



CPUC Public Agenda 3327

Thursday, December 5, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

San Francisco, CA



Commissioners:
Michael R. Peevey
Michel Peter Florio
Catherine J.K. Sandoval
Mark J. Ferron
Carla J. Peterman

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Regular Agenda – Communication Orders

Item #3 [12458]

Res T-17424

Funding for Ponderosa Telephone Company's Beasore/Central Camp Project

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Approves funding in the amount of \$1,755,042 from California Advanced Service Fund (CASF) for Ponderosa Telephone Company's CASF grant application for its Beasore/Central Camp Last Mile Unserved and Underserved Broadband Project.
- The project will extend high-speed internet service to 3.49 square miles covering the Beasore and Central Camp communities of unincorporated Madera County and provide safety-enhancing landline telephone service in an area where there currently is none.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Completion of the project would improve communications with emergency services, including E-911.
- New infrastructure could potentially provide a low-vulnerability communications infrastructure in this fire-prone area.

ESTIMATED COST:

- \$1,755,042.





Resolution T-17424

BEASORE/CENTRAL CAMP PROJECT



Ryan Dulin
Director

Communications Division

December 5, 2013



CASF Program

- The Commission authorized the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) on December 20, 2007 to encourage deployment of high-quality advanced communications
- The Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account provides funding for the capital costs of broadband infrastructure projects in unserved and underserved areas of the state.



Beasore/Central Camp Project

- Proposed by Ponderosa Telephone Co.
- Fiber-to-the-home with supporting backhaul
- Up to 50 mbps upstream / 20 mbps down
- Project seeks \$1,755,042 in CASF funds
(61.6 percent of \$2,847,306)





Major Considerations

- Provides Greater Public Safety
- Targets UnServed Area
- Provides Backhaul Infrastructure

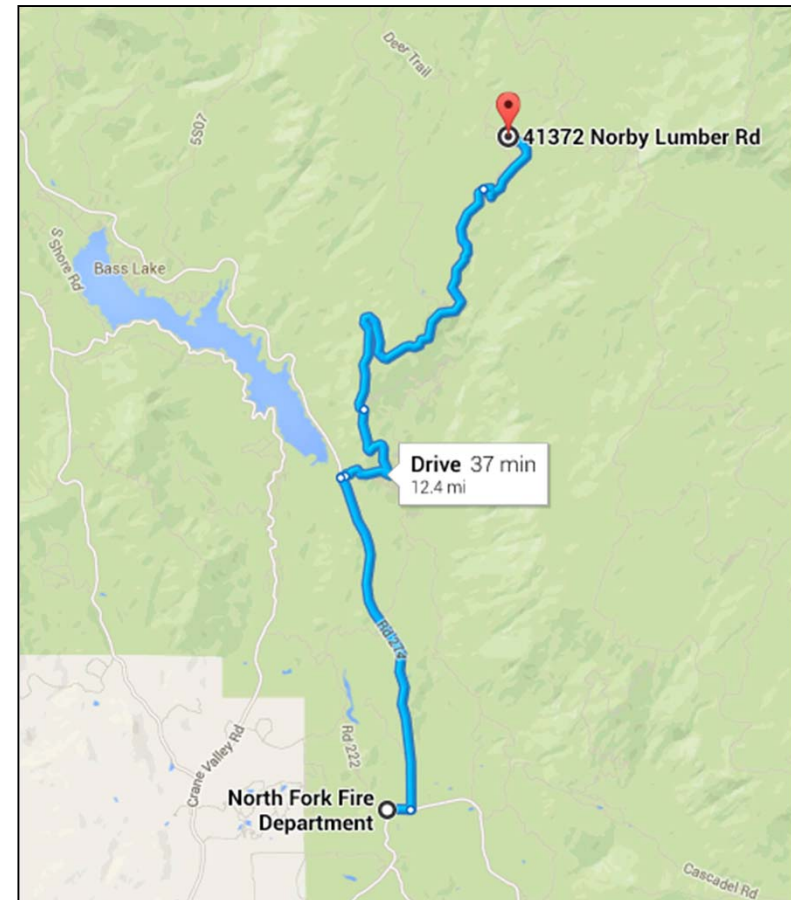




The Case for Safety

- No wired phone service
- Cell service is poor or non-existent
- Fire-prone area
 - Last wildfire on record near project area was escaped camp fire on Beasore Road on Sept. 2
 - On Sept. 22, nine separate, simultaneous fire incidents in Sierra Nation Forest*
- Closest full-service fire station is 37 minutes away from Central Camp, 5-10 more minutes to Beasore area
- Microwave relay to Beasore would provide low-vulnerability infrastructure

* WildlandFire.com





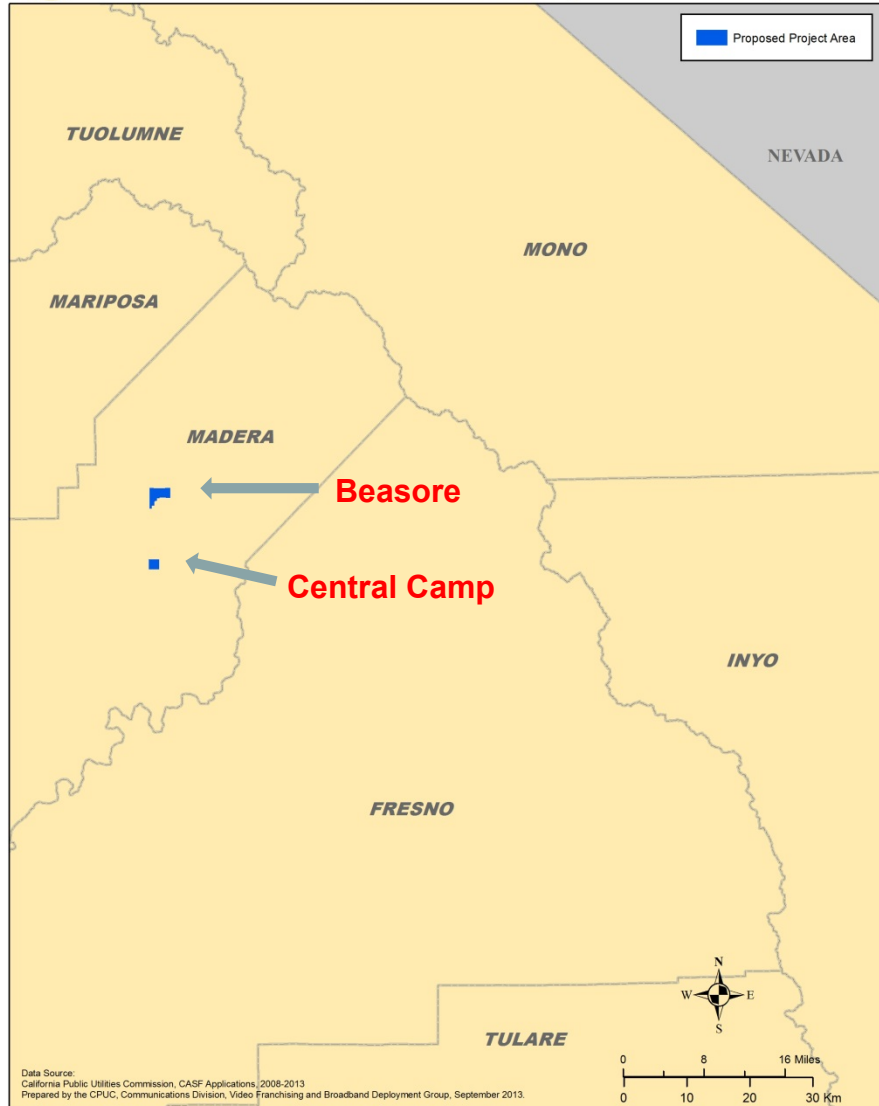
Cost Allocation by Area

Description	Cost
Beasore	\$2,335,166
Central Camp	\$421,040
Shared Costs (design, engineering, inspection, testing, etc.)	\$91,100
Total Project Costs	\$2,847,306
CASF Funds Requested (61.6%)	\$1,755,042
Ponderosa Internally Funded Match (38.4%)	\$1,092,264





CASF UNDERSERVED APPLICATION - FEBRUARY 1, 2013
Ponderosa Telephone Company - Beasore Project



Geography

- Eastern Madera County
- Sierra Nevada Foothills
- 3.49 square miles in aggregate
- Altitudes: Beasore, 6,800 feet; Central Camp 5,400 feet
- Weighted median income: \$44,757 per household
- Per 2010 Census:
 - Beasore 32 households, 84 housing units, 75 population
 - Central Camp 0 households, 75 housing units, 0 population
 - USFS and Ponderosa disagree, saying there are residents in Central Camp year round.





Central Camp (project area outlined)





2010 Census vs. Today

- 2010 Census: 0 population, 0 households (75 housing units). Data almost four years old.
- Ponderosa: 20 recent inquiries into getting service
- United States Forrest Service, Assistant Lands Officer, Henry Herrera (Dec. 3, 2013 interview):
 - 100 to 300 cabins in area
 - “People live in Central Camp year round. It depends on their capabilities.”
 - Only spotty cell service at top of hills
 - “People need to be able to call 9-1-1.”

