

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM G**

**Request for Letter of Support for Los
Angeles County Regional Broadband
Consortium**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Powers, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Request for Letter of Support for Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium

Background

At last month's meeting of the Board of Directors, Cesar Zaldivar-Motts, Executive Director of the Southeast Community Development Corporation, addressed the Board requesting a letter of support for a grant application that his organization, along with four other non-profit agencies, would be submitting to the Public Utilities Commission. The grant would be used to provide low income persons with computers and computer training at no cost. The SCDC currently administers a similar program in its member cities (Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, Vernon, and unincorporated Walnut Park) and would use this grant to expand its program to the entire Gateway Cities region.

Because the item was not on the agenda at the August meeting, Mr. Zaldivar-Motts was asked to provide staff with information and a sample letter so that the request could be placed on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Summary

The SCDC and the other four agencies will be submitting a joint application for the \$2.5 million that the PUC has set aside for technology initiatives in Los Angeles County. The five groups, including the SCDC, which make up the proposed Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium, would divide the county into five geographical areas, with the SCDC utilizing \$450,000 to serve as the implementing agency for the Gateway Cities area.

Attached is a sample letter provided by the SCDC which, if approved by the Board, would be sent in support of the Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium's grant application.

Recommended Action

Authorize the President to sign a letter in support of the grant application by the Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium.



Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium

The vision of the Los Angeles Regional Broadband Consortium is that every resident of Los Angeles County has broadband Internet access, and adopts the services and applications available therein to improve their standard of living.

The mission of the Los Angeles Regional Broadband Consortium is to provide leadership in Los Angeles County to close the “Digital Divide” by accelerating broadband deployment, access and adoption which will promote economic growth, job creation, and the substantial social benefits of advanced information and communications technologies.

The Los Angeles County Regional Consortium is comprised of organizations, anchor institutions and civic leaders with a track record of helping improve the quality of life of residents throughout the Los Angeles County region. The consortium has identified best practices needed to increase the levels of deployment, access and adoption of broadband technologies throughout the county.

The Consortium consists of five lead agencies: Southeast Community Development Corporation, Youth Policy Institute, El Monte School District, Community Centers, Inc., and Manchester Community Technologies, Inc. These agencies will provide services through Los Angeles County.

Program Outcomes:

A. Deployment

- Host 30 sub-regional "town hall meetings" over the 3 years (2 per year for each sub-region x 5 sub-regions x 3 years)
- Serve 900 participants through sub-regional "town hall meetings" over the 3 years (30 participants at each)
- Host 10 county-wide "town hall meetings" over the 3 years (approx. 3 per year, each sub-region hosts 2 over the 3 years)
- Serve 600 participants through county-wide "town hall meetings" (60 participants at each town hall)

B. Access & Adoption

- Represent the LA County Regional Broadband Consortia at the LA Regional County Fair annually
 - Distribute LA County Regional Broadband Consortia promotional flyers to

- 19,000 attendees (3,000 in year 1; 6,000 in year 2; 10,000 in year 3)
- Distribute broadband information to 9,000 attendees (1,500 in year 1; 3,000 in year 2; 4,500 in year 3)
- Collect demographic/broadband data from 2,450 attendees (400 in year 1; 650 in year 2; 1,400 in year 3)
- Subscribe 500 new users to broadband (50 in year 1; 150 in year 2; 300 in year 3)
- Represent sub-regional consortia projects at 90 local community events over the 3 years (6 community events per year x 5 sub-regions x 3 years)
 - Distribute broadband information to 9,000 attendees (100 per event x 90 events)
 - Collect demographic/broadband data from 2,700 attendees (30 per event x 90 events)
- Provide information on local consortia services, events, broadband to 18,000 residents over 3 years (1,200 per year x 5 sub-regions x 3 years; non-event outreach)
- Train 3,000 residents in educational workshops (1,000 per year between all groups x 3 years; "workshop" is under 4 hours)
- Train 1,500 residents in educational classes (500 per year between all groups x 3 years; "classes" is over 4 hours)
- Establish 5 hot spots in LA County (1 in each region)
- Subscribe 3,000 new users to broadband (200 per year x 5 sub-regions x 3 years)
- Provide 100,000 hours of open computer lab access across LA county (20,000 in year 1; 40,000 in year 2; 40,000 in year 3)

LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE REGIONAL CONSORTIA



Planning Committee

Sub-Region Consortia Team Leaders

Central West Los Angeles

Saundra Davis, Executive Director
Community Centers, Inc.

San Gabriel Valley

Richard Nichols, Executive Director
El Monte Chamber of Commerce

Gateway Cities

Caesar Motts, Executive Director
Southeast Community Development Corp.

San Fernando Valley

Sarah Serota, Executive Director
Youth Policy Institute

San Gabriel Valley

Richard Nichols, Executive Director
El Monte Chamber of Commerce

South Bay

Reilyn Williams, Executive Director
Manchester Community Technologies, Inc.

Date

California Public Utilities Commission
Communications Division
Attn: CASF Consortia Grant Account
505 Van Ness Avenue, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium Endorsement

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments is writing this letter in support of the proposal presented by the Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium. This comprehensive proposal aims to help close the Digital Divide by increasing broadband deployment, access and adoption throughout the County.

High speed Internet access is considered an essential tool needed for economic development and key in helping improve the quality of life for under-privileged communities. Unfortunately, despite California's leadership in the creation of information and communications technologies many low-income residents in the county remain without the access to training and information needed to become subscribers to broadband services. Although most of the region has access to the needed infrastructure many low-income communities do not possess the skill and resources needed to identify and select an appropriate broadband offering. In addition, maps made available on the CPUC website indicate that some regions in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys lack broadband infrastructure.

The Los Angeles County Regional Consortium is comprised of organizations, anchor institutions and civic leaders with a track record of helping improve the quality of life of residents throughout the Los Angeles County region. The consortium has identified best practices needed to increase the levels of deployment, access and adoption of broadband technologies throughout the county. We are confident that the proposal submitted by the consortia will help low-income residents throughout the county attain the information and computing skills needed to succeed in the 21st century labor global economy.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Raymond Dunton
President