 41 projects funded under CASF. The Commission approved 3 additional projects and rescinded a total of 11 projects in 2011 netting 33 CASF projects to date.

- The Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account: \$1.67 million for seven consortia grantees in 2011, with a three-year budget allowance of \$5.01 million.
- The Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account: The loan account will be implemented in 2012. To date, the Commission has not awarded or expended funds from this account.

The following table shows the total funds awarded and expended as of end of calendar year 2011<sup>3</sup> for each of the CASF sub-accounts:

CASF Sub-Accounts	Total Funds Awarded	Total Funds Expended (as of 12/31/2011)
Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account	\$40,798,121	\$ 4,507,257
Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account	\$ 5,008,175 (to 7 consortia over 3 years)	\$0
Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account	\$0	\$0
<b>Total CASF Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$45,806,296</b>	<b>\$ 4,507,257</b>

<sup>3</sup> Henceforth, reference to 2011 means calendar year 2011 (January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011).

## **II. Background of the CASF Program**

The CASF promotes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the state by providing grants to help fund eligible broadband projects. The Commission established the CASF program in Decision (D.) 07-12-054. Senate Bill 1193 (Stats. 2008, c.393) reaffirmed the CASF as a new universal service program geared towards the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of California.

On September 25, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill (SB) 1040 (Stats. 2010, c. 317, codified at P.U. Code § 281) which extended the CASF indefinitely and expanded it to include three accounts: (1) the Infrastructure Grant Account, (2) the Consortia Grant Account, and (3) the Revolving Loan Account. The latter two accounts are intended to address the needs that were unmet under the original CASF program. In particular, the purpose of the Consortia Grant Account is “to fund the cost of broadband deployment activities other than the capital cost of facilities, as specified by the Commission.” P.U. Code § 281(d). The purpose of the Revolving Loan Account is “to finance capital costs of broadband facilities not funded by a grant from the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account.” P.U. Code § 281(e). SB 1040 also expanded the CASF fund from \$100 million to \$225 million. It increased the Infrastructure Grant Account with an additional \$100 million, and allocated funding of \$10 million and \$15 million to the Consortia Grant Account and the Revolving Loan Account, respectively. P.U. Code § 281(b)(1).

## **III. Purpose of the Report**

The California Public Utilities Commission is submitting this report to the Legislature in accordance with Section 281 (g) (1) of the Public Utilities Code. As required by the Legislature, this report contains the following information:

- (A) The amount of funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in the prior year;

- (B) The recipients of funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in the prior year;
- (C) The geographic regions of the state affected by funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in the prior year;
- (D) The expected benefits to be derived from the funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in the prior year;
- (E) Actual broadband adoption levels from the funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in the prior year;
- (F) The amount of funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund used to match federal funds; and
- (G) An update on the expenditures from California Advanced Services Fund and broadband adoption levels, and an accounting of remaining unserved and underserved areas of the state.

#### **IV. CASF Procedural Accomplishments**

In September 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1040, extending the CASF program indefinitely and expanding the program to include the Revolving Loan and Consortia Grant Accounts. Accordingly, in December 2010, the Commission opened an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) R.10-12-008 to implement SB 1040 and to enhance the program based on the Commission's three-year experience in implementing it. The rulemaking was divided into two phases: Phase I - Implementation of the Consortia Grant Account, and Phase II - Implementation of the Revolving Loan Account and improvement of the existing Infrastructure Grant Account.

The following is a summary of the Commission's key CASF procedural accomplishments up to February 2012:

- Awarded 14 consortia grants. After consideration of parties' comments, the Commission concluded Phase I of R.10-12-008 in June 2011 by adopting D.11-06-038, which set eligibility criteria and rules for the CASF Consortia Grant Account. In December 2011, the Commission approved Resolution T-17349 awarding 7 consortia grants. Subsequently, in February 2012, the

Commission issued Resolution T-17355 awarding grants to additional 7 consortia groups. Attachment A details the 14 consortia grantees and Attachment B shows a map detailing the geographic regions of the consortia.

- Adopted improvements to the Infrastructure Grant Account and implementation plans for the Revolving Loan Account. In August 2011, the Commission launched Phase II of R.10-12-008 by issuing a ruling soliciting comments on draft proposals covering proposed revisions to the application requirements and guidelines of the Infrastructure Grant Account and proposed implementation plan for the Revolving Loan Account. After consideration of comments, the Assigned Commissioner issued a proposed decision in December 2011. After the review and consideration of parties' comments on the proposed decision, the Commission adopted D.12-02-015 in February 2012 to implement new guidelines for both the Infrastructure Grant and Revolving Loan Accounts. The CASF program enhancements include: an increase in award grant funding from 40% to 60% of project costs for underserved areas and 70% of project costs for unserved areas, an increase in advertised speeds from 3 mbps download and 1 mbps upload to 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload, and supplemental CASF funding from the Revolving Loan Account for up to 20% of project costs, \$500,000 maximum. Attachment C provides more details of the changes and enhancements to the CASF program per D.12-02-015.
- Re-established surcharge collection to fund the CASF. In September 2011, the Commission issued Resolution T-17343 establishing a 0.14% CASF surcharge effective November 1, 2011. The CASF is funded by a surcharge rate on revenues collected by telecommunications carriers from end-users for intrastate telecommunications services. With the SB 1040-mandated expansion of the CASF program, the Commission began collecting the surcharge.

In addition to the above accomplishments, the Commission submitted an Interim

Performance and Financial Audit Report in April 2011 to satisfy the statutory requirement under P.U. Code § 281 (f) (1). The Performance Audit Report (Volume I of the Report) focused on the utilization of the original \$100 million CASF funds during the first three years of the program, the projects funded by these monies, the number of projects that have been completed, the number of households estimated to benefit from these projects, and the status of funded projects. The report also discussed program implementation challenges to date.

## V. 2011 CASF Program Overview and Results

The following section presents the data required from the CASF in accordance with Section 281 (g) (1) of the Public Utilities Code.

### ***A. Amount and recipients of funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in 2011***

Through the end of 2011, the Commission has collected an estimated total of \$115.82 million from the CASF surcharges on revenues collected by carriers from end-users for intrastate telecommunications services. The following table summarizes the CASF program revenues and expenditures:

<b>CASF Program Expenditures Report - as of December 31, 2011</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>	
Regulatory Fees (Surcharge Revenue)	\$115,817,919
Delinquent Fees	\$ 182,097
Investment Income	\$ 1,595,367
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$117,595,383</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Payments to CASF Recipients	\$ 4,507,257
Admin Costs & Other Fees	\$ 906,222
Pro-rata Costs	\$ 671,143
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,084,622</b>
<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>\$111,510,761</b>

In addition, the Commission has awarded a total of \$45.81 million CASF grants through the end of 2011. The total Infrastructure Grant Account awards amount to \$40.80 million for 33 projects covering 6,658 square miles and potentially benefiting

254,796 households. The following table lists the Commission's approved CASF infrastructure projects, funding levels and key information for each project<sup>4</sup> as of 2011.

Legend:  
Completed Projects

### CASF APPROVED PROJECTS

ITEM #	GRANTEE	PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT SIZE (in sq. miles)	# of HOUSEHOLDS	CASF AWARD
<b>UNSERVED AREAS</b>						
1	AT&T	Grenada	Siskiyou	14	275	\$57,596
2	AT&T	Hopland	Mendocino	14	328	\$61,952
3	AT&T	Blanchard	Mariposa	14	123	\$35,816
4	AT&T	Mount Wilson	Los Angeles	2	15	\$2,420
5	Verizon	Pinyon	Riverside	27	382	\$174,000
6	Frontier	Prattville	Lake Almanor, Phumas	2	171	\$41,192
7	AT&T	Comptche	Mendocino County	12	97	\$18,392
8	AT&T	Alta/Blue Canyon	Nevada/Placer Counties	11	236	\$56,628
9	AT&T	Warner Springs	San Diego County	4	66	\$93,896
10	AT&T	Carmel Valley	Monterey County	4	83	\$47,916
11	Willits Online	Covelo	Mendocino	4	300	\$54,000
12	Willits Online	Laytonville	Mendocino	4	500	\$54,000
13	MCC Telephony	Kernville Teleconnect Project	Kernville, Onyx, Weldon, Wofford	44	9,179	\$285,992
14	Ponderosa Cable Vision	Ponderosa Cablevision Auberry Project (Mount Diablo Base,	Fresno	19	1,043	\$1,154,780
15	Frontier Communications of the Southwest, Inc.	Havasu Palms and Black Meadow Landing resorts; Parker Strip recreational areas; portions of Parker, Parker Dam, Earp and Havasu Lake exchanges of Frontier	San Bernardino County	18	3,732	\$168,171
<b>Total for Unserved Areas</b>				<b>191</b>	<b>16,530</b>	<b>\$2,306,751</b>
<b>UNDERSERVED AREAS</b>						
16	AT&T	Lodi	San Joaquin	1	35	\$137,416
17	AT&T	Los Banos	Merced	1	13	\$120,170
18	AT&T	Easton	Fresno	1	9	\$49,869
19	Citizens	Birds Landing	Solano	17	69	\$100,444
20	Frontier	Livingston	Merced	8	234	\$62,000
21	AT&T	Vacaville	Solano	2	33	\$171,914
22	AT&T	Friant	Fresno	1	5	\$46,463
23	AT&T	Clovis	Fresno	0	125	\$36,393
24	IP Networks	Hwy 36 Humboldt-Trinity Counties Project (Bridgeville, Mad River, Dismore and Ruth)	Humboldt and Trinity Counties	218	527	\$5,753,240
25	California Broadband Cooperative	Digital 395 Middle Mile (Topaz, Coleville, Bridgeport, Mono Lake, June Lake, Crowley Lake, Benton, Mammoth Lakes, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, Lone Pine, Cartago / Olancha, Boron, China Lake, Ridgecrest, Inyokern,	Mono, Inyo and Eastern Kern Counties, North Eastern San Bernardino	965	28,127	\$19,294,717
26	Verizon	The Sea Ranch Project	Sonoma	20	232	\$1,872,017
27	Phumas Sierra Telecommunications	Phumas-Sierra Middle-Mile Project Phumas County (Blaisden-Graeagle, Chilcoot, Clio); Lassen County (Doyle, Herlong, Litchfield, Janesville, Milford, Standish, Susanville); Sierra	Phumas, Lassen and Sierra	2524	174	\$1,721,280
28	Audearns	Tranquillity and West Fresno	Fresno County	21	585	\$1,154,496
29	Race Telecommunications	Mojave Air and Space Port Project	Kern County	5	231	\$506,199
30	Calaveras Telephone Company	Poker Flat Project	Calaveras	1	409	\$640,698
31	CVIN LLC	Central Valley Independent Network, LLC. (CVIN) & the Corporation for Educational Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) middle mile fiber-optics network infrastructure	Placer, El Dorado, Amador, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Colusa, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Nevada, Fresno, Tulare, Sutter, Yuba, Kings and	2623	206,764	\$6,659,967
32	Frontier Communications of the West Coast	Ship Ashore and Fort Dick areas of the Smith River exchange ; Pacific Shores area of the Crescent City exchange	Del Norte	16	313	\$68,168
33	Frontier Communications of the Southwest, Inc.	Markleeville, Woodfords, Paynesville, Fredericksburg and surrounding areas	Alpine County	44	381	\$95,919
<b>Total for Underserved Areas</b>				<b>6467</b>	<b>238,266</b>	<b>\$38,491,370</b>
<b>Total CASF Infrastructure Grant Account Funding for Unserved and Underserved Areas:</b>				<b>6,658</b>	<b>254,796</b>	<b>\$40,798,121</b>

<sup>4</sup> A total of 14 projects have been completed to date. Out of the 14 completed projects, 11 have submitted final completion reports and requested payment from the CASF.

The total Consortia Grant Account awards amount to \$5.01 million<sup>5</sup> for seven consortia groups advancing broadband deployment, access and adoption in counties throughout the state. The following table summarizes the CASF program grants approved as of 2011:

CASF Sub-Accounts	Total Funds Awarded	Total Funds Expended	Grant Outstanding Obligations
Infrastructure Grant Account	\$40,798,121	\$ 4,507,257	\$36,290,864
Consortia Grant Account	\$ 5,008,175 (to 7 consortia over 3 years)	\$0	\$ 5,008,175
Revolving Loan Account	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total CASF Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$45,806,296</b>	<b>\$ 4,507,257</b>	<b>\$41,299,039</b>

Out of the 33 projects that have been awarded CASF infrastructure grants, 13 have requested payment from the fund in 2011 amounting to a total of \$4.43 million. Out of the 13 projects, 11 projects have been completed. The actual project costs for the completed projects are lower than projected; hence, the CASF payments for these projects were below the awarded amounts. As a result, the Commission can disencumber those funds and make them available for future eligible broadband projects and applicants. The following table shows the amount and recipients of funds expended from the CASF in 2011:

Item #	Recipient	Project Name	Awarded Amount	Pre-2011 Payments	2011 Payments	Project Status	Area Type
1	AT&T	Alta/Blue Canyon	\$ 56,628	\$0	\$ 56,628	Completed	Unserviced
2	AT&T	Blanchard	\$ 35,816	\$0	\$ 24,963	Completed	Unserviced
3	AT&T	Comptche	\$ 18,392	\$0	\$ 9,364	Completed	Unserviced
4	AT&T	Grenada	\$ 57,596	\$0	\$ 20,150	Completed	Unserviced
5	AT&T	Hopland	\$ 61,952	\$0	\$ 22,306	Completed	Unserviced
6	AT&T	Mt. Wilson	\$ 2,420	\$0	\$ 859	Completed	Unserviced
7	AT&T	Warner Springs	\$ 93,896	\$0	\$ 43,985	Completed	Unserviced
<b>Total AT&amp;T</b>			<b>\$ 326,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$ 178,254</b>		
8	Audeamus	Tranquility and West Fresno	\$1,154,496	\$0	\$ 928,554	In-Progress	Underserved
<b>Total Audeamus</b>			<b>\$1,154,496</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$ 928,554</b>		
9	Frontier	Birds	\$ 100,444	\$0	\$ 99,130	Completed	Underserved

<sup>5</sup> In February 2012, the Commission approved an additional \$3.15 million to seven other consortia groups, bringing the total consortia grants to \$8.16 million.

Item #	Recipient	Project Name	Awarded Amount	Pre-2011 Payments	2011 Payments	Project Status	Area Type
10	Frontier	Landing Livingston	\$ 62,000	\$0	\$ 39,555	Completed	Underserved
<b>Total Frontier</b>			<b>\$ 162,444</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$ 138,685</b>		
11	IP Networks	Hwy 36 Humboldt-Trinity Counties	\$5,753,240	\$0	\$3,159,738	In-Progress	Underserved
<b>Total IP Networks</b>			<b>\$5,753,240</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,159,738</b>		
12 & 13	Willits Online	Covelo & Laytonville	\$ 108,000	\$ 78,008	\$ 24,017	Completed	Unserved
<b>Total Willits Online</b>			<b>\$ 108,000</b>	<b>\$ 78,008</b>	<b>\$ 24,017</b>		
<b>Grand Total 2011 Project Amounts Paid-Out:</b>					<b>\$4,429,249</b>		
<b>Grand Total Paid-Out Up to Date:</b>					<b>\$4,507,257</b>		

### ***B. Benefits derived from the funds expended from the California Advanced Services Fund in 2011***

Out of the 13 projects for which the Commission expended CASF funds in 2011, 11 have been completed and have delivered broadband connectivity benefits to the following counties: Siskiyou, Humboldt, Mendocino, Nevada, Placer, Solano, Mariposa, Merced, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

The benefits derived from the 11 completed projects include access to broadband service in unserved areas and access to broadband speeds of no less than 3 mbps download and 1 mbps upload in underserved areas. Actual broadband subscribership for the completed projects has reached a total<sup>6</sup> amount of 1,115 households out of an estimated target of 2,243 households. The total number of actual subscribership represents a take rate<sup>7</sup> of 49.71%. Broadband speeds in the completed project areas range from 1.5 to 6 mbps download / .384 to .768 mbps upload in unserved areas and 3 to 10 mbps download / 1 to 1.5 mbps upload in underserved areas.

The following table shows the projects that have received funds from the CASF in 2011, the status, geographic regions, number of households in the project area and area type:

<sup>6</sup> Actual subscribership by project and recipient is competitively sensitive and therefore proprietary. This report therefore shows an aggregate total number of subscribers from CASF funds expended in 2011.

<sup>7</sup> The take rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported actual subscribers by the total number of households in the completed project areas.

Item #	Recipient	Project Name	Project Status	Geographic Region (Location)	Number of Households in the Project Area	Area Type
1	AT&T	Alta/Blue Canyon	Completed	Nevada/Placer Counties	236	Unserved
2	AT&T	Blanchard	Completed	Mariposa	123	Unserved
3	AT&T	Comptche	Completed	Mendocino County	97	Unserved
4	AT&T	Grenada	Completed	Siskiyou	275	Unserved
5	AT&T	Hopland	Completed	Mendocino	328	Unserved
6	AT&T	Mt. Wilson	Completed	Los Angeles	15	Unserved
7	AT&T	Warner Springs	Completed	San Diego County	66	Unserved
8	Audeamus	Tranquility and West Fresno	In-Progress	Tranquility and West Fresno	585	Underserved
9	Frontier	Birds Landing	Completed	Solano	69	Underserved
10	Frontier	Livingston	Completed	Merced	234	Underserved
11	IP Networks Willits	Hwy 36 Humboldt-Trinity Counties	In-Progress	Humboldt and Trinity Counties	527	Underserved
12	Online Willits	Covelo	Completed	Mendocino	300	Unserved
13	Online	Laytonville	Completed	Mendocino	500	Unserved
Total Number of Households for Projects Expended in 2011					<b>3,355</b>	
Total Number of Households for Completed Projects Expended in 2011					<b>2,243</b>	

### ***C. Leveraging CASF Program Funds with Federal Funds***

With an investment of about \$31 million in CASF funds, California has been able to leverage almost \$155 million in federal matching funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) for broadband deployment in the state. To date, out of the six projects that successfully secured Recovery Act funding, one project, Audeamus, has received payment from the CASF totaling \$928,553.96. The remaining projects have not yet submitted payment requests from their CASF funding award. The following table shows the amount of funds expended from the CASF for projects obtaining federal funds:

Project Name	Recovery Act Funding (in millions)	CASF Funding Award (in millions)	CASF Funding Expended (in millions)
Ponderosa Cablevision Auberry Project	\$ 3.852	\$ 1.155	\$0
Calaveras Poker Flat Project	\$ 4.087	\$ 0.641	\$0
Digital 385 Middle Mile Project	\$81.149	\$19.295	\$0
Plumas Sierra Telecommunications (PST) Middle Mile Project	\$13.770	\$1.721	\$0
Audeamus Last Mile Project	\$ 5.483	\$1.154	\$0.929

Project Name	Recovery Act Funding (in millions)	CASF Funding Award (in millions)	CASF Funding Expended (in millions)
Central Valley Independent Network, LLC (CVIN) & the Corporation for Educational Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) Last Mile Project	\$ 46.620	\$ 6.660	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$154.961</b>	<b>\$30.626</b>	<b>\$0.929</b>

#### ***D. Remaining Unserved and Underserved Areas of the State***

Using the newly adopted CASF definitions of unserved and underserved areas in D. 12-02-015, Attachment D<sup>8</sup> shows a map of the remaining unserved and underserved areas of the state. After evaluating the current broadband availability data and the 2010 U.S. census numbers, we estimate that the total percentage of households that are served in California, where wireline and fixed-wireless broadband service is at least 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload, is 89.35% . Underserved areas of the state amount to 8.62% of households and unserved areas amount to 2.03% of households.

Given the CASF program’s increase in broadband advertised speeds to 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload, the percentage of underserved areas of the state increased from 0.50 % to 8.62%. This increase sets an opportunity to improve existing speeds for broadband service to households throughout the state. In addition, with a total of 2.03% of households in unserved areas, the Commission has recognized unserved areas of the state as a priority in the CASF program by setting a higher funding cap and setting the first application window for CASF applications to be specifically for projects targeting unserved areas. The following table shows the percentages and number of households in served, underserved and unserved areas of the state:

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<sup>8</sup> The data and map in Attachment D is for wireline and fixed wireless broadband availability for the state of California. A map including wireline, fixed and mobile broadband availability is under development and once produced will be available at the Commission’s California Broadband Availability Maps website: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Information+for+providing+service/Broadband+Availability+Maps.htm>

CALIFORNIA	Total	Served Broadband service at least 6 Mbps down and 1.5 Mbps up		Underserved Broadband service slower than 6 Mbps down or 1.5 Mbps up		Unserved Either no service available, or internet access is slower than 768 Kbps down or 200 Kbps up		Unpopulated Area	
Households (2010 Census)	12,577,498	11,238,354	89.35 %	1,083,838	8.62 %	255,306	2.03 %	--	--
Land Area (Square Miles)	155,564	17,427.00	11.20 %	22,406.90	14.40 %	39,810.80	25.59 %	76,134.60	48.94 %

## VI. CASF Program Focus for 2012

With the addition of the Consortia Grant and Revolving Loan Accounts, and the increase in broadband speeds and grant award funding from the Infrastructure Grant Account, we expect the CASF program will help bring high-speed broadband Internet service to more and more unserved and underserved areas of the state and ultimately increasing the adoption of broadband throughout California in areas where it may be uneconomic to do so without support. Throughout 2012, regional consortia groups also will begin their work toward increasing broadband deployment, access and adoption in the regions of the state they represent. In addition, the Commission set two application deadlines for broadband infrastructure projects in unserved and underserved areas for May 15, 2012 and September 11, 2012, respectively. It is our hope that the enhancements made to the CASF program will spur interest from applicants to apply for funding from the CASF and encourage the deployment of high-speed broadband Internet service to all Californians.

## **Attachment A – Commission Approved Consortia Grants (Commission Resolutions T-17349 and T-17355)**

As of February 2012, the Commission approved 14 regional consortia grants. Details of each successful consortia application are discussed below:

### California’s One Million New Internet Users Coalition

The mission of California’s One Million New Internet Users Coalition (NIU) is to utilize existing technology resources such as computer labs available in community common areas, schools, and local organizations (termed ‘empowerment hubs’) to launch adult and/or parent computer training. Investing in a targeted curriculum and training community college students as trainers, NIU’s 7-step Parent Engagement Through Technology curriculum will maximize funding to reach over 2,000 parents through direct access and education and to promote adoption as an investment in continuing the training experience that will lead to improving their children’s academic lives. NIU intends to work in and around approximately 39 communities in Los Angeles County. NIU’s primary goals are to:

- Develop public awareness, education, and outreach campaigns to stimulate broadband demand within key groups such as school districts, churches, and other similar community-based organizations;
- Increase subscribership through the NIU training program that teaches parents how to use the internet to access essential resources thereby creating relevancy for this underserved group of residents; and,
- Provide education and training to address technology literacy in targeted parent partnerships. Training sites will provide permanent Internet access points.

NIU is a consortium of community funding and business organizations, technology and computer training centers, community development groups, and organizations which promote and provide services for educationally disadvantaged citizens. Additionally, NIU includes partnerships with and support from state officials, local and regional government entities, school districts, communications companies, and community leaders.

NIU requests CASF consortium funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, California’s One Million New Internet Users Coalition requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to increase access and adoption in specific communities in Los Angeles County.

### Central Coast Broadband Consortium

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC) is a 10-year old ad-hoc group of local governments and agencies, economic development, education and health organizations, community groups and private business dedicated to improving broadband availability, access, and adoption in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties, a region lacking robust and redundant connections to broadband infrastructure. The CCBC three-year

plan specifically addresses activities to develop broadband infrastructure in the tri-county region's culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse communities. The CCBC's primary goals overall are to:

- Document the region's current telecommunications assets, requirements, and opportunities and to compile these into an accessible database;
- Generate model policies and ordinances (e.g. on broadband infrastructure trenching, conduit management, and wireless sites) that support the region's ability to finance, deploy, and provide high-speed, affordable, and equitable broadband access; and
- Promote and increase access to broadband among underrepresented and low-income communities (e.g., implementation of broadband adoption programs within Santa Cruz and San Benito counties).

The CCBC is a successful Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program<sup>9</sup> recipient under the public computing center category for a \$3.6 million federal grant. The CCBC Public Computing Center Alliance project, initiated in October 2010, is due to be completed in September 2012 and will have established and expanded public computing centers in rural and urban communities serving under-represented and low-income populations in Monterey County.

The CCBC requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, the CCBC requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to develop broadband deployment, access, and adoption in its region.

#### Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortia

The Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortia (CSC) plan focuses on deployment, access, and adoption of broadband within Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne Counties. Through its leadership, the CSC's main goals are to:

- Develop a strategic plan for broadband infrastructure to identify viable projects aimed at increasing access to unserved and underserved areas;
- Promote increased awareness, application, and adoption of broadband targeted on disadvantaged residential areas and the needs of the business community; and,
- Promote, coordinate, and provide opportunities for access and educational assistance through training programs, neighborhood information centers, and training seminars.

The CSC membership is a collaboration of local rural communities first formed under the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCCC), a leading community organization working to provide critical services and self-sufficiency opportunities for low

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<sup>9</sup> The Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program (BTOP) is a grant program that funds comprehensive broadband infrastructure projects, public computers centers, and sustainable broadband adoption projects from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the BTOP provided an opportunity for California to partner with the federal government and other state agencies to advance the goal of bridging the digital divide.

income residents in Amador and Tuolumne counties. ATCCC is a 2001 recipient of a National Technology and Information Administration (NTIA) grant. CSC members include experienced local Internet service providers, private company and county technology experts, local and regional government officials, education and public safety representatives, community-based organizations, tourism, parks/recreation, and agriculture professionals, and interested citizens from the community.

CSC requests CASF consortium funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, Central Sierra Connect requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to extend infrastructure, increase adoption, and provide access to broadband in the Central Sierra Region.

### Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium

The Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium's (CCABC) focus is to identify and coordinate broadband investments aimed at improving broadband infrastructure, access, and adoption within Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. Through its leadership, the CCABC goals are to:

- Create a strategic plan for broadband infrastructure priority investments aimed at increasing access;
- Increase utilization and adoption of broadband with non-users;
- Increase awareness and understanding among policy makers of the importance of broadband access for economic development and regional well-being;
- Support removing barriers which impede advancement of wireless deployment; and,
- Establish a broad partnership of organizations committed to the region and work collaboratively to share knowledge and leverage strengths.

Under the auspices of Valley Vision, an independent non-profit which for 17 years has provided analysis, organization, and action to improve the Capital region's economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability, the CCABC membership includes a wide-range of constituents and partners. To date, over 150 people have worked on CCABC activities representing government, education, library, public safety, health delivery, community/non-profit, business, and telecommunication/electric utility. Most recently, many participated in Sacramento regional roundtables, leadership summits, a digital access scoping study, and a project to develop a broadband business plan with key stakeholders. The experience and foundation in the region's needs means that the Capital Area is well-prepared to coordinate further strategic efforts to improve broadband infrastructure, access, and adoption with the CCABC.

CCABC requests CASF consortium funding of \$149,518 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3. In total, the California Connected Area Broadband Consortium requests funding totaling \$448,301 to pursue its goals of promoting infrastructure deployment projects and grants, increasing adoption, and advancing access in the Sacramento Valley area.

### East Bay Broadband Consortium

The East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC) is an East Bay regional initiative organized to improve broadband deployment, access, and adoption in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties. Organized by a partnership of non-profit public/private sector partnerships and led by a steering committee composed of a wide variety of economic development organizations and foundations, the EBBC focuses on filling digital gaps within the region that have not been addressed or served in the areas of broadband infrastructure, digital inclusion, economic development, E-education, Telehealth, human services, and E-government, public safety and emergency services in unserved/rural and underserved communities of the counties. The EBBC's primary goals are to:

- Formulate and implement a broadband infrastructure plan to make the East Bay a national and global broadband leader;
- Establish Get Connected East Bay! based on the Get Connected Oakland! model;
- Promote optimal broadband and utilization in the areas of economic development, E-education, E-health and telemedicine, human services and E-government, and public safety and emergency services;
- Organize EBBC broadband summits to address the seven key aspects of the Strategic Framework and mobilize the East Bay broadband constituency; and
- Provide project coordination and management support for the EBBC

The EBBC requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, the EBBC requests the maximum \$450,000 to develop broadband deployment, access, and adoption in its region.

#### Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium

The Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESC) intends to focus on assessing broadband demand and supply in rugged and rural Mono, Inyo, and Eastern Kern Counties. Begun in 2009, ESC's primary work has been spent identifying unserved and underserved communities which led to its conclusion that the region lacks middle-mile facilities to support last-mile infrastructure. With that in mind, ESC's main goals are to:

- Maintain up-to-date regional data based on statewide and national information;
- Develop a list of high priority broadband infrastructure projects by county and share with prospective service providers as infrastructure expansion opportunities;
- Work with service providers to produce at least one project plan during the life of the consortium, including reviewing area projects submitted for CASF consideration;
- Develop solutions to advance projects that will fill critical gaps in the availability of broadband service, including training organizations and providers about local resources to self-build; and,
- Increase broadband demand and adoption within communities where service exists and with anchor institutions.

ESC members come from all three counties representing chambers of commerce, local and regional government, education and public safety, community-based organizations, tourism, parks/recreation, and agriculture, tribal lands in Kern and Inyo, communication

and water utilities, and the California Broadband Cooperative/Digital 395 project which received NTIA and CASF broadband infrastructure grant funding in 2010. In anticipation of the completion of the Digital 395 middle-mile project, ESC is poised to connect its counties to this backbone which will advance the expansion of critical broadband veins into its regional communities along the strip.

ESC requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, the Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortia requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 in the Eastern Sierra region.

#### Gold Country Broadband Consortium

Working towards greater broadband development in El Dorado, Eastern Alpine, Nevada, Placer and Sierra Counties, the Gold Country Broadband Consortia (Gold Country) is a partnership of regional stakeholders bringing subject matter expertise to fulfill its overall mission in the area. Gold Country plans to direct its efforts to develop and implement infrastructure projects and to expand existing served areas into unserved and underserved areas. The main goals of the Gold Country are to:

- Develop and maintain relevant research data such as regional infrastructure plans, priority project inventories, and vital project area mapping;
- Build and maintain community involvement and obtain commitment for long-term broadband subscription;
- Support and assist in developing infrastructure projects with internet service providers;
- Assist and/or work to obtain source funding for internet service providers that will subsidize project construction; and,
- Facilitate broadband service adoption within the region's communities.

Gold Country includes leadership from a variety of community representatives and organizations including local/regional government entities; fire, parks and recreation districts; K-12 and community college districts; chambers of commerce and business councils; tourism and economic development offices; health care agencies and hospitals, and communications/broadband companies. Members of the consortium, therefore, bring experience and expertise to use in developing proposals and priorities to be addressed in order to establish new and expand existing broadband facilities in the region.

Gold Country requests CASF consortium funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, Gold Country Broadband Consortium requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to bring broadband infrastructure to the region and to advance access and adoption.

#### Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium

The Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium (IERB) is a collaborative regional broadband consortium formed to address broadband infrastructure gaps within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Its primary mission will focus on prioritizing issues of developing capital improvement projects, establishing broadband programs for

underserved and disadvantaged residents, improving government policies and best practices, and continuing to advocate for funding in the region. The goals to achieve its mission are to:

- Establish strong community and stakeholder support through well-designed outreach and education that will obtain commitment from residents, businesses, and service providers to promote broadband infrastructure projects and ultimately connectivity; and,
- Develop a broadband infrastructure and access plan that prioritizes needs, sets forth a plan to identify viable projects, and plans ways to obtain investment and grant funding, as needed.

With members' experience achieving broadband adoption in other areas, the IERB is a skilled, diverse stakeholder membership represented by regional and local public agencies, technology providers, non-profit and community-based organizations, health care providers, school districts, educators, libraries, and businesses. County offices, community-based businesses and economic development offices, tourism, and cultural arts groups also endorse the IERB. In addition, some members have been awarded and/or participated as partners in projects funded by the California Emerging Technologies Fund.

IERB requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, the Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to increase infrastructure development, access, and adoption in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

#### Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium

The Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium (LACRBC) is organized to work collaboratively with five distinct sub-regions in the Los Angeles area and surrounding communities<sup>10</sup>. The sub-regional consortia under LACRBC are:

- In North Los Angeles –
  - San Fernando Valley
  - San Gabriel Valley
- In South Los Angeles –
  - South Bay
  - Gateway Cities
  - Central/West Los Angeles

Each sub-region submitted work plans and Year 1 budgets for its unique projects. Major activities of all the sub-regions highlight their focus on: assessing broadband deployment needs; performing “Get Connected” outreach and awareness through community events; developing digital literacy programs (create and conduct training and workshops), work on broadband access, advocacy, and adoption (subscription, gaining support, coordinate

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<sup>10</sup> In the North Los Angeles sub-regional area, Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita will have representation in work activities planned. Likewise, the South Los Angeles sub-region consortia will include Catalina Island in its area representation.

CASF applications); and, establishing advanced application use (online E-health applications and workshops). Specific plans of each sub-regional consortium are as follows:

**1. San Fernando Valley Sub-Region:** The San Fernando Valley Sub-Regional Consortium will bring new educational classes and workshops to 14 public computer centers throughout the San Fernando Valley. The classes and workshops will teach youth and adults about the benefits of broadband and help to develop computer literacy, job, and life skills. The Consortium will train 600 residents through new workshops and 300 residents through new classes at public computer centers, subscribe a minimum of 100 new users to broadband within the region, and provide an estimated 5,400 hours of computer lab access to residents interested in attending broadband workshops and classes.

**2. Gateway Cities Sub-Region:** The Gateway Cities Sub-Regional Consortium will promote broadband deployment, access, and adoption within the Southeast area of Los Angeles County. The Consortium will provide an estimated 72 Internet literacy classes for youth and adults in English and Spanish, conduct 150 workshops, and utilize its Mobile Technology Center to participate in 36 community events to show community members onsite the value and benefit of subscribing to broadband in the home. The Consortium will also begin a two prong pilot TeleHealth program where once a month over the life of the grant, the Consortium will provide a Skyping for Health workshop. The workshop will allow residents to Skype with health care providers on chronic diseases that are prevalent within the region. In addition, Better Health Online workshops will be provided utilizing the HealthCare.gov website for residents to learn how to navigate the website and expand their knowledge on healthcare topics.

**3. Central/West Los Angeles Sub-Region:** The Central/West Los Angeles Sub-Regional Consortium will strive to deploy, provide access and adoption of broadband technology to every corner of the Central/West Los Angeles region. The Consortium's key programs include: (a) high school seniors to senior citizens intergenerational technology exchange to provide basic how-to training in Internet use and its applications; (b) young adult and veterans training in computer repair and refurbishing where refurbished computers will be made available to community residents and non-profit or faith-based organizations at a greatly reduced price; and, (c) technical training on broadband that includes "hands-on" training to repair, replace and maintain broadband services.

**4. San Gabriel Valley Sub-Region:** The San Gabriel Valley Sub-Regional will promote broadband deployment, access, and adoption within the East Los Angeles region by expanding courses of high demand, including English as a Second Language, through a distance learning platform. The Consortium will provide on-line classes that include a new "remote access" option to more than 20,000 people. The Consortium will increase access to on-line learning services by exponentially increasing the number of community residents who can study English as a Second Language from remote locations as well as targeting an estimated 500 students to acquire digital literacy.

**5. South Bay Sub-Region:** The South Bay Sub-Regional Consortium will create a synergy of technology-in-motion, emphasizing the use of emerging technologies as educational platforms by establishing Hot Spot Zone Networks<sup>11</sup> throughout the Los Angeles region and provide training workshops on Broadband Services such as TeleHealth and mobile communications. The Consortium will deploy Hot Spot Zone Networks throughout each of the 5 sub-regions within Los Angeles, work to provide Wi-Fi connectivity to three low-income, senior citizen housing facilities, and provide a number of training workshops. These workshops include business participants, TeleHealth, mobile technology, and music and technology workshops.

The sub-regional consortia and LACRBC have support of state legislators; local, city, county, and regional governments; college and K-12 districts; and public, non-profit, and for-profit organizations. LACRBC and the sub-regional consortia leads possess experience in developing social and community services; increasing employment opportunities and providing vocational training; working with public safety; providing technology learning solutions in underserved communities; working with diverse linguistic and economic groups; and, K-12 educational districts. From past individual successes, the LACBRC members possess: technical expertise designing, managing, and deploying networks; successful grant awards from CETF, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and Broadband Technology and Opportunity Plan (BTOP), and state-funded California Resources and Training (CARAT); and, the valuable support of key community leaders, elected officials, and community organizations within the larger LA area.

The Youth Policy Institute (YPI), acting as fiscal agent over all the sub-regional consortia, is responsible for the oversight and management of the LACRBC funds. The YPI is a non-profit organization that provides education, training, and technology services to impoverished county families. Experienced in managing over \$35 million in federal and state grants, YPI also will act as project coordinator for the northern areas along with Manchester Community Technologies (MCT) which will be project coordinator for the south sub-regions. MCT is a public non-profit corporation with experience in deploying metropolitan area networks, creating community Wi-Fi, and providing computer training and educational learning tools in underserved/urban communities.

In D.11-06-038, the Commission specifically recognized that Los Angeles County poses a unique challenge, being the state's largest and most densely populated urban area. For that reason, the Commission adopted a modified approach for the Los Angeles region. The LACRBC requested consortia grant funding totaling \$2,310,000 for three years, or \$770,000 for each year. The LACBRC plans to work among an ethnically diverse county population of over 9.8 million in over 6,000 census block groups (CBGs) and 291 ZIP Codes. The LACRBC proposes specific projects addressing broadband access and adoption among various constituents in the region and set clear targets for deliverables.

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<sup>11</sup> Hot Spot Zone Networks connect wireless access areas created by multiple hot spots located in close proximity to each other. LA County hot spots will be established in high-need, high-traffic areas and connected from the metropolitan area networks that are planned.

This resolution approves \$770,000 which would allow the consortia program to reach a large number of Los Angeles County residents in promoting broadband access, adoption, and deployment. To address the potential concern that consortia disbursements may exceed annual collections for a temporary period, we give notice that the Commission may necessarily need to delay payments to LACRBC if such a situation occurred. LACRBC intends to renew its funding in Years 2 and 3.

### Northeastern California Connect Consortium

The Northeastern California Connect Consortium (NECCC) is a consortium initially formed by the CSU Chico Center for Economic Development to participate in the work of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF). In its present organizational set-up, it is composed organizations and entities that have experience in promoting the need for and delivery of networked telecommunications. The members of the NECCC are government entities (county, city/town, unincorporated districts, state and federal), Native-American communities, educational institutions, libraries, public safety entities, health delivery facilities, community and non-profit organizations, local businesses, telecommunications providers, electric utilities, and other organizations in the seven counties (Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama) in the Northeast California area.

Two organizations serve as the management principals for the NECCC, namely the Corporation for Education Network Initiative in California (CENIC) and the Center for Economic Development (CED) at California State University, Chico. CENIC is the lead management organization with the overall management and fiscal responsibilities for this regional consortium.

The NECCC is principally focused on five goals:

- Ensure community involvement;
- Develop a broadband infrastructure plan;
- Develop and implement access plans;
- Develop and implement adoption and training plans and programs; and
- Work with other regional consortia to ensure the development of a cohesive Northern California infrastructure.

For Year 1, NECCC will focus on the conceptual design for the broadband infrastructure plan that will provide a cohesive, integrated, and robust middle-mile and last-mile network infrastructure that will interconnect the counties together. To achieve this, current telecommunications providers will be asked to share information on their current middle- and last-mile infrastructure, their future plans to deploy broadband to the communities they serve, their interest in cooperating in this project, and an assessment of whether their assets can be utilized as part of the Conceptual Design. A second focus of NECCC for the first year is the updating of the status of access in each county and assessing the status of training and adoption programs available across the three counties. Finally, the NECCC will collaborate with the other Regional Consortia to make sure its Conceptual Design fits into an overall Northern California Broadband Plan.

Major deliverables at the end of Year 1 include: a Conceptual Design for the middle-mile and last-mile portions of the infrastructure plan; reports on the existing installed fiber that could be used to serve as a portion of this middle-mile conceptual design; existing last-mile capabilities that could potentially be included in the Conceptual Design; and, a report on the availability of adoption programs in each county.

The NECCC requests CASF consortia funding of \$149,997 in Year 1 with intention to renew for Years 2 and 3. In total, the NECCC requests \$449,751 for this Northern California regional consortium to serve its seven counties.

#### Redwood Coast Connect Consortium

The Redwood Coast Connect Consortium (RCC), created by Redwood Coast Rural Action, is a regional network of community leaders with the ongoing initiative to make affordable broadband available to all residents in rural Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Trinity Counties. Having laid the groundwork since 2007 through its research and analysis of the needs of the residents to report key factors on broadband services and mapping in its unserved and underserved areas, holding forums to bring together community leaders, elected officials/government agencies, tribal elected officials and leaders, business, public safety, and existing communications providers, and maintaining its partnerships within the community, RCC strives to continue the successes begun when it received one of the first CETF matching grants. The nine goals of the RCC are:

- Review and update existing studies and plans;
- Create funding plans for middle mile, last mile, and public safety deployment;
- Promote the CASF fund;
- Develop, enhance, and implement adoption and training plans and programs;
- Promote policy change to ease broadband deployment and adoption;
- Provide support to remove barriers impeding advancement of wireless broadband deployment;
- Ensure community involvement;
- Create a regional learning community; and
- Provide project management support for RCC Consortium

The six organizations which comprise the consortium membership have regional business and communications expertise and success developing and launching broadband networks benefitting the communities they serve which brings valuable experience to the RCC mission.

The RCC Consortium requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew for Years 2 and 3. In total, the RCC requests \$450,000 for its continuing work of bringing broadband deployment, access, and adoption to the state's seven-county north coast region.

#### San Diego Imperial Regional Broadband Consortium

The San Diego Imperial Regional Broadband Consortium (SDIRBC) focuses on expanding deployment and adoption of broadband specifically for education, health and

safety, and economic development within Imperial and San Diego Counties. To accomplish its mission, SDIRBC intends to direct its regional efforts on these goals:

- Increasing the availability and adoption of broadband technology in the region;
- Developing and maintaining information about the region's unique technology barriers and needs;
- Establishing, maintaining, and mapping a lowest common denominator baseline broadband speed; and,
- Creating reports and plans that clearly articulate community needs in order to develop projects that address them appropriately.

Members of SDIRBC possess expertise in technology, education, and economic development and include representation from economic development offices; a non-profit technology/technical service foundation; county offices of education; the University of California San Diego Calit2 Institute; and, the Tribal Digital village, a computer network connecting 17 tribal reservations in the San Diego region. Their combined background and experience in technology for community benefit provides a unique understanding of the region's needs and an ability to recommend suitable broadband solutions.

SDIRBC requests CASF consortium funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew Years 2 and 3 for \$150,000 each. In total, San Diego Imperial Regional Broadband Consortium requests the maximum funding of \$450,000 to increase access and adoption in specific communities in Imperial and San Diego Counties.

#### San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortia

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortia (SJVRBC) is a public-private entity focused on accelerating the deployment, accessibility, and adoption of broadband within Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties. The SJVRBC's five goals are to:

- Expedite the provision of broadband access in all areas of the valley;
- Promote accessibility and adoption of broadband in targeted underserved communities and populations (e.g., develop and implement a plan to ensure high school students graduate with basic computer literacy skills);
- Expand and replicate successful model programs to increase broadband access and bridge the digital divide;
- Accelerate deployment of broadband infrastructure through TeleMedicine and Telehealth technology (e.g., develop and implement a plan to connect health clinics with medical centers); and
- Work with neighboring regional consortia to ensure the development of a cohesive infrastructure

The SJVRBC is represented by members of the public-private sectors including telecommunications providers and industry associations; government, economic development corporations, and business development centers; local educational agencies and institutions of higher education; health delivery organizations, community-based and non-profit organizations; and, accessibility advocates. The consortium, through its partnership, brings the experience of

having identified communities without affordable connections; increased utilization by residents through digital literacy programs; sought and received funding for deployment; built upon existing infrastructure for telemedicine/Telehealth; and, replicated and expanded successful literacy programs.

The SJVRBC Consortium requests CASF consortia funding of \$150,000 in Year 1 with intention to renew for Years 2 and 3. In total, the SJVRBC requests \$450,000 for its continuing work of bringing broadband deployment, access, and adoption to the San Joaquin Valley counties.

### Upstate California Connect Consortium

The Upstate California Connect Consortium (UCCC) is a consortium initially formed by the California State University, Chico's Center for Economic Development. It is composed of organizations and entities the either have been involved in the need for and delivery of networked telecommunications. This consortium is composed of a wide variety of representatives and endorsers from local/regional governments, public safety, education, health care, community-based organizations, recreation/agriculture/parks, and business communities.

The UCCC is principally focused on five goals:

- Ensure community involvement;
- Develop a broadband infrastructure plan;
- Develop, implement, and maintain access plans;
- Develop and implement adoption and training plans and programs; and
- Work with other regional consortia to ensure the development of a cohesive Northern California infrastructure.

UCCC's primary tasks for the first year include: conceptual design for the broadband infrastructure plan that will provide a cohesive, integrated, and robust middle-mile and last-mile network infrastructure that will interconnect counties. To achieve this, current telecommunications providers will be asked to share information on their current middle- and last-mile infrastructure, their future plans to deploy broadband to the communities they serve, their interest in cooperating in this project, and an assessment of whether their assets can be utilized as part of the Conceptual Design. A second focus of UCCC for the first year is the updating of the status of access in each county and assessing the status of training and adoption programs available across the three counties. Finally, the UCCC will collaborate with the other Regional Consortia to make sure its Conceptual Design fits into an overall Northern California Broadband Plan.

Major deliverables during the first year include a conceptual design for the middle-mile and last-mile portions of the infrastructure plan, reports on existing installed fiber that could be used to serve as a portion of the middle-mile Conceptual Design and existing last-mile capabilities in each county and their potential to be included in the Conceptual Design, and a report assessing the availability of adoption programs in each county.

The UCCC requests CASF consortia funding of \$149,898 in Year 1 with intention to renew for Years 2 and 3. In total, the UCCC requests \$448,184 for this Northern California regional consortium to serve its four counties.

# Attachment B – Map of Commission Approved Consortia Grants (Commission Resolutions T-17349 and T-17355)



## Attachment C – CASF Infrastructure Grant Program Enhancements

On February 1, 2012 the Commission adopted D.12-02-015 making enhances to the CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account and implementing provisions of SB 1040 by expanding the CASF program to include a Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account. The following summarizes the enhancements made to the CASF program:

- Increase in CASF grant award amounts from 40% to 70% of project costs for unserved areas and 60% of project costs for underserved areas
- Increase in broadband advertised speeds from 3 mbps download and 1 mbps upload to 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload
- Update to the definitions of unserved and underserved areas:
  1. An *unserved area* is not served by any form of wireline or wireless facilities-based broadband, such that Internet connectivity is available only through dial-up services
  2. An *underserved area* already has broadband service, but no wireline or wireless facilities-based provider offers service at advertised speeds of at least 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload
- Requires applicants to have a plan to encourage adoption and sustainability of the broadband service in the project area
- Increase in the pricing commitment required of applicants for monthly recurring fees from one year to two years, as well as waiving installation and/or initial service connection fees
- Increase in the transparency of applications by including the applicant's name and a project summary on the Commission's website and delegating to the Communications Division (CD) the task of developing a distribution list of interested parties to whom applicants will also send this information
- Supplemental financing from the CASF Revolving Loan Account, up to 20% of the total project costs; \$500,000 maximum
- Infrastructure Grant and Revolving Loan Accounts application deadlines in May and September 2012

# Attachment D – Remaining Unserved and Underserved Areas of the State

CALIFORNIA	Total	Served		Underserved		Unserved		Unpopulated Area	
		Broadband service at least 6 Mbps down and 1.5 Mbps up		Broadband service slower than 6 Mbps down or 1.5 Mbps up		Either no service available, or internet access is slower than 768 Kbps down or 200 Kbps up			
Households (2010 Census)	12,577,498	11,238,354	89.35 %	1,083,838	8.62 %	255,306	2.03 %	--	--
Land Area (Square Miles)	155,564	17,427.00	11.20 %	22,406.90	14.40 %	39,810.80	25.59 %	76,134.60	48.94 %

