

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Communications Division  
Broadband, Video and Market Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17675  
December 5, 2019**

**RESOLUTION**

**Resolution T-17675:** Approval of funding for the grant application of Plumas Sierra Telecommunications (U-7218-C), from the California Advanced Services Fund up to the amount of \$1,118,873 for the Lake Davis Project located in Plumas County.

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**SUMMARY**

This Resolution approves \$1,118,873 in funding from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for the grant application of Plumas Sierra Telecommunications (PST) to construct the Lake Davis Project. PST proposes to deploy a middle-mile fiber network and a wired and wireless technology last-mile network to provide Internet service in the Lake Davis area located in Plumas County. The proposed project will enable broadband access at speeds of at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1 Mbps upload to 125 CASF-eligible households. The proposed project area is currently unserved with no facilities-based wireline or fixed wireless broadband service provider. The proposed project will provide ancillary benefits, including improved connectivity in a region located in a Tier 2 fire-threat zone of the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Fire Map.

**BACKGROUND**

The CASF Infrastructure Grant Account (CASF Infrastructure) assists Internet service providers to build or upgrade broadband infrastructure in areas that are unserved by existing broadband providers. The CASF program was initiated in 2008, after the program was first adopted by the Commission in Decision (D.)07-12-054 and enacted into statute by Senate Bill 1193.

On October 15, 2017, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1665 (Garcia)<sup>1</sup> into law. That legislation amended the statute governing the CASF program, Public Utilities

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<sup>1</sup> AB 1665 is codified at Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 281.

Code, § 281. The Commission implemented AB 1665 by issuing D.18-12-018, adopting programmatic changes to the CASF. Appendix 1 of D.18-12-018 set forth the rules, application requirements and guidelines for the CASF Infrastructure.<sup>2</sup>

**On May 1, 2019, PST submitted a CASF Infrastructure application, requesting 100 percent funding of \$1,118,873 to deploy middle-mile fiber and last-mile fixed wireless and wireline broadband access to 185 unserved households in the community of Lake Davis in Plumas County. PST's CASF grant funding request would cover the complete project deployment costs of the Lake Davis Project.**

PST is a wholly owned subsidiary of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC). Founded in 1937, PSREC is a member-owned electric distribution utility providing electrical power and related services to over 7,500 member/owners in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties in California, and portions of Washoe County in Nevada. In 1987, PSREC management and board of directors formed its PST subsidiary to offer affordable telecommunication and internet services in PSREC's electrical service areas where communications were not previously available. PST headquarters are in Portola, CA, with a second office in Susanville (Lassen County).

PST is an experienced wireless internet service provider that operates wireless networks in Plumas and Eastern Sierra counties. Since the mid-1990s, PST has offered satellite television, dial-up Internet access, satellite high-speed broadband, Wi-Fi Internet access, and wireless cellular telephone services in several areas within its service territory. In 2010, PST accepted CASF and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants to build a 198 middle-mile fiber optic network along Highway 395 from Reno, Nevada to Susanville and Quincy. The PST fiber network was completed in 2013 and provides access to wholesale broadband for large anchor institutions and internet service providers, as well as broadband services to local businesses and communities. Since the completion of the PST fiber network, PST has continued to expand broadband services in the area, acquiring an abandoned cable TV system to provide broadband services in Portola, Quincy, and Graeagle with speeds of up to 25 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload.

## **NOTICE**

On May 15, 2019, Staff posted the proposed project area map, census blocks, and zip

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission extended the CASF Infrastructure application deadline from April 1 to May 1, 2019, and all subsequent deadlines are moved back by one month. Assigned Commissioner's Ruling R.12-10-012, March 14, 2019.

codes for the Lake Davis Project on the “CASF Application Project Summaries” webpage<sup>3</sup> which may be found on the Commission’s CASF website and sent notice regarding the project to its CASF Distribution List.<sup>4</sup>

## **PROTEST/CHALLENGES**

On June 5, DigitalPath Inc. (DigitalPath) challenged the application stating the company is able to provide broadband availability at served speeds in the Lake Davis Project area.

Staff reviewed the information submitted by DigitalPath and determined DigitalPath did not provide sufficient information to indicate that it currently has subscribers in the proposed project area. Staff denied DigitalPath’s challenge to the Lake Davis Project.

## **DISCUSSION**

In compliance with D.18-12-018, Staff determined PST’s revised Lake Davis Project is eligible to receive \$1,118,873 in CASF Infrastructure grant funding.

Details of Staff analysis are explained in the following sections:

- I. Project Area Eligibility
- II. Minimum Performance Criteria
- III. Funding Determination
- IV. Safety and Community Support
- V. Compliance Requirements
- VI. Payments to CASF Recipients

Key project information and maps are shown in Appendix A and Appendix B.

### **I. Project Area Eligibility**

No provider filed a “right-of first refusal” for PST’s project area by January 15, 2019, nor does the proposed project area include census blocks identified by the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Connect America Fund Phase II program. Staff determined that PST’s Lake Davis Project, including middle-mile infrastructure, is eligible for a CASF Infrastructure grant.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=1040>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=8246>

**PST's Lake Davis Project proposes to provide last mile access to 185 unserved households.** PST requested \$1,118,873 in grant funding to serve 185 households in ten census blocks. PST provided parcel addresses as verification for the unserved households within the project census blocks. Based on the number of housing units reported in the 2010 U.S. Census data, Staff raised concerns about the overstatement of households in the project area. Staff inquired about the use of parcel addresses instead of the Census data and PST responded that the parcel address information provides a more accurate count for potential customer connections. Staff mapped the address data and found 125 households in the project area census blocks. Thus, Staff determined the household count for this project was 125 households.

**The Lake Davis Project is eligible for a CASF grant.** There are no existing facilities-based wireline or fixed wireless broadband service providers in the project area. According to the California Interactive Broadband Map (Broadband Map), the area only has access to dial-up.<sup>5</sup> AT&T Communications is the local Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier and does not offer broadband Internet service to households in Lake Davis.

**Middle-Mile infrastructure is eligible for a CASF Infrastructure grant.** PST proposes to place approximately 6.6 miles of middle-mile fiber optic cable, connecting Lake Davis to PST's core fiber network located in Portola, and 7.6 miles of last mile fiber optic cable for the fixed wireless facilities. PST proposes to extend its existing middle-mile infrastructure from Portola to deliver last-mile service to Lake Davis. PST is unable to deliver last-mile service absent building the additional middle mile fiber infrastructure. Therefore, Staff determined the middle-mile service is necessary to serve the proposed community and is eligible for CASF funding, pursuant to Public Utilities Code § 281 (f)(5)(B).

## II. Minimum Performance Criteria

Based on Staff's review, the Lake Davis Project meets the minimum performance criteria pursuant to D.18-12-018, Appendix 1, Section 6, as summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Minimum Performance Criteria**

	<b>CASF Performance Criteria</b>	<b>Lake Davis Project</b>
<b>Project Completion</b>	CEQA-exempt projects must be completed within 12 months, and all other projects shall be completed within 24 months after	12 months (CEQA exempt)

<sup>5</sup> Dial-up provides speed less than 200 Kbps downstream and 200 Kbps upstream.

	receiving authorization to construct	
<b>Pricing</b>	Prices committed for two years after completion of the project	2-years
<b>Speed</b>	At least 10/1 Mbps	100 / 20 Mbps
<b>Latency</b>	Maximum of 100 ms of latency	60 ms
<b>Data Caps</b>	Minimum of 190 GBs per month	No data cap
<b>Affordability</b>	Must offer low-income plan	Yes for 10 / 1 Mbps

**The Lake Davis project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),** pursuant to CEQA Guidelines found at C.C.R. § 15301 (Existing Facilities) and § 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures). PST has provided the Commission with its plan to use existing PSREC owned poles, public utility easements (PUE), and public rights of ways (ROW) for the installation of underground and aerial fiber cable.

The build will consist of 7.58 miles of aerial fiber installation on existing overhead electrical infrastructure and 6.63 miles of underground installation of fiber conduit. The aerial portion will follow existing powerline corridors in county ROWs and PUEs. New underground construction includes 14,200 feet of trenching which will be performed with a backhoe within existing PSREC PUEs. Following the installation of underground facilities and cabling, the site will be returned to its original condition.

**PST’s broadband service offering meets CASF minimum performance criteria.** PST proposes to deploy a combination of 2.4 GHz wireless broadcast systems and fiber facilities to provide last-mile broadband access to Lake Davis. A majority of the households will receive a fiber wireline last-mile connection into the 2.4 GHz wireless network and approximately 60 households will receive a wireless last-mile connection. According to PST, the wireless service offering may be restricted by topography and tree density between the customer and broadcast point.

PST has committed to broadband pricing plan for residential and low-income customers, as summarized in Table 2 and Table 3, for two years starting from the beginning date of service. Activation and installation fees will be waived for two years. PST’s equipment fee will be waived for the first two years and cost \$99 per year thereafter.

**Table 2: Broadband Pricing Plan**

<b>Download Speed</b>	<b>Upload Speed</b>	<b>Monthly Price</b>	<b>Technology</b>
10 Mbps	1 Mbps	\$55.00	Wireless

15 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$65.00	Wireless/Wireline
20 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$75.00	Wireless/Wireline
25 Mbps	10 Mbps	\$85.00	Wireline
50 Mbps	10 Mbps	\$95.00	Wireline
100 Mbps	20 Mbps	\$109.00	Wireline

**Table 3: Low-Income Broadband Pricing Plan**

Download Speed	Upload Speed	Monthly Price	Technology
10 Mbps	1 Mbps	\$15.00	Wireless
15 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$25.00	Wireless/Wireline
20 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$35.00	Wireless/Wireline

The proposed minimum speed offerings (10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload for wireless) meet CASF’s 10/1 minimum performance requirement. This project will be capable of providing Internet service with speeds of up to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload for wireline customers and speeds of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload for wireless customers. PST will not offer voice services as part of its broadband offering. The service is for broadband Internet access only.

**III. Funding Determination**

Table 4, below, is a comparison of PST’s funding request and Staff’s funding recommendation.

**Table 4: Summary of PST’s Funding**

	Middle-Mile Funding	Last-Mile Funding	Total
PST’s Funding Request	\$906,875	\$211,998	\$1,118,873
<b>Staff’s Funding Recommendation</b>	\$906,875	\$211,998	\$1,118,873

**PST is awarded 100 percent funding to cover the costs for its Lake Davis Project.** AB 1665 authorizes the Commission to award grants to fund all or a portion of a project and requires that it determine, on a case-by-case basis, the level of funding to be provided.<sup>6</sup> Staff considered the statutory factors to determine the grant funding level,

<sup>6</sup> Pub. Util. Code, §281(f)(13). See Bill Analysis prepared by California Assembly Committee on Conveyance, April 26, 2017, p.4. “Arguably since the creation of CASF, most areas that have been served by CASF funds are projects in which applicants feel that their cost, combined with CASF funds, warrant an investment in deploying broadband in such areas. However, this leaves most of the remaining unserved areas of state, mostly in rural and small communities, still without broadband connectivity due

pursuant to Public Utilities Code §§ 281(f)(13) and 281(b)(2)(B)(i), and CASF rules adopted in D.18-12-018.<sup>7</sup> Based on those factors, Staff determined that PST qualifies for 100 percent funding level and thereby awards a CASF Infrastructure grant of \$1,118,873 for the Lake Davis Project. Table 5 summarizes Staff’s funding level determination for the project.

**Table 5. Criteria for Project Funding Level for PST Lake Davis Project**

<b>Funding Criteria</b>	<b>Lake Davis Project</b>
Baseline for Eligible Project (60%)	60%
Service Level Preference: Only Dial-up or No Internet Connectivity (40%)—no fixed or mobile broadband	40%
Low Income – (up to 40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median Household Income for community is less than CARE standard for family of 4, which is currently \$50,200 (30%)</li> <li>• Applicant serves low-income customers for no more than \$15/month (10%)</li> </ul>	0%
Others: PU Code Sec 281 (f)(13) Criteria – (up to 20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaccessible Location (10%)</li> <li>• Uses Existing Infrastructure (10%)</li> <li>• Makes a Significant Contribution to the Program Goal (10%)</li> </ul>	10%
<b>Total Funding Level</b>	<b>100%</b>

Details of the appropriate funding level are described below.

**Baseline for an Eligible Project qualifies for 60 percent funding.** The CASF program is intended to finance capital costs of projects deploying broadband facilities in unserved areas of California. The identified community of Lake Davis meets all of the eligibility criteria, as previously described in the Project Area Eligibility section.

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to the lack of investment by providers who feel that the difficulties associated with deploying and maintaining such a network in the area for a limited amount of potential customers, even combined with CASF funds, would not result in a positive return on investment. Arguably, the remaining unserved households potentially are households in which even a 70% total cost CASF grant still does not provide enough incentive for a provider to build. Hence, CPUC should consider awarding grants that offer funding for 100% of total costs when warranted.”

<sup>7</sup> See D.18-12-018, pp. 19-22 and Table 1.

**Service Level Preference qualifies for an additional 40 percent funding.** Public Utilities Code § 281(b)(2)(B)(i) encourages the Commission to give preference to projects in areas with no Internet connectivity or where Internet connectivity is available only through dial-up service and that are not served by any form of wireline or wireless facility-based broadband service. According to the Broadband Map, the proposed project area is unserved by wireline or fixed wireless broadband service. While the Broadband Map shows the area has Internet access via mobile services, PST has provided CalSPEED tests to demonstrate otherwise (see Comments Section). Thus, this project receives the additional 40 percent funding.

**Low Income consideration qualifies for an additional 10 percent funding.** The median household income of the census block groups in the proposed project area is \$62,321, which does not meet the CASF low-income eligibility threshold. For those with income below 190 percent of the federal poverty level, PST will offer a \$15/month service plan and is therefore eligible for an additional 10 percent funding.

**Other Factor considerations qualify for an additional 20 percent funding.** The Lake Davis Project meets two of the three criteria and qualifies for an additional 20 percent funding.

The proposed project meets the inaccessible location criteria for an additional 10 percent funding. The project area is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains bordering Plumas National Forest at the southern end of Lake Davis. Staff considers the project area to be rugged and difficult terrain and relatively inaccessible to advanced broadband communications infrastructure. Additionally, the proposed project areas are in rural census blocks as defined by the U.S. Census. Details of geography and topography are shown in Appendix C.

The project makes a significant contribution to the CASF program goal and is eligible for an additional 10 percent funding. Specifically, 90.4 percent of the households in the Northeast California Connect Consortium, to which the community of Lake Davis belongs, has access to broadband at served speeds,<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See 2018 Annual Report on the California Advanced Services Fund, California Public Utilities Commission, Issued April 2019, page 4.



which is below the goal of deploying broadband Internet service at served speeds to 98 percent of households in the consortia region.

#### **IV. Safety and Community Support**

The CASF program encourages the deployment of broadband throughout the State to enable the public to access Internet-based safety applications, telehealth services, access to emergency services, and to allow first responders to communicate with each other and collaborate during emergencies.

**PST's Lake Davis Project will provide enhanced communications services that will promote public safety capabilities in an area located in a Tier 2 Fire-Threat District.**<sup>9</sup>

The proposed project area is located within a Tier 2 Fire-Threat District where reliable broadband Internet service will promote public safety and play an important role in response and recovery from future fires. The project will also provide services to new proposed cell sites which will offer improved communications in the area during emergency situations. East Sierra Valley Chamber of Commerce and Plumas County Public Health Agency filed letters of support for the project emphasizing the importance of broadband access in rural communities for safety and emergency services. Per East Sierra Valley Chamber of Commerce, PST has been providing critical telecommunications services to neighboring rural communities; however, not all have access to high-speed Internet. For these reasons, Staff finds the project will enhance public safety.

**The project is greatly supported by the community for its potential to remove barriers to economic and workforce development, health care, education and public safety.** As the only higher education provider in Plumas County, Feather River College supports the project based on the premise that access to high-speed Internet is integral for residents to access academic content essential for community and economic development. Feather River College believes broadband availability is related to economic growth by enabling local businesses access to regional markets and greater professional development and training opportunities. The City of Portola also supports the project and believes that high-speed internet is essential to the economy and that the Lake Davis Project specifically will help two fire stations provide better emergency medical services and give the City of Portola the capability to remotely monitor its own drinking water source.

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/firethreatmaps/>

Letters of Support were also received from U.S. House Representative Doug LaMalfa (District 1), California Assemblyman Brian Dahle (District 1), Plumas County Board of Supervisors, Plumas County Public Health Agency, Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council, East Sierra Valley Chamber of Commerce, Feather River College, Grizzly Fire Station, and Sierra Nevada Journeys.

## **V. Compliance Requirements**

PST is required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of CASF funds as specified in D. 18-12-018 and its Appendix 1. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to, the items noted below.

### **A. Deployment Schedule**

The Commission expects PST to complete the project within 12 months from start date. If PST is unable to complete the proposed project within the 12-month timeframe requirement, it must notify the Director of the Communications Division as soon as PST becomes aware of this possibility. If such notice is not provided, the Commission may reduce payment for failure to satisfy this requirement of timely notifying the Director.

### **B. Execution and Performance**

Staff and PST shall determine a project start date after PST has obtained all approvals. The Commission may terminate the grant should Frontier or any contractor it retains fail to commence work by the designated date, upon five days written notice to PST. In the event that PST fails to complete the project in accordance with the terms of CPUC approval as set forth in this resolution, PST shall reimburse some or all of the CASF funds that it has received. PST must complete all construction covered by the grant on or before the grant's termination date.

### **C. Letter of Credit**

The Commission exempts Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) holders from providing a letter of credit, on the basis that the company submitted a performance bond to the Commission to maintain its CPCN and that the Commission has other means to enforce compliance. In its application, PST provided proof of CPCN registration and thus, is exempt from providing a letter of credit.

### **D. Project Audit**

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification, and discovery during project implementation/construction to ensure that CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission approval.

The PST invoices will be subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within three years of completion of the work.

E. Reporting

PST must submit quarterly progress reports on the status of the project irrespective of whether PST requests reimbursement or payment. Before full payment of the project, PST must submit a project completion report. Progress reports shall include the schedule for deployment, major construction milestones and costs submitted in the proposal; indicate the actual date of completion of each task/milestone as well as problems and issues encountered, and the actions taken to resolve these problems and issues during project implementation and construction; and identify future risks to the project.

PST shall also include test results on the download and upload speeds for each census block in the final completion report. PST must certify that each progress report is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

F. Submission of Form 477

The FCC currently requires broadband providers to submit semiannually Form 477, which includes speed data. While there is an imperfect match between the data that is reported in the Form 477 and data relevant to the CASF program, Form 477 data will be useful in documenting CASF deployment for the PST's new service. Pursuant to CASF guidelines, service providers in California must submit a copy of their Form 477 data directly to the CPUC, concurrent with their submission of the same data to the FCC, for a five-year period after completion of the project.<sup>10</sup>

G. Prevailing Wage

Section 1720 of the California Labor Code specifies that CASF-subsidized projects are subject to prevailing wage requirements. PST has committed to follow state prevailing wage requirements with regards to this project.

**VI. Payments to CASF Recipients**

The Commission may reimburse PST's expenses in accordance to Public Utilities Code § 281(f)(11). Details of reimbursable expenses are located in Appendix D.

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<sup>10</sup> See *Approval of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Application Requirements and Scoring Criteria for Awarding CASF Funds* (2008) Cal. P.U.C. Res. No. T-17143 at 4.

## **COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION**

In compliance with Public Utilities Code § 311(g), a notice was e-mailed on November 1, 2019 informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this resolution, and of the opportunity to make comments, at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/documents/>.

Comments were submitted by PST on November 21, 2019. No reply comments were received.

In its comments, PST requests that the Commission increase the award amount for the Service Level Preference to include the additional 40 percent funding for areas with dial-up only or no internet connectivity. PST submitted CalSPEED tests for the Lake Davis project area that showed no mobile broadband service within the project area. In addition, PST asserts that mobile signals in the rural forested portion of the project area degrades, especially in the fall and winter seasons. The CalSPEED tests were performed on November 20, 2019 and demonstrated a lack of mobile broadband coverage by the four major carrier networks (AT&T Mobile, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile).

In addition, PST also requests the additional 10 percent funding for the Low-Income funding criteria. PST has changed its low-income program offering to provide a \$15/month service plan for low-income residential customers.

Staff agrees with PST and finds that the CalSPEED tests are sufficient to demonstrate that there is no mobile broadband service in part of the Lake Davis project area. Therefore, Staff recommends awarding PST the additional 40 percent funding for the Service Level Preference. This resolution has been revised to reflect the additional 40 percent funding.

Further, given PST's new low-income program offering of \$15/month for 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload, Staff recommends awarding PST the additional 10 percent funding for the Low-Income Consideration funding criteria. This resolution has been revised to reflect the additional 10 percent funding.

## **FINDINGS**

1. PST filed an application for CASF funding for its Lake Davis Project on May 1, 2019. The proposed project would deploy middle-mile fiber and wired and wireless last-mile facilities that provide high-speed internet service with speeds of up to 100 mbps download and 20 mbps upload to 125 CASF-eligible households in the unserved community of Lake Davis in Plumas County.
2. On May 15, 2019, Staff posted a summary of the proposed project, including a listing of the census blocks and zip codes covered, and the proposed project area map. The project summary was posted on the "CASF Applications Project Summaries" webpage, which may be found on the Commission's website.
3. Staff received one challenge to this project from DigitalPath, Inc. Based on its review of information submitted, Staff denied DigitalPath's challenge.
4. Based on its review, Staff determined that the project qualifies for funding pursuant to CASF guidelines and requirements found in D.18-12-018 and its Appendix 1 and recommends Commission approval of CASF funding for PST's Lake Davis Project.
5. The Commission has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA review, pursuant to 14 C.C.R. §15301 regarding exemption for existing facilities and 14 C.C.R. §15303 regarding new construction or conversion of small structures.
6. A notice was e-mailed on November 1, 2019, informing all applicants filing for CASF funding and parties on the CASF distribution list of the availability of the draft of this Resolution and of the opportunity to make comments, at the Commission's website <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/documents/>. PST submitted comments; no reply comments were received.

### **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. The Commission shall award \$1,118,873 to PST for the Lake Davis Project as described herein and summarized in Appendix A of this Resolution, which shall be paid out of the CASF Infrastructure Grant Account in accordance with the guidelines adopted in D. 18-12-018 and its Appendix 1, and with the process defined in Appendix D "Payments to CASF Recipients" of this Resolution.

2. PST shall comply with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with a CASF award, as specified in D.18-12-018 and its Appendix 1, and all requirements for this project included in this resolution, and must submit FCC Form 477 to the Commission, as specified in Resolution T-17143.
3. If PST fails to complete the project in accordance with the CASF guidelines and requirements outlined in D.18-12-018 and its Appendix 1, and the terms in this Resolution, PST must reimburse some or all of the CASF funds that it has received.
4. PST must complete and execute the consent form (to be sent to the Grantee after this Resolution is adopted) agreeing to the conditions set forth in this Resolution and return it the CASF Staff within 30 calendar days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution. Failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the adoption date of this Resolution may result in the Commission voiding the grant award.

This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on December 5, 2019. The following Commissioners approved it:

/s/ ALICE STEBBINS

Alice Stebbins  
Executive Director

MARYBEL BATJER  
President  
LIANE M. RANDOLPH  
MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES  
CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN  
GENEVIEVE SHIROMA  
Commissioners

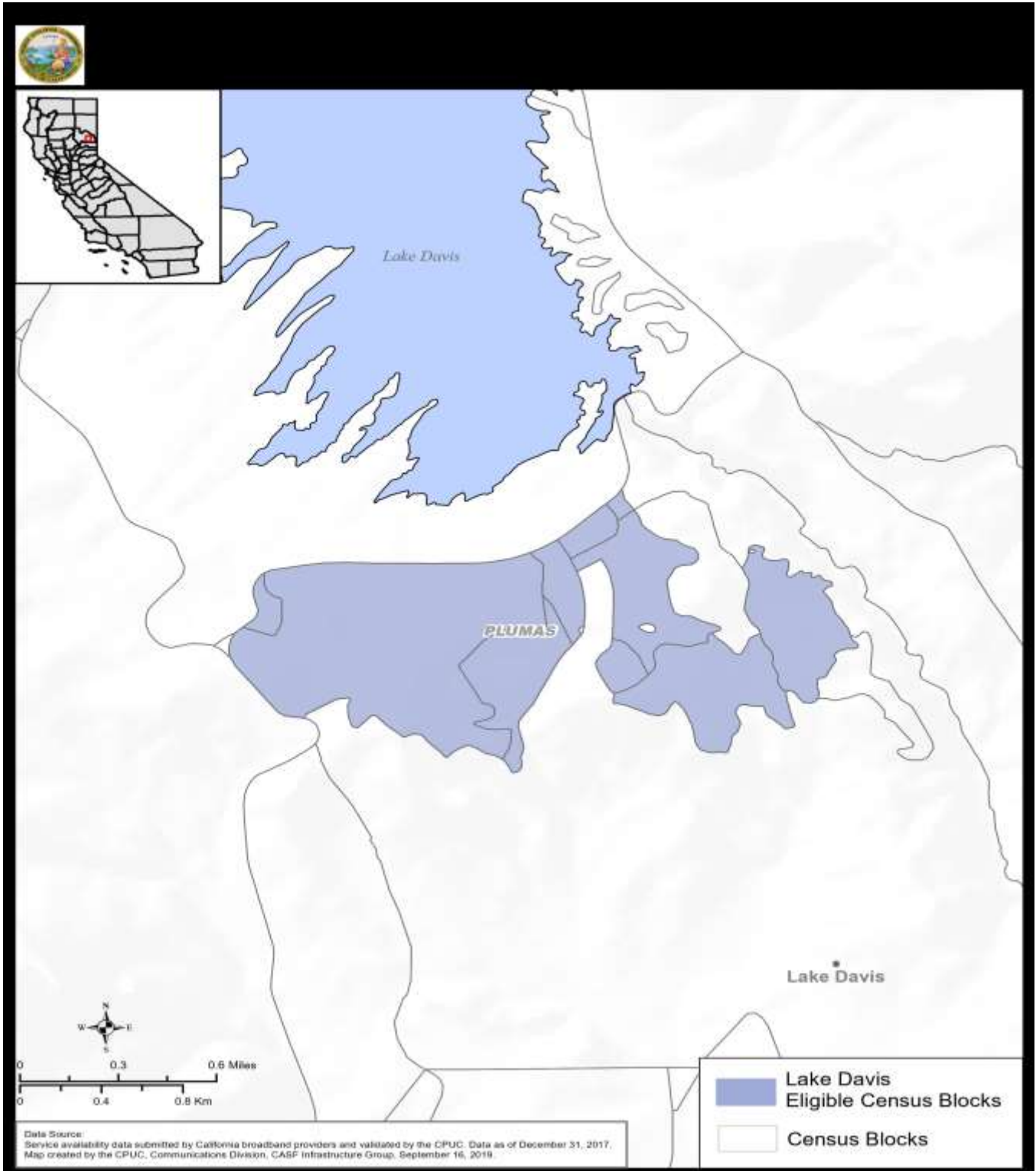
**APPENDIX A**  
**Resolution T-17675**  
**Plumas Sierra Telecommunications, Lake Davis Project**  
**CASF Applicant Key Information**

<i>Project Name</i>	<b>PST Lake Davis Project</b>
<i>Project Plan</i>	The project proposes to deploy a middle-mile fiber network and a wired and wireless technology last-mile network to provide Internet service in the Lake Davis area located in Plumas County. The proposed project will enable broadband access at speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to 125 CASF-eligible households. The proposed project area is currently unserved with no facilities-based wireline or fixed wireless broadband service provider.
<i>Project Size (in square miles)</i>	0.92
<i>Download/Upload speed</i>	100 Mbps / 20 Mbps
<i>Location</i>	Plumas County
<i>Community Names</i>	Lake Davis
<i>Census Blocks</i>	060630003004447 060630003004448 060630003004449 060630003004451 060630003004452 060630003004459 060630003004461 060630003004466 060630003004467 060630003004542
<i>Median Household Income (by Census Block Group)</i>	\$ 62,321
<i>Estimated potential subscriber size</i>	125 households
<i>Applicant expectations</i>	38 households (30-percent take rate)
<i>Pricing Plan (Monthly)</i>	10/1 - \$55; 15/5 - \$65; 20/5 - \$75; 25/10 - \$85; 50/10 - \$95; 100/20 - \$109 (no installation fee)
<i>Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)</i>	6 months
<i>Proposed Project Budget (Total)</i>	\$ 1,118,873 Middle Mile budget: \$906,875 Last Mile budget: \$211,998
<i>Grant Requested Amount (100 percent)</i>	\$ 1,118,873
<i>CASF Grant Amount (100 percent)</i>	\$ 1,118,873 Middle Mile: \$906,875 Last Mile: \$211,998
<i>Recommended Grant per household passed</i>	\$ 8,951 \$1,696 (last-mile cost only)



## Appendix B

### Resolution T-17675 Plumas Sierra Telecommunications Lake Davis Project Project Location Map



## APPENDIX C

### **Resolution T-17675: Plumas Sierra Telecommunications Lake Davis Project Geography and Topography:**

*Geography and Topography:* Lake Davis is a census designated place in Plumas County, California. It is located about 7 miles north of Portola, Ca. The total area of Lake Davis is 5.4 square miles, 99.92% of it land and 0.08% water. Lake Davis is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains bordering Plumas National Forest. The area around Lake Davis is topographically challenging, surrounded with mountainous terrain and dense forests. The combination of fiber and wireless broadcast points allow PST the greatest opportunity to reach the households in the Lake Davis community.

## APPENDIX D

### **Resolution T-17675: Plumas Sierra Telecommunications Lake Davis Project Payments to CASF Recipients**

Pub. Util. Code § 281(f)(11) define the costs the Commission may reimburse as follows:

- Costs directly related to the deployment of infrastructure;
- Costs to lease access to property or for Internet backhaul services for a period not to exceed five years; and
- Costs incurred by an existing facility-based broadband provider to upgrade its existing facilities to provide for interconnection.

Additionally, D.18-12-018 (Appendix 1, Section 7) caps administrative expenses directly related to the project at 15 percent of the grant amount.<sup>11</sup>

The grantee may submit reimbursement requests at the following intervals:

- 10 percent completion;
- 35 percent completion;
- 60 percent completion;
- 85 percent completion; and
- 100 percent completion.

The final 15 percent payment request (from 85 to 100 percent) will not be paid without an approved completion report. Payments are based on submitted receipts, invoices and other supporting documentation showing expenditures incurred for the project in accordance with the approved CASF funding budget included in the CASF grantee's application.

Payment to grantees shall follow the process adopted for funds created under P.U. Code § 270. The Commission generally processes payments within 20-25 business days, including Communications Division and Administrative Services review time. The State Controller's Office (SCO) requires an additional 14-21 days to issue payment from the day that requests are received by SCO from Administrative Services.

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<sup>11</sup> Administrative costs are defined as "indirect overhead costs attributable to a project, per generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and the direct cost of complying with Commission administrative and regulatory requirements related to the grant itself." Applicants seeking additional funds will require a Commission exemption included in a draft resolution.