

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Regional Initiatives**

**RESOLUTION T-17793
June 29, 2023**

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T- 17793: Approves up to \$5,120,972 in Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Funding for nine non-Tribal Local Agency Technical Assistance applications, exhausting the \$45M in non-Tribal Local Agency Technical Assistance funds.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution approves up to \$5,120,972 in Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant funding for nine non-Tribal LATA applications, listed in Table 1 and described in Appendices B through J.

Table 1: Summary of Grant Funding to Nine non-Tribal LATA Applicants

Applicant	Project Name	Project Location	Unserved Households in County¹	Awarded Amount
City of Hollister	<i>City of Hollister's Broadband Fiber Network Design</i>	City of Hollister	3,077	\$500,000
City of Monrovia	<i>City of Monrovia's Digital Equity Project</i>	City of Monrovia	60,641	\$402,496
City of Lathrop	<i>Broadband Infrastructure Planning Project</i>	City of Lathrop	20,295	\$497,915
Contra Costa Transportation Authority	<i>Contra Costa Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan</i>	County of Contra Costa	17,111	\$500,000
City of Fremont	<i>Fiber Master Plan and Broadband Expansion</i>	City of Fremont	19,591	\$500,00

¹ Estimated based on California End of Year 2020 Residential Broadband Deployment using Federal Funding Account eligibility. Proposed projects will not serve all households in these counties. See, e.g., dashboard available at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/cpuc/viz/EOY2020BB4ALL-Deployment/ByHousehold>.

City of Coachella	<i>Broadband Master Plan</i>	City of Coachella	29,313	\$234,000
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)	<i>Last Mile Project Assessment for the SCAG Region</i>	Six counties in SCAG region ²	170,448	\$996,058
Ventura Council of Governments	<i>Ventura County Regional Broadband Collaborative Formation</i>	County of Ventura	8,612	\$490,860
County of Fresno	<i>Fresno County Broadband Engineering Project</i>	County of Fresno	35,849	\$999,643
Total Awards				\$5,120,972

II. BACKGROUND

As part of the Budget Act of 2021 and Senate Bill (SB) 156 (Stats. 2021, Chap. 84 and 112), the legislature provided, among other things, \$50 million to facilitate completion of the statewide broadband middle-mile network and last mile projects, the formation of municipal entities and agreements for financing broadband infrastructure and to fund projects, distribute grants, or fund support costs associated with these projects, among other allowable uses.

On February 25, 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Decision (D.) 22-02-026 and authorized a total of \$50 million in funds for the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program, including a \$5 million set-aside for sovereign tribal governments and the remaining \$45 million for all other eligible non-Tribal local agencies.³

In August 2022, the LATA program began accepting applications. By the end of November 2022, the Communication Division (CD) received 90 non-Tribal LATA applications requesting \$40,773,698 of the \$45 million in funding.⁴ Two applications have not yet been awarded from November 2022, the City of Hollister and the City of Monrovia. In December 2022, CD received 17 non-Tribal applications requesting

² Includes Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, and Ventura counties.

³ See D.22-02-026 Attachment 1, Section 3D for the Local Agency Technical Assistance program's definition of "sovereign tribal government".

⁴ Excluded from these figures is one application from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, which was withdrawn on January 27, 2023.

\$7,824,144 in funds, exceeding the \$45 million in available funding. On December 21, 2022, CD updated its webpage noting that LATA applications received exceed the \$45 million available in non-Tribal funds, but applicants could continue to apply in the event additional funding was secured. By March 24, 2023, non-Tribal LATA requests totaled \$52,449,554 and additional LATA funding will not be provided.

On March 24, 2023, CD provided notice on the LATA webpage that the LATA program would no longer be accepting non-Tribal LATA applications due to the lack of funding but noted that CD would continue to review all applications received in December and provide an update to applicants.⁵ On March 29, 2023, this notice was subsequently sent to the parties of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001.

On May 2, 2023, CD informed applicants who submitted non-Tribal LATA applications between January 3, 2023, and March 24, 2023, that these applications could not be considered because the December application requests exceed the amount available in LATA funding.

In D.22-02-026, the Commission established rules under which technical assistance grants are available to eligible local agencies for reimbursable work products.⁶ The Commission also included guidelines for CD to consider submitted applications and to review and approve applications that meet criteria for Ministerial Review.⁷ These criteria include:

- A. Applicant requests a grant not exceeding \$500,000 per local agency per fiscal year.
- B. The Commission has not received a separate application for Local Agency Technical Assistance from an agency with a jurisdiction overlapping that of the subject application during the current application period or within the prior year unless such application(s) was denied.

⁵ This notice did not include tribal LATA funds, in which there are remaining funds of \$2.4 million as of April 27, 2023.

⁶ Pub. Util. Code section 281, subdivision (b)(5)(A) specifies activities including but not limited to "[p]roviding technical assistance to local governments and providers" to facilitate deployment of high-quality advanced communications services to all Californians.

⁷ D.22-02-026, Attachment 1, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7.

(<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M454/K876/454876393.PDF>)

- C. The application meets all the other requirements of a Local Agency Technical Assistance grant included in Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of these Rules.⁸

The Guidelines state “: “[a]pplications that satisfy general Application Requirements (Section 6) but do not meet the Ministerial Review funding criteria may only be approved by the Commission via resolution.”⁹

III. ALLOCATE REMAINING LATA FUNDING BASED ON DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED

To date, the Commission has awarded \$39,871,198 of the \$45 million to 88 of the 90 total non-Tribal LATA applicants, leaving \$5,128,802 in non-Tribal LATA funds available. This Resolution recommends approval of two remaining November 2022 LATA applications from the City of Hollister and City of Monrovia requesting \$902,496 in funding, and if approved, leaves \$4,226,306 in non-Tribal LATA funds available, see Table 2. This Resolution also addresses 17 non-Tribal LATA applications received in December 2022, requesting \$7,824,144 in funds, which exceeds the \$4,226,306 remaining LATA funds.

Per D.22-02-026, CD considers applications submitted on a monthly basis, until funds are exhausted, and reviews and approves applications through a transparent set of objective criteria, to the extent feasible.¹⁰

CD notes that it has flexibility in evaluating whether and how to recommend applications for approval via resolution.¹¹ Consistent with D.22-02-026, CD recommends that the 17 December applications, for which there is not sufficient non-Tribal LATA funding remaining, be approved in chronological order, based on the date and time the LATA application was received, until non-tribal funds are exhausted as discussed below.¹²

As depicted in Table 2, CD recommends the Commission award the first seven December 2022 non-Tribal LATA applications received leaving \$7,830 in the LATA program for non-Tribal applications. The first seven applications are: the City of Lathrop’s application, received on December 1, 2022; Contra Costa Transportation

⁸ D.22-02-026, Attachment 1, pp. 7- 8.

⁹ Id at pp. 7-9.

¹⁰ D.22-02-026, p. 16 and Attachment 1, p. 7.

¹¹ D.22-02-026, p. 11.

¹² “Staff will consider applications submitted on a monthly basis, *ending on the last day of each calendar month*, until the funding is exhausted.” (emphasis added) D. 22-02-026, Attachment 1, p. 7

Authority's application, received on December 8, 2022; the City of Fremont's application, received on December 9, 2022; the City of Coachella's application, received on December 12, 2022; the Southern California Association of Governments' application, received on December 12, 2022; the Ventura Council of Government's application, received on December 14, 2002; and the County of Fresno's application received on December 15, 2022.

CD further recommends that based on the lack of available funding, the Commission deny the remaining ten December 2022 applications: the City of Vallejo's application, received on December 19, 2022; the County of Sacramento's application, received December 20, 2022; the City of Brawley's application, received on December 29, 2022; the City of Coalinga's application, received on December 29, 2022; the Shandon Joint Unified School District's application, received on December 29, 2022; the City of Pittsburg's application, received on December 30, 2022; the City of Port Hueneme's application, received on December 30, 2022; the County of Placer's application, received on December 30, 2022; the City of Needles' application, received on December 31, 2022; and the City of Parlier's application, received on December 31, 2022.

Finally, as above, CD recommends denying the ten applications received in January through March of this year for lack of funds.

Table 2: Nine of the 29 non-Tribal LATA Applicants to be Awarded.

Date Application Received	Applicant Name	Amount Requested	\$5,128,802¹³ Available LATA Funds
11/30/2022	City of Hollister	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,628,802
11/30/2022	City of Monrovia	\$ 402,496	\$ 4,226,306
12/1/2022	City of Lathrop	\$ 497,915	\$ 3,728,391
12/8/2022	Contra Costa Transportation Authority	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,228,391
12/9/2022	City of Fremont	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,728,391
12/12/2022	City of Coachella	\$ 234,000	\$ 2,494,391
12/12/2022	Southern California Association of Governments	\$ 996,058	\$ 1,498,333
12/14/2022	Ventura Council of Governments	\$ 490,860	\$ 1,007,473
12/15/2022	County of Fresno	\$ 999,643	\$ 7,830
	Total Awarded	\$5,120,972	

¹³ As of April 27, 2023, there is \$5,128,802 in unawarded non-Tribal LATA funds. The values in this column are the cumulative requests against the remaining moneys by date application received.

12/19/2022	City of Vallejo	\$ 500,000	-
12/20/2022	County of Sacramento	\$ 498,176	-
12/29/2022	City of Brawley	\$ 200,010	-
12/29/2022	City of Coalinga	\$ 500,000	-
12/29/2022	Shandon Joint Unified School District	\$ 500,000	-
12/30/2022	City of Pittsburg	\$ 200,010	-
12/30/2022	City of Port Hueneme	\$ 257,268	-
12/30/2022	County of Placer	\$ 338,684	-
12/31/2022	City of Needles	\$ 112,051	-
12/31/2022	City of Parlier	\$ 499,470	-
1/13/2023	City of Hayward	\$ 250,000	-
1/17/2023	City of Gridley	\$ 500,000	-
1/20/2023	San Diego Association of Governments	\$ 621,137	-
1/24/2023	City of Ontario	\$ 150,563	-
2/10/2023	County of Contra Costa	\$ 500,000	-
2/27/2023	City of Menifee	\$ 88,200	-
2/28/2023	City of Sausalito	\$ 499,470	-
3/9/2023	City of San Joaquin	\$ 243,402	-
3/23/2023	City of Santa Maria	\$ 499,470	-
3/24/2023	City of Huron	\$ 499,470	-
	Unfulfilled Requests	\$ 7,457,380	

Details on the applications recommended for approval are provided below.

IV. NON-TRIBAL LATA APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

i. City of Hollister

The City of Hollister submitted its application on November 30, 2022. The City of Hollister's proposed technical assistance grant for \$500,000 will fund the City of Hollister's Broadband Fiber Network Design study to provide fiber optic and wireless connectivity for unserved and/or underserved households, residents, and businesses within the City of Hollister and surrounding unincorporated areas. The goal of this design will be to provide reliable internet access with upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to all residents and businesses, including those living in low income, disadvantaged and socio economically vulnerable areas. Additionally, the plan will examine how the city may leverage investments by the state through connecting to Middle Mile and positioning the city to apply for Last Mile funding.

Discussion and Recommendation.

The applicant meets all the requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

ii. City of Monrovia

The City of Monrovia (Monrovia) submitted its application on November 30, 2022. Monrovia's proposed technical assistance grant of \$402,496 will fund multiple work products, as well as 13% of Monrovia's administrative costs, in the development of a Broadband Strategic Plan for Monrovia.¹⁴ This plan will allow for a shovel-ready project that will bring high-speed broadband to underserved residents and businesses all throughout under-resourced communities that are located within or are directly adjacent to Monrovia.

There is a small overlap with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) LATA grant that was awarded on November 23, 2022. Per D.22-02-026, the Commission may approve applications for technical assistance from local agencies operating in the same geographic jurisdiction and applicants must also include a letter of support detailing the efforts made towards collaboration of efforts.

SGVCOG's project focuses on a broadband strategy that will encompass the regional needs and opportunities for the 31 cities and unincorporated areas within the San Gabriel Valley, while Monrovia's project focuses specifically on providing broadband service to the unserved and underserved in the City of Monrovia. The letter of support provided with the application supports that Monrovia is working closely with its regional partners, including SGVCOG, to coordinate regional broadband needs and ensure that overlap does not occur.¹⁵

Discussion and Recommendation.

Although there is geographical overlap, CD determined that SGVCOG's project scope will not overlap with the City of Monrovia. Monrovia's support letter confirms they would not provide duplicative services with SGVCOG. The City of Monrovia meets all other the requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

iii. City of Lathrop

The City of Lathrop submitted its application on December 1, 2022. The proposed technical assistance grant of \$497,915 will allow the city to conduct a broadband

¹⁴ See Appendix C for a list of all proposed work products and related costs.

¹⁵ Letter from Dylan Feik, City Manager of Monrovia, Dated January 20, 2023.

masterplan, which will lead to design engineering. This will allow the city to determine the best method of deploying fiber optic cable capable of delivering up to 1 Gigabyte speeds to underserved areas in the city.

Discussion and Recommendation.

The applicant meets all the requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

iv. Contra Costa Transportation Authority

Contra Costa Transportation Authority submitted its application on December 8, 2022. The proposed technical assistance grant of \$500,000 will fund an expansion of the Countywide Fiber Optic Communications Network Development Plan to create a Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan that accommodates high-speed internet access at a minimum of 100 Mbps for unserved and underserved households and businesses in Contra Costa County. The plan will include a conceptual high-level fiber network design with cost estimations, operations and maintenance plan, foundational planning to illustrate an implementation roadmap, draft policies for establishing public-private partnerships, paving the way for low-level design and engineering of constructible and shovel-ready projects.

Discussion and Recommendation.

This applicant meets all the requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

v. City of Fremont

The City of Fremont submitted its application on December 9, 2022, requesting \$500,000. The proposed technical assistance grant will fund development of a Broadband Strategic Plan for the City of Fremont. This plan will outline a strategy that will lay the course for broadband infrastructure projects designed to provide service to unserved and underserved households and businesses and that are designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds.

Discussion and Recommendation.

This applicant meets all the requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

vi. City of Coachella

The City of Coachella submitted its application on December 12, 2022. The City of Coachella's LATA grant in the amount of \$234,000 will fund a Broadband Master Plan to assist in the planning and evaluation for a broadband network that seeks to lower broadband costs and increase network value for all stakeholders in Coachella. Additionally, the report will be designed to assist City leaders in understanding the operational implications, important risk factors, and a realistic cost framework for developing and operating City owned fiber optic infrastructure.

There is a small overlap with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)'s LATA grant, which was awarded on March 16, 2023. Per D.22-02-026, the Commission may approve applications for technical assistance from local agencies operating in the same geographic jurisdiction and applicants must also include letters of support detailing the efforts made towards collaboration of efforts.¹⁶

CVAG plans to leverage the environmental and design work of an intelligent transportation system project to deliver last-mile projects in the Coachella Valley. In November 2021, the Coachella Valley was selected as one of the 18 initial middle-mile projects throughout the state of California. CVAG will engage the local jurisdictions and stakeholders to identify the Coachella Valley's vision for a broadband initiative, anticipated benefits, challenges and opportunities, and the strategy and action plan to carry out the vision. This Broadband Master Plan will ultimately lead to shovel ready last mile projects that can reliably provide symmetrical 100 Mbps speeds to residents, public institutions, and businesses throughout the Coachella Valley.

In contrast, the City of Coachella will focus on addressing more localized broadband issues within its jurisdictional boundaries. To optimize available resources, the City of Coachella will partner and coordinate with CVAG to ensure there is no overlap between the work each agency is doing as it relates to broadband. This includes ensuring no duplication of work funded by LATA funds, if awarded to both agencies.

Discussion and Recommendation.

Although there is geographical overlap, CD determined that CVAG's project scope will not overlap with the City of Coachella. Coachella and CVAG have also provided support letters confirming they would not provide duplicative services.¹⁷ The City of

¹⁶ Letter from Dr. Gabriel Martin, City Manager of Coachella, Dated January 10, 2023, and Letter from Tom Kirk, Executive Director of CVAG, dated January 27, 2023.

¹⁷ Letter from Dr. Gabriel Martin, City Manager of Coachella, Dated January 10, 2023, and Letter from Tom Kirk, Executive Director of CVAG, dated January 27, 2023.

Coachella meets all other ministerial requirements and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

vii. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

SCAG submitted its application on December 12, 2022, requesting \$996,058 in technical assistance funds for the Last Mile Project Assessment for the SCAG Region. The SCAG region encompasses six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura) and 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles. SCAG will use the LATA grant to provide critical broadband planning and implementation efforts for the region, develop a methodology to conduct regional analysis, identify and prepare for three-shovel ready last mile projects and develop preliminary specifications for each project.

SCAG is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which are not eligible to apply under current LATA rules. SCAG is also a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which is permitted,¹⁸ and since SCAG applied as a JPA, CD determined that SCAG is an eligible applicant.

SCAG is aware that many of its local jurisdictions have applied and been awarded LATA grants. SCAG will work to ensure that its scope of work will neither supersede these local jurisdictions nor result in an unnecessary or redundant network. SCAG will only engage with local jurisdictions that need last mile services but are not able to apply or to procure a consultant to take on the project management. SCAG states that 28 applicants within its region have been awarded a grant. However, there are 191 cities and 6 counties within SCAG's jurisdiction. Many of the grants awarded will fund strategic plans and/or assessments of broadband needs, where SCAG's proposal will focus on last-mile implementation. Therefore, the work would be complimentary rather than redundant to these awarded local jurisdictions.

Moreover, SCAG will use its Regional Council, Policy Committees and Technical Working groups to coordinate and communicate with all 191 local jurisdictions and 6 counties. This will ensure that the three priority area projects and awarded member jurisdictions projects will be complimentary rather than redundant.

Discussion and Recommendation

Although there is geographical overlap between SCAG and several other applicants in their jurisdiction, CD determined SCAG's project scope will not overlap with these

¹⁸ D.22-02-026, Attachment 1.

other applicants as SCAG provided a letter of support stating that there isn't any overlap or duplicative work being performed with any of the applicants¹⁹. Moreover, SCAG requests \$996,058 in grant funding which exceeds the \$500,000 threshold for ministerial review approval and requires Commission approval via resolution. The applicant meets all other requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

viii. Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG)

VCOG submitted its application on December 14, 2022, and is requesting \$ 490,860 in technical assistance funds. VCOG is creating a broadband strategy plan project that will allow it to create a broadband joint point authority (JPA) among VCOG members to address the regional broadband needs of the county.

This project will be completed within 12 months and is broken down into three work products: 1) JPA formation, 6 months from start date, 2) Regional Strategy, over course of entire project, and 3) Last-Mile Collaboration, over course of entire project.

VCOG is aware that several of its members have applied separately for LATA grants to perform engineering work and develop local broadband plans. Although there is geographical overlap, VCOG's application is complementary and not duplicative to these applications. The four local jurisdictions that have applied for LATA grants are the cities of Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Ventura and Ventura County. The grants from the local jurisdictions will be used to design their network to work with the Joint Power Authority that will be formed through this grant. This will create a regional broadband strategy. No funds from this grant will overlap with work being done elsewhere in the county. VCOG has the full support of the three cities and the county who agree there is no overlap of work.

Discussion and Recommendation.

There is geographical overlap between VCOG and several other applicants in their jurisdiction. CD determined that VOG's project scope will not overlap with these other applicants as VCOG has provided a letter of support stating that there is no overlap or duplicative work being performed with any of the applicants.²⁰ The application meets all other requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

¹⁹ On February 9, 2023, SCAG provided a letter clarifying its efforts to coordinate with local jurisdictions to avoid duplicative project efforts under the LATA grant program.

²⁰ On May 5, 2023, VCOG provided a letter clarifying its efforts to coordinate with local jurisdictions to avoid duplicative project efforts under the LATA grant program.

ix. County of Fresno

The County of Fresno submitted its application on December 15, 2022, and is requesting \$999,643 in LATA funds for the Fresno County Broadband Engineering Project. The project will develop design engineering plans to connect critical assets, infrastructure, and cities and unincorporated areas to the middle mile network through fiber. The County of Fresno is one of the largest and most populated counties in California and is also one of the most rural with unserved/underserved areas. 16.8% of residents in the County are without internet access while many of the county's rural areas have even higher rates. For instance, in Parlier, 41 % of households are without internet access and almost 20% of households do not have a computer, smartphone or tablet. In the Squaw Valley, speed tests are 8.59/1.88, far below 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds.²¹ County of Fresno is requesting a larger amount due to the expansive area and the great need.

Discussion and recommendation.

The County of Fresno's application meets all requirements for ministerial approval except that its request of \$999,643 exceeds the \$500,000 threshold. The application meets all other requirements for ministerial review and, therefore, is recommended for approval.

Since the approval of the 9 applications discussed herein will exhaust the remaining LATA funding, CD recommends that the Commission deny the remaining 10 December 2022 applications: the City of Vallejo's application received on December 19, 2022, the County of Sacramento's application received December 20, 2022, the City of Brawley's application received December received December 29, 2022, the City of Coalinga's application received December 29, 2022, the Shandon Joint Unified School District's application received December 29, 2022, the City of Pittsburg's application received December 30, 2022, the City of Port Hueneme's application received December 30, 2022, the County of Placer's application received December 30, 2022, the City of Needles' application received on December 31, 2022, and the City of Parlier's application received on December 31, 2022.

Since the program cannot fund any additional LATA funding requests, CD further recommends that the Commission deny the 10 non-Tribal LATA applications received between January 3, 2023, and March 24, 2023: City of Hayward, City of Gridley, San Diego Association of Governments, City of Ontario, County of Contra Costa, City of Menifee, City of Sausalito, City of San Joaquin, City of Santa Maria, and the City of Huron.

²¹ Fresno County's LATA Project Proposal submitted December 15, 2023.

V. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grantees are required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant funding as specified in D.22-02-026 and this Resolution. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to those requirements listed in Appendix A.²²

VI. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no adverse safety considerations identified by CD. The projects which are planned to be implemented by the work products in these applications have the potential to improve communications resiliency and redundancy.

VII. COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code section 311, subdivision (g)(1) a Notice of Availability was e-mailed on 5/26/2023, informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>. This letter also served to inform parties that the final conformed Resolution the Commission adopts will be posted and available on this same website.

FINDINGS

1. The LATA program's funding is \$50 million, allocating \$5 million to sovereign tribal governments, and \$45 million to all other eligible local agencies.
2. By the end of November 2022, CD received 90 non-Tribal LATA applications requesting \$40,773,698 of the \$45 million in funding allocated.
3. The City of Hollister and City of Monrovia submitted applications in November 2022 totaling \$902,496. If approved, \$4,226,306 in non-Tribal LATA funds remains available for the 17 December 2022 applications.
4. In December 2022, CD received 17 applications requesting \$7,824,144 in funds, which exceeds the \$4,226,306 in remaining funds.
5. LATA applicants continued to submit applications for non-tribal LATA funding between January 1, 2023, and March 24, 2023.

²² See D.22-02-026, Appendix 1 for a full list of Local Agency Technical Assistance program requirements and guidelines.

6. On March 24, 2023, CD provided notice on its LATA webpage that it would no longer accept non-Tribal applications due to the lack of funding but noted that CD would continue to review all previously received applications.
7. Since the requests for non-Tribal LATA funding exceed the amount available, CD recommends that seven applications in December 2022 be approved in chronological order based on when they were received.
8. CD recommends approval of two applications from November 2022, the City of Hollister and the City of Monrovia.
9. The City of Hollister's LATA application meets all the requirements for ministerial review and is recommended for approval.
10. The City of Monrovia provided a letter of support stating that it would not provide duplicative services with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG). Since it meets all other ministerial requirements, it is recommended for approval.
11. The City of Lathrop meets all the requirements for ministerial review and is recommended for approval.
12. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority meets all the requirements for ministerial review and is recommended for approval.
13. The City of Fremont meets all the requirements for ministerial review and is recommended for approval.
14. The City of Coachella provided sufficient support to show it would not provide duplicative services with the Coachella Valley Association of Government (CVAG) and it meets all other ministerial requirements and is recommended for approval.
15. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has provided a letter of support stating there are no overlap or duplicative work with any other applicants. SCAG also meets all requirements for ministerial review except that its request of \$996,058 exceeds the \$500,000 threshold for ministerial approval and is recommended for approval.

16. The Ventura Council of Government has provided a letter of support that there is no overlap or duplicative work with any other applicants and meets all other ministerial requirements and is recommended for approval.
17. The County of Fresno meets all requirements for ministerial review except that its request of \$999,643 exceeds the \$500,000 threshold for ministerial approval and is recommended for approval.
18. Based on its review, CD determined most of the applications in findings eight through sixteen met general program eligibility for Local Agency Technical Assistance but requested Commission review and approval of the applications via resolution due to limited funding.
19. Given the lack of non-Tribal funding available to consider and approve all applications submitted, CD recommends that the Commission deny the following remaining applications received in December 2022 and between January 3, 2023, and March 21, 2023: City of Vallejo, County of Sacramento, City of Brawley, City of Coalinga, Shandon Joint Unified School District, City of Pittsburg, City of Port Hueneme, County of Placer, City of Needles, City of Parlier, City of Hayward , City of Gridley, San Diego Association of Governments, City of Ontario, County of Contra Costa, City of Menifee, City of Sausalito, City of San Joaquin, City of Santa Maria, and the City of Huron.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Local Agency Technical Assistance applications for the City of Hollister, City of Monrovia, City of Lathrop, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, City of Fremont, City of Coachella, and Southern California Association of Governments as described in Ordering Paragraphs 2 through 7 and Appendices B through J are approved.
2. The total approved for the Local Agency Technical Assistance grants is up to \$5,120,972 as follows:

Applicant	Project Name	Project Location	Unserved Households in County ²³	Awarded Amount
City of Hollister	<i>City of Hollister's Broadband Fiber Network Design</i>	City of Hollister	3,077	\$500,000
City of Monrovia	<i>City of Monrovia's Digital Equity Project</i>	City of Monrovia	60,641	\$402,496
City of Lathrop	<i>Broadband Infrastructure Planning Project</i>	City of Lathrop	20,295	\$497,915
Contra Costa Transportation Authority	<i>Contra Costa Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan</i>	County of Contra Costa	17,111	\$500,000
City of Fremont	<i>Fiber Master Plan and Broadband Expansion</i>	City of Fremont	19,591	\$500,000
City of Coachella	<i>Broadband Master Plan</i>	City of Coachella	29,313	\$234,000
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)	<i>Last Mile Project Assessment for the SCAG Region</i>	Six counties in SCAG region ²⁴	170,448	\$996,058
Ventura Council of Governments	<i>Ventura County Regional Broadband Collaborative Formation</i>	County of Ventura	8,612	\$490,860
County of Fresno	<i>Fresno County Broadband Engineering Project</i>	County of Fresno	35,849	\$999,643
Total Awards				\$5,120,972

3. This grant is based on the description of the project as described herein and are predicated on commitments to provide the reimbursable work products as expressed in the grantee's application and in compliance with all guidelines,

²³ Estimated based on California End of Year 2020 Residential Broadband Deployment using Federal Funding Account eligibility. Proposed projects will not serve all households in these counties. See, e.g., dashboard available at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/cpuc/viz/EOY2020BB4ALL-Deployment/ByHousehold>.

²⁴ Includes Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, and Ventura counties.

requirements and, conditions associated with the award, as specified in D.22-02-026, and this Resolution.

4. Grantees must comply with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with the Local Agency Technical Assistance program, including those in D.22-02-026 and its Attachment 1, and Appendix A to this Resolution.
5. By receiving LATA grant funding, grantees agree to comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the grant and thus submit to the jurisdiction of the Commission regarding disbursement and administration of the grant.
6. Grantees must complete and execute the consent form agreeing to the conditions set forth in this Resolution within 30 calendar days from the date of the award. Failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution will deem the grant null and void.
7. If the grantees fail to complete the project in accordance with the terms outlined in D.22-02-026 and this Resolution, they must reimburse some or all the Local Agency Technical Assistance funds it has received.
8. Given the lack of non-Tribal funding available to consider and approve all applications submitted, the following remaining applications received in December 2022 and between January 3, 2023, and March 21, 2023 are denied: City of Vallejo, County of Sacramento, City of Brawley, City of Coalinga, Shandon Joint Unified School District, City of Pittsburg, City of Port Hueneme, County of Placer, City of Needles, City of Parlier, City of Hayward , City of Gridley, San Diego Association of Governments, City of Ontario, County of Contra Costa, City of Menifee, City of Sausalito, City of San Joaquin, City of Santa Maria, and the City of Huron.

This resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed, and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on _____, the following Commissioners voting favorable thereon:

Rachel Peterson
Executive Director

APPENDIX A Compliance Requirements

A. Award Acceptance

Upon a funding application's approval, the grantee must submit the following documents:

- Consent Form: Grantees must sign and submit a Consent Form **within 30 calendar days from the date of the award**. Failure to submit the Consent Form within 30 calendar days from the date of award letter will deem the grant null and void.
- Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form: A State of California standardized form that is needed for tax purposes. The form is required in order to receive payment from the State of California, and information provided in this form will be used by the Commission to prepare Information Returns (e.g., Internal Revenue Service, Form 1099).

B. Contractor Reporting

Grantees must comply with Pub. Util. Code section 281, subdivision (l)(1) contractor reporting requirements if they are using a licensed contractor or subcontractor to undertake a contract or subcontract in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to perform work on the project funded or financed by CASF. Licensed contractor or subcontractor means any contractor that holds a California state license through the contractor's state license board (<https://www.cslb.ca.gov/>). Please refer to the Local Agency Technical Assistance website for reporting templates and instructions.

C. Execution and Performance

The grantee must complete the project within the 24-month timeframe. If the grantee is unable to complete the proposed project within the required 24-month timeframe, it must notify the Commission or the Director of Communications Division as soon as it becomes aware of this prospect. The Commission reserves the right to reduce or withhold payment for failure to satisfy this requirement. The grantee, after accepting the award as outlined in Section A of this Appendix, must complete all performance on the project before the termination date in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission. In the event that the grantee or contractor fails to complete the work in accordance with the approval granted by the Commission, and as described in the contract, the local agency must reimburse some or all the funds that it has received.

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification and discovery for work proposed or completed under the technical assistance for local agencies to ensure CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission rules and with the terms of approval granted by the Commission.

D. Project Completion

Upon completion of the technical assistance and before final payment, the applicant must provide a signed completion form stating that the technical assistance work has been completed, and a copy of each reimbursable work product's final report(s), plan(s), studies, etc., produced under the scope of the contract.

E. Payment

Payment will be made directly to the local agency as the grant recipient. Local agency grantees may request partial reimbursement if they complete one or more of the approved reimbursable work products prior to completion of other reimbursable work products approved in the same grant authorization. Payment will be based upon receipt and approval of an invoice(s) submitted by the local agency showing the expenditures incurred for the reimbursable work product, along with the final reimbursable work product and the completion reporting. The invoice(s) must be supported by documentation including but not limited to the actual cost of labor and any other expense that will be recovered by the grant. Any portion of the award used to reimburse a local agency for administrative costs associated with securing or completing a reimbursable work product must be submitted with an itemized accounting of such costs demonstrating the total requested for reimbursement does not exceed 15 percent of the total authorized award.

If the grantee or contractor fails to complete the work within the 24-month timeline, the grantee must notify the Commission or Director of Communications Division as soon as they become aware that they may not meet the project deadline. The Commission may withhold or reduce payment if the grantee fails to notify the Commission or Director of Communications Division.

If any portion of reimbursement is found to be out of compliance, grantees will be responsible for refunding any disallowed amount along with appropriate interest rates determined in accordance with applicable Commission decisions.

F. Project Changes

Grantees must communicate in writing to Communications Division Director regarding any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the grant (such as changes to a reimbursable work product contract, work plan, or budget) at least 30 days before the anticipated change. Substantive changes may require approval by either the Communications Division Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective.

G. Record Retention

Grantees are required to maintain records such as files, invoices, and other related documents for five years after final payment. Grantees shall make these records and invoices available to the Commission upon request and agree that these records are subject to financial audit by the Commission at any time within the five years after the final payment made to the grantee.

APPENDIX B
City of Hollister
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>City of Hollister's Broadband Fiber Network Design</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund the City of Hollister's development of a Broadband Fiber Network Design. This design will occur over a 12-month period and will aim to create engineering layouts and the best routes for fiber optic cabling to reach unserved and underserved areas of the city and incorporated areas.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	City
<i>Project Location</i>	City of Hollister
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$500,000
<i>Project Timeline</i>	13 months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project Management and Meetings (\$104,159)2. Data Collection/Field Investigation (\$47,350)3. Fiber Network Design (\$217,789)4. Wi-Fi Network Design (\$130,702)
<i><u>Impact Summary:</u> How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	The goal of this project will be to provide reliable fiber optic internet access with symmetrical speeds of 100 Mbps to all residents and businesses, including those living in low income, disadvantaged and socio-economically vulnerable areas.

APPENDIX C
City of Monrovia
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>City of Monrovia's Digital Equity Project</i>	
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund a project to assess existing broadband coverage and utilization in the City of Monrovia's low income and disadvantaged communities.	
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	City	
<i>Project Location</i>	City of Monrovia	
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$ 402,496	
<i>Project Timeline</i>	Up to eight months	
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asset Inventory (\$22,075) 2. Market Assessment (\$16,175) 3. Needs Assessment (\$27,975) 4. Gap Analysis (\$22,075) 5. Conceptual Network Design (\$27,975) 6. Implementation Plan (\$22,075) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Business Model Evaluation (\$ 16,175) 7. Partner RFP Development (\$22,075) 8. Design Engineering (\$154,361) 9. Final Report (\$22,075) 10. Partner Terms & Negotiations (\$22,075) 11. Project Management & Team Meetings (\$27,385)
<i><u>Impact Summary:</u> How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	The project will develop a strategy to ensure abundant broadband connectivity by providing significantly expanded connectivity through the increased provision of network services, while also maximizing economic vitality. The final result will allow for a shovel-ready project that will bring high-speed broadband to underserved residents and businesses all throughout under-resourced communities that are located within or are directly adjacent to the City of Monrovia.	

APPENDIX D
City of Lathrop
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Broadband Infrastructure Planning Project</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund development of design engineering for the City of Lathrop and provide a comprehensive conceptual design plan to provide service to unserved/underserved households and businesses.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	City
<i>Project Location</i>	City of Lathrop
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$497,915
<i>Project Timeline</i>	Up to eight months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Asset Inventory (\$17,700)2. Market Assessment (\$11,800)3. Needs Assessment (\$23,600)4. Gap Analysis (\$17,700)5. Conceptual Network Design (\$23,600)6. Implementation Plan (\$17,700)7. Business Model Evaluation (\$ 11,800)8. Partner RFP Development (\$17,700)9. Report Compilation (\$17,700)10. Partner Negotiation (\$17,700)11. Design Engineering (\$297,905)12. Project Management (\$23,010)
<p><u><i>Impact Summary:</i></u> <i>How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i></p>	This technical assistance grant will allow the city to conduct a broadband masterplan, which will lead to design engineering. This will allow the city to determine the best method of deploying fiber to underserved areas in the city.

APPENDIX E
Contra Costa Transportation Authority
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Contra Costa Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund development of a Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan for Contra Costa County, to outline a deployment strategy of broadband infrastructure projects to provide 100 Mbps services to unserved underserved households and businesses.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	Joint Powers Authority
<i>Project Location</i>	Contra Costa County
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$500,000
<i>Project Timeline</i>	16 months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conceptual Network Design and Cost Estimation (\$250,000)2. Foundational Implementation Plan (\$90,000)3. Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan (\$100,000)4. Low-Level Design and Engineering Year 1 (\$35,000)5. Low-Level Design and Engineering Year 2 (\$25,000)
<i><u>Impact Summary:</u> How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	The technical assistance grant will result in a plan that establishes an implementation roadmap for low-level, shovel-ready network design for priority areas in unserved and underserved areas of Contra Costa County. This effort expands the existing fiber transportation network currently being implemented, such that the resulting Strategic Plan will enable easy network connection by ISPs to ensure bandwidth symmetrical speeds of at least 100 Mbps to unserved and underserved communities.

APPENDIX F
City of Fremont
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Fiber Master Plan and Broadband Expansion</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund development of a Broadband Strategic Plan for the City of Fremont that will lay the course for broadband infrastructure projects designed to provide service to unserved and underserved households and businesses and that are designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	City
<i>Project Location</i>	City of Fremont
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$500,000
<i>Project Timeline</i>	24 months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	1. Fiber Master Plan Development (\$127,000) 2. Design of Fiber Backbone Engineering Drawings (\$373,000)
<i>Impact Summary: How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	To project utilizes consulting services for the development of a fiber master plan and engineering services for drafting construction plans to broadband throughout the City of Fremont to serve unserved and under-served areas and are designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds.

APPENDIX G
City of Coachella
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Broadband Master Plan</i>
<i>Project Summary</i>	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund the development of a Broadband Master Plan for the planning and evaluation of a fiber optic broadband network that seeks to lower broadband costs and increase network value for all stakeholders.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	City
<i>Project Location</i>	City of Coachella
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$234,000
<i>Project Timeline</i>	Nineteen Months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Education of City Leaders, Residents, Stakeholders (\$16,000)2. Community Engagement (\$24,000)3. Broadband Survey of Residents/Businesses (\$10,000)4. Planning, Analysis & Documentation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Markey Analysis (\$20,000)• Broadband Network Design and Architecture Options (\$19,000)• Risk Analysis (\$12,000)• Cost Analysis for Construction, Engineering & Design (\$20,000)• Financial Performance & Revenue Analysis (\$21,000)• Cost Analysis for Network Operations (\$30,000)• Business Model and Financing (\$10,000)• Legal Authority (\$8,000)• Draft Broadband Master Plan (\$10,000)• Final Broadband Master Plan (\$10,000)

<p><u><i>Impact Summary:</i></u> <i>How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i></p>	<p>This broadband infrastructure project will be designed to provide fiber optic network service throughout the City of Coachella to unserved or underserved households and businesses to reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds.</p>
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APPENDIX H

Southern California Association of Governments LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Last Mile Project Assessment for the SCAG Region</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund critical broadband planning and implementation efforts for the region; developing a methodology to conduct regional analysis and identify and prepare for three-shovel ready last mile projects, and to develop preliminary specifications for each project.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	Joint Powers Authority
<i>Project Location</i>	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$996,058
<i>Project Timeline</i>	Twenty-four months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project Administration and Management (\$201,891)2. Existing Conditions Analysis (\$281,988)3. Needs Assessment and Priority Area Selection (\$217,242)4. Last Mile Implementation Strategic Plan (\$294,937)
<i><u>Impact Summary:</u> How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps</i>	The proposed scope of work will set the foundation for low-level (granular) design and engineering for three (3) shovel-ready projects that will provide services that meet or exceed 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds for unserved and/or underserved communities within proximity to California Department of Technology (CDT's) proposed 18 Middle-Mile projects.

APPENDIX I
County of Fresno LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Fresno County Broadband Engineering Project</i>	
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund a project for design engineering throughout the County that will lead to a fiber to the premises project for unserved and underserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions.	
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	County	
<i>Project Location</i>	Fresno County, not including the city of Fresno	
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$999,643	
<i>Project Timeline</i>	~ Eighteen months	
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	1. High-level Design (\$152,012) 2. Engineering Design (\$228,017) 3. Permitting (\$101,341) 4. Final Construction Drawings (\$101,341) 5. Staking/Pre-Construction (\$101,341) 6. As-Builts (\$101,341) 7. PE Stamps (\$50,000)	8. Project Management (\$11,800) 9. Partner Negotiation (\$17,700) 10. Partner RFP (\$14,750) 11. Governance (\$95,000) 12. Fielding (\$25,000)
<i>Impact Summary: How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	This project will create design engineering plans that will lead to a fiber to the premises project to unserved and underserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions within the boundaries of Fresno County. As this project will be deploying fiber, all premises will have access to speeds of 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds or greater.	

APPENDIX J
Ventura Council of Governments
LATA Application Key Information

Project Title	<i>Ventura County Regional Broadband Collaborative Formation</i>
Project Summary	The proposed technical assistance grant will fund a broadband strategic plans project that will allow the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) to create a broadband joint power of authority (JPA) among VCOG members to address the regional broadband needs of the county.
<i>Type of Local Agency</i>	Joint Powers Authority
<i>Project Location</i>	Ventura County
<i>Amount Requested</i>	\$490,860
<i>Project Timeline</i>	12 months
<i>Reimbursable Work Product(s)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. JPA formation (\$229,787)2. Regional Strategy (\$130,537)3. Last Mile Connections (\$130,537)
<i><u>Impact Summary:</u> How the proposed technical assistance grant supports broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and/or underserved households and businesses at speeds of at least 100 Mbps upload and download speeds</i>	The JPA created through these grant awards will prepare the County to build a last mile fiber broadband network to unserved and underserved areas in Ventura County. All plans will ensure that broadband infrastructure deployment provides speeds of at least 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds to unserved and underserved households and businesses in the County, scalable over time.