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PRESS RELEASE

Docket #: T- 17268

**CPUC APPROVES BROADBAND GRANT
FOR SISKIYOU COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8, 2010 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved a matching grant of \$1.7 million from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to the Siskiyou County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) Middle Mile Project to bring high-speed Internet access to underserved areas of the northernmost part of the state.

The CPUC's CASF matching grant, which is 10 percent of the total cost of \$16,970,290, is contingent upon approval of an 80 percent matching grant from the \$7.2 billion broadband stimulus portion of the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Siskiyou County is a rural, heavily forested area of spectacular natural beauty and scenic communities, the majority of which have only dial-up internet access or very slow Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) access. SCEDC plans to deliver broadband internet access to 18,573 underserved households at speeds of up to 10 megabits per second (mbps) download and 1 mbps upload. SCEDC's Middle Mile Project will modify existing fiber-optic network infrastructure and build high-capacity microwave systems to expand reach and increase speeds. The communities of Azelia, Deetz, Edgewood, Gazelle, Grenada, Lake Shastina, South Yreka, Weed, and Wizner will benefit from this project.

The CPUC originally established the \$100 million CASF in December 2007 to provide 40 percent matching infrastructure grants to broadband providers willing to put up the matching 60 percent of funds and to serve the nearly 2,000 California communities that are currently unserved and underserved by broadband. In July 2009, the CPUC revised the funding guidelines to 10 percent

matching CASF grants provided the applicant is seeking Recovery Act funding for 80 percent of its project cost.

To date, of the \$100 million CASF, \$54.5 million in broadband infrastructure grants have so far been approved. Today's conditional approval brings the total to \$56.2 million.

Applications for CASF grants are still being accepted by the CPUC. CPUC Resolution T-17143 authorized the Communications Division to establish new filing periods in the event that CASF funds remain. Prospective applicants may submit new CASF funding applications, either for a 40 percent CASF grant or for a 10 percent matching grant to complement the applicant's second round Recovery Act funding application. However, new CASF funding applications submitted on April 1, 2010, will be given primary consideration for funding.

For information on the Governor's Broadband Taskforce, please visit www.calink.ca.gov/taskforce/aboutus.asp.

For more information on communications issues, please visit www.CalPhoneInfo.com.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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