

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17839
September 12, 2024**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17839: Approves 10 applications for grants for up to \$91 million from the Last Mile Federal Funding Account in Marin, Mendocino, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Sutter counties, providing service to 4,520 unserved locations.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution recommends approval of 10 Last Mile Federal Funding Account grants in the amount of up to \$90,998,848.

This Resolution is the fifth in a series of Resolutions approving grants to Federal Funding Account applicants for broadband infrastructure projects serving unserved areas in California. Subsequent Resolutions will be presented for Commission vote as Communications Division Staff completes its analyses of applications.

The 10 projects in this Resolution propose to make investments bringing the social, economic, civic, and public safety benefits of high-speed broadband to 4,520 unserved locations and an estimated unserved population of 13,462 in Marin, Mendocino, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Sutter counties. An estimated total population of 31,967 people will benefit from these investments as households and businesses that already have service in these communities will benefit from greater customer choice in the broadband market. The last mile connections funded by these grants build upon the state-owned open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative. An estimated 60 percent of the locations that will receive service are located in low-income areas and 2 percent are located in Disadvantaged Communities.

Staff recommends grant awards to seven entities (listed in the order in which they appear in this Resolution): Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC (Comcast), the County of Marin, Round Valley Indian Tribes, the City of Fort Bragg, the City of Ukiah, Hankins Information Technology Inc. (Hankins Information Technology or HIT), and the California Broadband Alliance.

Comcast is an incumbent telecommunication company offering service throughout California. The County of Marin is a county government of California. Round Valley Indian Tribes are a sovereign Tribal nation and the Round Valley Reservation is located in Mendocino County. The City of Fort Bragg and the City of Ukiah are incorporated cities located in Mendocino County. Hankins Information Technology is an independent telecommunications company offering service in Santa Clara and San Benito counties. The California Broadband Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working on broadband access in the Central Coast that has partnered with the independent telecommunications company Surfnet Communications to apply to the Federal Funding Account.

Staff recommends the following 10 grant applications for Commission approval as shown in Table 1 below. Maps and summaries associated with each project are in the appendices.

Table 1: Summary of Grant Funding

Applicant	Project Name	Estimated Unserved Locations	Estimated Unserved Units	Estimated Unserved Population	Estimated Benefitting Population	Awarded Amount
Marin						
Comcast	Marin County	152	273	542	860	\$289,643
County of Marin	Marin Coastal Hwy 1	694	828	837	851	\$11,060,331
Subtotal		846	1,101	1,379	1,711	\$11,349,974
Mendocino						
Round Valley Indian Tribes	Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home	851	1,099	2,651	2,719	\$35,172,662
City of Fort Bragg	Fort Bragg Gig	380	370	608	8,733	\$10,300,000
City of Ukiah	City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project	375	872	1,635	9,142	\$5,587,154
Subtotal		1,606	2,341	4,894	20,594	\$51,059,816
San Benito						
Hankins Information	HIT San Benito	1,200	1,677	4,572	6,560	\$10,436,024

Technology						
Subtotal		1,200	1,677	4,572	6,560	\$10,436,024

Santa Cruz						
Surfnet	Hutchinson	239	343	760	805	\$2,232,995
Surfnet	Mnt Bache	101	121	307	408	\$990,767
Surfnet	Radonich	70	78	158	210	\$1,125,031
Subtotal		410	542	1,225	1,423	\$4,348,793

Sutter						
Comcast	Sutter County	458	537	1,392	1,679	\$13,804,241
Subtotal		458	537	1,392	1,679	\$13,804,241
Grand Total		4,520	6,198	13,462	31,967	\$90,998,848

II. BACKGROUND

California’s multi-year broadband investment package established the last mile Federal Funding Account as part of the Budget Act of 2021 and Senate Bill 156¹ and invested \$2 billion in the program over multiple years. The Federal Funding Account funds the construction of last mile broadband infrastructure projects in unserved areas of California. The Federal Funding Account encourages the deployment of broadband throughout the State to enable the public to access internet-based safety applications, telehealth services, emergency services, and to allow first responders to communicate with each other and collaborate during emergencies.

On April 21, 2022, the Commission issued D.22-04-055, Decision Adopting Federal Funding Account Rules. The rules and guidelines adopted in that decision included, among other items, the following: rules about projects to benefit Environmental and Social Justice Communities, affordable offers, five and ten-year price commitments, low-cost plans, project eligibility, application requirements, application objections, implementation of Public Utilities Code section 281(n) allocating funding between “rural counties” and “urban counties,” a process to reimburse grantees, a ministerial review process whereby Communications Division Staff may approve certain projects, and minimum performance standards for grantees.

The Federal Funding Account D. 22-04-055 includes requirements and preference for a number of affordability requirements including:

- Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program or access to a “broad-based affordability program.” Given that the Affordable Connectivity Program

¹ Statute 2021, Chapters 84 and 112.

has lapsed grantees must participate in a successor program when identified by the Commission.

- A five-year price commitment, and preference for a ten-year commitment.
- Preference for a low-cost plan that is \$40/month or less and provides speeds of at least 50 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up.
- Preference for participation in the California and/or federal Lifeline programs (which may include bundled voice and broadband offerings).

Applications that committed to provide voice service and participate in LifeLine, consistent with the requirement to serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those in the application for five years after project completion, must provide voice service and participate in LifeLine for five years after project completion. In providing grant funding to projects the Commission is validating the need for and the state's investment in the provision of communications service, including voice and programs supporting affordability like LifeLine, for the life of the infrastructure.

The Federal Funding Account Decision and Appendix specify additional consideration for disadvantaged communities or Environmental and Social Justice communities.² The Commission made available on the Federal Funding Account Public Map,³ the Applicant Tool,⁴ and data downloads locations and census blocks meeting these definitions.⁵ A grant application window was opened on June 30, 2023, and closed at 4 p.m. on September 29, 2023; 484 applications were submitted. Application summaries were posted on October 23, 2023, and a 28-day objection period closed on November 20, 2023. Responses to objections were received until December 20, 2023.

² The Commission Environmental and Social Justice Action plan includes definitions and data indicators for disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities including Disadvantaged Communities defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and low-income households defined as household incomes below 80 percent of the area median income. The Commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan 2.0 is available at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>

³ The Federal Funding Account Public Map is available at: <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/>

⁴ Registration for the Federal Funding Account Applicant Tool is available at: [FFA Applicant Tool Registration](#)

⁵ Disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities and individual locations, for purposes of the Federal Funding Account, include those in Disadvantaged Communities census tracts as defined by CalEPA and low-income areas in which the census block group median household income is less than or equal to 80 percent of the higher of the county or state average. This data is available for download on the Federal Funding Account Public Map page (visited June 13, 2024), <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/last-mile-federal-funding-account/ffa-public-map> and the Federal Funding Account Application Resources Page (visited June 13, 2024), <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/last-mile-federal-funding-account/ffa-application-resources-page> .

Applications were holistically evaluated; required and supporting documentation and the merits of the applications were compared, and assessed, on a county basis. Following an initial analysis, Staff sent a data request to applicants and requested additional information. Staff's holistic evaluation included project engineering, technical feasibility and design, financial viability, cost, applicant capacity, and community need, among other factors. Staff assessed how to manage overlapping applications and applications planning to include some already-served areas in their project area.⁶

Staff also evaluated how applications and groups of applications compared to competing applications in the same county.

The specific locations to be provided service for a given project will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations. The Federal Funding Account award will not fund locations supported by a federal broadband program with Capital Project Fund monies.⁷

III. APPLICATION SUMMARIES, DISCUSSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Marin County Summary

The allocation for projects in Marin County in D. 22-04-005 is \$11,540,164. This Resolution recommends awarding two grants for projects in Marin County: one grant to Comcast and one grant to the County of Marin. The recommended grant amount for projects in Marin County is \$11,349,974, which leaves a remainder of \$190,190 of the allocation for Marin County.

Marin County Awards

1. *Comcast, Marin County*

⁶ D.22-04-055 states that "households and businesses with an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure do not have to be the only ones in the service area served by an eligible broadband infrastructure project. Indeed, serving these households and businesses may require a holistic approach that provides service to a wider area, for example, in order to make ongoing service of certain households or businesses within the service area economical."

⁷ Federal broadband programs include the Connect America Fund II (CAFII), Community Connects Grant Program (CCGP), Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (EACACM), Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Rural E-Connectivity Program (REP), Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and Telephone Loan Program (TLP).

Staff recommends the Commission approve Comcast's application for a grant of up to \$289,643 for the Marin County project.

The Marin County project proposes to serve 152 unserved locations, based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 542 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 860 will benefit from these investments in and around the community of Novato. The last mile fiber project will provide up to 1,250 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Comcast will deploy approximately one mile of last-mile fiber. The network infrastructure will be 100 percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The Marin County project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Comcast will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and has committed to maintaining the price of that plan for at least ten years. The program requires all applicants to commit to serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those provided in the application for five years after project completion (See Federal Funding Account Appendix A, section 7. "Performance Criteria"). Comcast's application proposes to freeze the price for one plan, with specifications similar to the low-cost plan requirements, for 10 years and does not request a waiver of the requirement to freeze all other plans offered. Accordingly, this grant is recommended for award with the understanding that Comcast serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those in the application for all plans in the application for five years. If Comcast cannot satisfy this requirement Comcast may request a waiver including an explanation of why a waiver is being requested and a rationale for why a waiver should be granted.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$573,607, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund 50 percent of costs. Comcast will provide the rest of the costs through matching funds.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received no objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Marin County.⁸ The Marin County project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 152, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations

The following submitted letters of support for this application: Marin County District 5 Supervisor Eric Lucan, Mayor of Novato Susan Wernick, the City Manager of Novato, the Novato Chamber of Commerce, Equality California, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Marin County, the North Bay Leadership Council, the Chicano Latino Leadership Project, the Latino Council, and the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. This project is not located in a High Fire Threat District and does not present safety concerns. This project will connect to Comcast's middle-mile infrastructure.

Based on the information provided to the Energy Division, Staff confirms that Comcast's Marin County project meets the criteria for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), 14 C.C.R Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, Comcast's Marin County project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

Comcast and the Marin County project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Comcast's application for a grant of up to \$289,643 for the Marin County project subject to the above conditions.

2. County of Marin, Marin Coastal Hwy 1

Staff recommends the Commission approve the County of Marin's application for a grant of up to \$11,060,331 for the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project.

⁸ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

The Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project proposes to serve an estimated 694 unserved locations, based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 837 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 851 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Muir Beach, Tomales, and Dillon Beach. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers. The County of Marin will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The County of Marin will deploy approximately 30 miles of last-mile fiber. The network infrastructure will be 5 percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$11,060,331, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund 100 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received no objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Marin County.⁹ The Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to this data, the number of unserved locations remains unchanged at 694 unserved locations, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations

The following submitted letters of support for this application: The Marin County Fire Department, Shoreline Unified School District, a trustee of the Bolinas-Stinson Unified School District, the Marin County Sheriff's Office, West Marin Fund, and the Marin County Free Library. Independent Internet Service Providers QWK.net, SUMOFIBER, Advanced Stream, and Anthem Broadband have submitted letters of support indicating an interest in connecting to the open access infrastructure that Marin County proposes to build.

⁹ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit locations located in High Fire Threat District 2. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information provided to the Energy Division, Staff confirms the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 C.C.R. Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), 14 C.C.R. Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R. Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

The County of Marin and the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the County of Marin's application for a grant of up to \$11,060,331 for the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project subject to the above conditions.

Mendocino County Summary

The allocation for projects in Mendocino County in D. 22-04-005 is \$57,430,812. This Resolution recommends awarding three grants for projects in Mendocino County: one grant to Round Valley Indian Tribes, one grant to the City of Fort Bragg, and one grant to the City of Ukiah. The recommended grant amount for projects in Mendocino County is \$51,059,816, which leaves a remainder of \$6,370,996 of the allocation for Mendocino County.

Mendocino County Awards

1. Round Valley Indian Tribes, Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Round Valley Indian Tribes' application for a grant of up to \$35,172,662 for the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project proposes to serve 851 unserved locations based on June 2024 reductions of the project area submitted by Round Valley Indian Tribes and subsequent analysis by the applicant and Staff. An estimated unserved population of 2,651 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 2,719 will benefit from these investments in and around the Round Valley Reservation. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. The Round Valley Indian Tribes will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

Round Valley Indian Tribes will deploy approximately 94 percent underground network infrastructure. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$50,172,025, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 70 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received no objections.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Mendocino County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.¹⁰ The Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to comments and this data, and Round Valley Indian Tribes' reduction of their project area, the number of unserved locations is reduced from 1,206 to 851, the project area is reduced to 33 square miles, and the total grant amount is revised from \$41,537,274 to \$35,172,662. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: The Round Valley Indian Tribes Tribal Council, Congressman Jared Huffman, State Senator Mike McGuire.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat District 2. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative. This project includes \$14,069,065 to deploy approximately 51 miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and backhaul fiber, and to connect them to the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative.

¹⁰ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. The Round Valley Indian Tribes must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If the Round Valley Indian Tribes provide additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes and the Round Valley Indian Tribes' Fiber-To-The-Home project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the Round Valley Indian Tribes' application for a grant of up to \$35,172,662 for the Round Valley Indian Tribes' Fiber-To-The-Home project subject to the above conditions.

2. *City of Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg Gig*

Staff recommends the Commission approve the City of Fort Bragg's application for a grant of up to \$10,300,000 for the Fort Bragg Gig project.

The Fort Bragg Gig project proposes to serve an estimated 380 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 608 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 8,733 will benefit from these investments in the City of Fort Bragg. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The City of Fort Bragg will deploy approximately six miles of last mile fiber and eight miles of middle mile and backhaul fiber. The network will be approximately 100 percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The Fort Bragg Gig project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 92 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. The City of Fort Bragg will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$14,700,000, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 70 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received one objection, and the City of Fort Bragg responded to the objection. Staff determined that some locations were outside the project area and verified that the served locations in the project area are necessary for the project to be financially viable and to serve unserved locations. The City of Fort Bragg's proposed project area was not modified in response to objections; the Federal Final Rule¹¹ and D.22-04-055¹² allow projects serving unserved locations to include served locations to make the project viable.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Mendocino County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.¹³ The Fort Bragg Gig project area's unserved locations and objection were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections, comments, and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 380, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: The Fort Bragg Fire Protection Authority, the Fort Bragg Unified School District, the Fort Bragg Police Department, and Adventist Health Mendocino Coast.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. This project is not located in a High Fire Threat District and does not present safety concerns. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information provided to the Energy Division, Staff confirms the Fort Bragg Gig project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 C.C.R. Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 C.C.R Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, the Fort Bragg Gig project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the CPUC may authorize funds for construction activities.

The City of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg Gig project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the

¹¹ Department of the Treasury, Final Rule, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 31 C.F.R. Part 35, 87 FR 4338-4454 (January 27, 2022) (Final Rule), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/27/2022-00292/coronavirus-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

¹² D.22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 2, p. A-5.

¹³ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

Commission approve the City of Fort Bragg's application for a grant of up to \$10,300,000 for the Fort Bragg Gig project subject to the above conditions.

3. *City of Ukiah, City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project*

Staff recommends the Commission approve the City of Ukiah's application for a grant of up to \$5,587,154 for the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project.

The City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project proposes to serve an estimated 375 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 1,635 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 9,142 will benefit from these investments in the City of Ukiah. The last mile fiber project will provide up to ten gigabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The City of Ukiah will deploy approximately 29 miles of middle mile and backhaul fiber. The network will be approximately six percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 88 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. The City of Ukiah will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$6,403,261, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 87 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received one objection and the City of Ukiah responded to the objection. Staff determined that the objection concerned some locations outside the project area and verified that the served locations in the project area are necessary for the project to be financially viable, and to serve unserved locations. The City of Ukiah's proposed project area was not modified in response to objections; the Federal Final

Rule¹⁴ and D.22-04-055¹⁵ allow projects serving unserved locations to include served locations to make the project viable.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Mendocino County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.¹⁶ The project area for the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project unserved locations and objection were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections, comments, and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 375, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: State Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Jim Wood, Ukiah Mayor Mari Rodin, Vecinos en Acción, North Coast Opportunities, and the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. This project is not located in a High Fire Threat District and does not present safety concerns. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. The City of Ukiah must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If the City of Ukiah provides additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

The City of Ukiah and the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the City of Ukiah application for a grant of up to \$5,587,154 for the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project subject to the above conditions.

¹⁴ Department of the Treasury, Final Rule, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 31 C.F.R. Part 35, 87 FR 4338-4454 (January 27, 2022) (Final Rule), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/27/2022-00292/coronavirus-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

¹⁵ D.22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 2, p. A-5.

¹⁶ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

San Benito County Summary

The allocation for projects in San Benito County in D. 22-04-005 is \$10,436,025. This Resolution recommends awarding one grant to Hankins Information Technology for a project in San Benito County. The recommended grant amount for projects in San Benito County is \$10,436,024.

San Benito County Awards

1. *Hankins Information Technology, HIT San Benito*

Staff recommends the Commission approve Hankins Information Technology's application for a grant of up to \$10,436,024 for the HIT San Benito project.

The HIT San Benito project proposes to serve an estimated 1,200 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 4,572 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 6,560 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Hollister, San Juan, and Aromas. The last mile fiber project will provide up to ten gigabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Hankins Information Technology will deploy approximately 123 miles of last mile fiber and. The network will be approximately 90 percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The HIT San Benito project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 55 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Hankins Information Technology has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years and will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$11,114,635, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 94 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received two objections. Staff verified that the served locations in the project area are necessary for the project to connect unserved locations. Hankins Information Technology's proposed project area was not modified in response to

objections ; the Federal Final Rule¹⁷ and D.22-04-055¹⁸ allow projects serving unserved locations to include served locations to make the project viable.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in San Benito County.¹⁹ The HIT San Benito project area's unserved locations and objections were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 1,200, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The San Benito County Office of Education Chief Technology Officer submitted a letter of support for this application.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat District 2. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. Hankins Information Technology must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Hankins Information Technology provides additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

Hankins Internet Technology and the HIT San Benito project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Hankins Information Technology's application for a grant of up to \$10,436,025 for the HIT San Benito project subject to the above conditions.

Santa Cruz County Summary

¹⁷ Department of the Treasury, Final Rule, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 31 C.F.R. Part 35, 87 FR 4338-4454 (January 27, 2022) (Final Rule), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/27/2022-00292/coronavirus-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

¹⁸ D.22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 2, p. A-5.

¹⁹ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 18, 2024).

The allocation for projects in Santa Cruz County in D. 22-04-005 is \$10,323,008. This Resolution recommends awarding three grants to the California Broadband Alliance, which has partnered with the applicant Surfnet Communications, for projects in Santa Cruz County. The recommended grant amount for projects in Santa Cruz County is \$4,348,793, which leaves a remainder of \$5,974,215 of the allocation for Santa Cruz County.

Santa Cruz County Awards

1. Surfnet Communications, Hutchinson

Staff recommends the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$2,232,995 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Hutchinson project.

The Hutchinson project proposes to serve an estimated 239 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 760 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 805 will benefit from these investments in the community of Hutchinson. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Surfnet will deploy approximately 11 miles of middle mile and backhaul fiber. The network will be approximately five percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The California Broadband Alliance will be the grant recipient and owner of the project infrastructure. The California Broadband Alliance will enter into an agreement with the applicant, Surfnet Communications, who will manage the project construction. After the project is complete, Surfnet Communications will lease access to the infrastructure from the California Broadband Alliance.

Surfnet Communications has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years and will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$2,232,995, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund 100 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received one objection, and Surfnet Communications responded to the objection. Staff determined that the objection concerned locations outside the project area. Surfnet Communications' proposed project area was not modified in response to objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Santa Cruz County.²⁰ The Hutchinson project area's unserved locations and objection were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 239, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: the Santa Cruz County Director of Information Services, the Central Coast Broadband Consortium, and the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in a High Fire Threat District 3. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. Surfnet Communications and the California Broadband Alliance must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Surfnet Communications or the California Broadband Alliance provide additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

The California Broadband Alliance, Surfnet Communications and the Hutchinson project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$2,232,995 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Hutchinson project subject to the above conditions.

²⁰ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 18, 2024).

2. *Surfnet Communications, Mnt Bache*

Staff recommends the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$990,767 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Mnt Bache project.

The Mnt Bache project proposes to serve an estimated 101 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 307 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 408 will benefit from these investments along Mt Bache Road in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Surfnet will deploy approximately nine miles of middle mile and backhaul fiber. The network will be approximately five percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The California Broadband Alliance will be the grant recipient and owner of the project infrastructure. The California Broadband Alliance will enter into an agreement with the applicant, Surfnet Communications, who will manage the project construction. After the project is complete, Surfnet Communications will lease access to the infrastructure from the California Broadband Alliance.

Surfnet Communications has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years and will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$990,767, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund 100 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received one objection, and Surfnet Communications responded to the objection. Staff determined that the objection concerned locations outside the project area. Surfnet Communications's proposed project area was not modified in response to objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Santa Cruz County.²¹ The Mnt Bache project area's unserved locations and objection were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 101, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: the Santa Cruz County Director of Information Services, the Central Coast Broadband Consortium, and the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat District 3. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. The California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet Communications must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If the California Broadband Alliance or Surfnet Communications provide additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

The California Broadband Alliance, Surfnet Communications, and the Mnt Bache project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$990,767 to the California Broadband Alliance for Mnt Bache subject to the above conditions.

3. Surfnet Communications, Radonich

Staff recommends the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$1,125,031 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Radonich project.

The Radonich project proposes to serve an estimated 70 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 158 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 210 will benefit from these

²¹ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 18 2024).

investments in and around the community of Radonich. The last mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Surfnet will deploy approximately six miles of last mile fiber and three miles of middle mile and backhaul fiber. The network will be approximately five percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The California Broadband Alliance will be the grant recipient and owner of the project infrastructure. The California Broadband Alliance will enter into an agreement with the applicant, Surfnet Communications, who will manage the project construction. After the project is complete, Surfnet Communications will lease access to the infrastructure from the California Broadband Alliance.

Surfnet Communications has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years and will provide a low-cost plan that meets the standards set in D.22-04-055.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$1,125,031, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund 100 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received two objections and Surfnet Communications responded to the objections. Staff determined that one objection concerned locations outside the project area. Staff determined that the other objection concerned locations in the project area; however, passing the served locations in the project area is geographically necessary for the project to connect unserved locations. Surfnet Communications' proposed project area was not modified in response to objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Santa Cruz County.²² The Radonich project area's unserved locations and objections were evaluated in light of updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 70, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed

²² See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 18, 2024).

engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: The Santa Cruz County Director of Information Services, the Central Coast Broadband Consortium, and the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat District 3. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. The California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet Communications must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Surfnet Communications or the California Broadband Alliance provide additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

The California Broadband Alliance, Surfnet Communications, and the Radonich project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Surfnet Communications' application for a grant of up to \$1,125,031 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Radonich project subject to the above conditions.

Sutter County Summary

The allocation for projects in Sutter County in D. 22-04-005 is \$20,397,554. This Resolution recommends awarding one grant to Comcast for a project in Sutter County. The recommended grant amount for projects in Sutter County is \$13,804,241, which leaves a remainder of \$6,593,313 of the allocation for Sutter County.

1. Comcast, Sutter County

Staff recommends the Commission approve Comcast's application for a grant of up to \$13,804,241 for the Sutter County project.

The Sutter County project proposes to serve 458 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 1,392 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 1,679 will benefit from these investments in and around the community of Yuba City and Live Oak. The last mile

fiber project will provide up to 1,250 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

Comcast will deploy approximately 55 miles of last mile. The network will be approximately 45 percent underground. The specific sections of the project that will be designated last mile or middle mile will be finalized after detailed engineering and project design.

The Sutter County project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 99 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Comcast will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and has committed to maintaining the price of that plan for at least ten years. The program requires all applicants to commit to serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those provided in the application for five years after project completion (See Federal Funding Account Appendix A, section 7. "Performance Criteria"). Comcast's application proposes to freeze the price for one plan for 10 years and does not request a waiver of the requirement to freeze all other plans offered. Accordingly, this grant is awarded with the understanding that Comcast serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those in the application for all plans in the application for five years. If Comcast cannot satisfy this requirement Comcast may request a waiver including an explanation of why a waiver is being requested and a rationale for why a waiver should be granted.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$13,804,241, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund an estimated 100 percent of costs.

Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

This application received two objections and Comcast responded to the objections. Staff determined that one objection was incomplete. Staff determined that the other objector did not provide sufficient documentation to substantiate a claim that it would serve the project area. Comcast's proposed project area was not modified in response to objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Sutter County.²³ The Sutter County project area's unserved locations and objections were evaluated in light of the updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding

²³ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 18, 2024).

Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to the objections and this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 458, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

The following submitted letters of support for the project: Assemblymember James Gallagher, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, the Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation, the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation, Equality California, the North Central Counties Consortium, the Parent Institute for Quality Education, the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project, and Valley Vision.

The proposed project will provide the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. This project is not located in a High Fire Threat District and presents no safety concerns. This project will connect to Comcast's middle-mile infrastructure.

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. Comcast must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Comcast provides additional documentation sufficient to justify a staff determination of CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

Comcast and the Sutter County project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve Comcast's application for a grant of up to \$13,804,241 for the Sutter County project subject to the above conditions.

Comments

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1), a Notice of Availability of this draft resolution was e-mailed on August 8, 2024, informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List of the availability of the draft of this

Resolution, and of the opportunity to comment, at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>.

Resolution comments were submitted on August 22, 2024, by LCB Communications, and on August 28, 2024, by Comcast. Late-filed comments were submitted by Frontier on September 6, 2024.

LCB Communications Comments

LCB Communications states that a significant portion of the Hankins Information Technology project, HIT San Benito, overlaps with a California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Infrastructure Grant Account award to LCB Communications in Resolution T-17817, which was issued June 20th, 2024. LCB Communications requests that the Commission remove all overlapping locations, which they highlighted on a map attached to their comments.

Comcast Comments

Comcast states that they reliably serve locations in the proposed project areas of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber and Fort Bragg Gig. Comcast states that they submitted objections to these projects with evidence that these locations have the capability to reliably provide 100/20 Mbps service. Comcast requests that the Commission provide evidence proving that Comcast does not serve these locations.

Frontier Comments

Frontier's late-filed comments state that Frontier only recently discovered that the Round Valley project locations substantially overlap unserved locations within Frontier's awarded Rural Digital Opportunities Fund (RDOF) area, and that Frontier has already deployed fiber to locations within the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project area. Frontier requests that the Commission remove the 500 locations from the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project that Frontier estimates overlap with their RDOF project area, and add the RDOF grant area to the California Interactive Broadband Map.

Staff Response to Comments

Federal Funding Account applications were reviewed and awarded in coordination with the California Advanced Services Fund Infrastructure Account applications and awards. The amount of overlap between LCB Communications' grant from the California Advanced Services Fund's Infrastructure Grant Account for the Aromas-San Juan project and Hankins Information Technology's proposed grant for the HIT San Benito project was examined at the location level and there are a minimal number of

overlapping locations. Further, some of the California Advanced Services Fund Infrastructure Account applications would be considered grant-eligible by the Federal Funding Account's standards after completion of the Aromas-San Juan project. The comment does not present no issues of law or fact. The HIT San Benito project is not modified in response to comments and the limited number of overlapping locations are necessary for the project to serve unserved locations.

With regards to Comcast's comments, all entities were given an opportunity to object to proposed applications under the detailed and data-driven process under the program rules. The objection period and period for applicants to responds to objections were increased in light of the number of applications. Comcast's comments substantially reiterate the objections that Comcast submitted during the 28-day objection period that lasted from October 23, 2023 to November 20, 2023. The comments do not present new or updated information or provide the detailed data to support an objection specified in the program rules. In response to Comcast's objections, Staff investigated Comcast's contentions that it already provides reliable high-speed broadband service to the locations where Comcast submitted objections.

Inclusion of the supported locations in City of Ukiah project is consistent with the program rules, data submitted in the objection process, and substantially similar data Comcast provided with comments. Although there is some overlap between locations served by Comcast and locations proposed to be served by the City of Ukiah and the City of Fort Bragg, Staff has determined that the amount is de minimis, and that the served areas are necessary for the viability of each project. The grant amounts for both projects have not been changed.

With regards to Frontier's late-filed comments, Staff notes that all entities were given an opportunity to object to proposed applications and provide detailed data under the program rules. Further, the objection period and period for applicants to responds to objections were increased in light of the number of applications. Frontier had an opportunity to object during the 28-day objection period that lasted from October 23, 2023 to November 20, 2023.

In addition, the Federal Funding Account award will not fund locations supported by a federal broadband program with Capital Project Fund monies.²⁴ Further, it is Staff's understanding that the permitting authority necessary for Frontier to fulfill the terms of its RDOF award is disputed (the Round Valley Indian Tribes requested Frontier cease work on Tribal trust, fee, allotted, or ancestral lands in the Round Valley and informed

²⁴ Federal broadband programs include the Connect America Fund II (CAFII), Community Connects Grant Program (CCGP), Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (EACACM), Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Rural E-Connectivity Program (REP), Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and Telephone Loan Program (TLP).

the Federal Communications Commission). Frontier may be unable to secure the authorization it needs from the Round Valley Indian Tribes to provide service to its RDOF locations in the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project area, whereas the Round Valley Indian Tribes' authority to serve their own lands is undisputed. Staff has not modified the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project area, grant amount, or locations in response to comments on the Resolution.

IV. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Awardees are required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of Federal Funding Account awards as specified in D.22-04-055. All Awardees are also required to sign a consent form agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Federal Funding Account. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to, the items noted below.

A. Deployment Schedule: All CEQA-exempt projects must be completed within 18 months, and all other projects shall be completed within 24 months after receiving authorization to construct.

B. Pricing: By accepting these awards, the Awardees commit to serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those provided in the application for five years after project completion. Awardees who committed not to increase prices for a period of ten years in their application commit to serve customers in the project area for ten years after project completion. Should the need arise for grant recipients to adjust prices due to externalities outside their control (*e.g.* inflation), grant recipients may file and serve, on the R. 20-09-001 proceeding service list, a request to modify this requirement with the Communications Division.

C. Speed and Latency: All households in the proposed project areas must be offered a broadband internet service plan with speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 100 Mbps upload, with not more than 100 milliseconds of latency.

D. Affordability: All projects shall participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or otherwise provide access to a broad-based affordability program to low-income customers in the proposed service area of the broadband infrastructure that provides benefits to households commensurate with those provided under the ACP. Should the ACP program end, the Commission will identify a successor low-income subsidy program in which participants must participate. Awardees must participate in a successor to the ACP identified after the grant is awarded.

E. Project Audit: The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification, and discovery during project implementation/construction to ensure that Federal Funding Account funds are spent in accordance with Commission approval. All

recipients of federally funded grants exceeding \$750,000 will need to include a budget for a federal audit.²⁵

F. Reporting Requirements: Numerous post-award reports are required. In summary, these include monthly contractor reports (if applicable), quarterly progress reports, and a final completion report.²⁶

G. Prevailing Wage: Section 1720 of the California Labor Code requires Federal Funding Account projects be subject to prevailing wage requirements.²⁷ Applicants accepting Federal Funding Account awards are committing to follow state prevailing wage requirements with regards to their projects.

H. Payments to Federal Funding Account Recipients: The Commission may reimburse Awardees' expenses in accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 281(n)(2), D.22-04-055, and the Appendix. Requests for payments may be submitted as the project is progressively deployed. The prerequisite for first payment is the submittal of a progress report to the Commission showing that a minimum of ten percent of the project (as determined by budget spent) has been completed. Subsequent payments may be made upon at least 25-percent intervals, with the final 15 percent payment request (from 85 to 100 percent) not eligible for payment 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 Federal Funding Account budget included in the awardee's application.

I. Federal Broadband Program Enforceable Commitments: The Federal Funding Account award will not fund locations supported by a federal broadband program with Capital Project Fund monies.²⁸

²⁵ Treasury, Compliance and Reporting Guidance State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (November 15, 2021 Version 2.1), available at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>.

²⁶ D. 22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 14.

²⁷ D.22-054-055, Section 13.2, page 57.

²⁸ Federal broadband programs include the Connect America Fund II (CAFII), Community Connects Grant Program (CCGP), Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (EACACM), Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Rural E-Connectivity Program (REP), Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and Telephone Loan Program (TLP).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. California's multi-year broadband infrastructure investments in the Budget Act of 2021 and Senate Bill 156 (Statutes 2021, Chapters 84 and 112) provided \$2 billion over multiple years to the Last Mile Federal Funding Account to facilitate, via reimbursement, construction of last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved Californians.
2. On April 21, 2022, the Commission approved Decision 22-04-055, which along with the Federal Final Rule, established the Last Mile Federal Funding Account and set program rules.
3. The Communications Division opened an application window for the Federal Funding Account on June 30, 2023, and closed it on September 29, 2023. Applicants submitted 484 applications before the deadline. Application summaries were posted on October 23, 2023, and a 28-day objection window closed on November 20, 2023. Responses to objections were received until December 20, 2023.
4. Comcast submitted applications for the Marin County, and Sutter County projects on September 29, 2023.
5. The County of Marin submitted an application for Marin Coastal Hwy 1 on September 29, 2023.
6. Round Valley Indian Tribes submitted an application for the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project on September 29, 2023, and revised their application to reduce the project area on June 12, 2024.
7. The City of Fort Bragg submitted an application for the Fort Bragg Gig project on September 29, 2023.
8. The City of Ukiah submitted an application for the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project on September 28, 2023.
9. Hankins Information Technology submitted an application for the HIT San Benito project on September 28, 2023.
10. Surfnet Communications submitted applications for the Hutchinson, Mnt Bache, and Radonich projects on September 29, 2023.
11. The Commission has determined that Comcast's Sutter County project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review at this time.

12. The Commission has determined that Comcast's Marin County project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines at 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) Section 15301 regarding exemption for existing facilities, 14 C.C.R Section 15303 regarding new construction or conversion of small structures, and 14 C.C.R Section 15304 which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land.
13. The Commission has determined that the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home Project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review.
14. The City of Fort Bragg Gig project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review under 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land).
15. The City of Ukiah is the Responsible Agency for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act with respect to the environmental review of the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project.
16. The Commission has determined that Hankins Information Technology's HIT San Benito project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review at this time.
17. The Commission has determined that Surfnet's Hutchinson, Mnt Bache, and Radonich projects are not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review at this time.
18. Communications Division staff analyzed the applications for compliance with Commission and Federal rules, reviewed local feedback, and conducted fiscal and technical analysis.
19. All applications listed above met minimum eligibility requirements provided in Decision 22-04-055.
20. Staff recommends approval of the applications in this resolution, as they comply with program rules as stated and contribute to the Federal Funding Account's goal of building broadband internet infrastructure to communities without access to internet service at sufficient and reliable speeds.
21. Draft Resolution T-17835 was emailed to the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List on August 8, 2024, in compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission shall award up to \$289,643 in Federal Funding Account funds to Comcast in order to complete the Marin County project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
2. The Commission shall award up to \$11,060,331 in Federal Funding Account funds to the County of Marin in order to complete the Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
3. The Commission shall award up to \$35,172,662 in Federal Funding Account funds to the Round Valley Indian Tribes in order to complete the Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
4. The Commission shall award up to \$10,300,000 in Federal Funding Account funds to the City of Fort Bragg in order to complete the Fort Bragg Gig project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
5. The Commission shall award up to \$5,587,154 in Federal Funding Account funds to the City of Ukiah in order to complete the City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
6. The Commission shall award up to \$10,436,024 in Federal Funding Account funds to Hankins Information Technology in order to complete the HIT San Benito project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.

7. The Commission shall award up to \$2,232,995 in Federal Funding Account funds to California Broadband Alliance in order to complete the Hutchinson project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
8. The Commission shall award up to \$990,767 in Federal Funding Account funds to California Broadband Alliance in order to complete the Mnt Bache project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
9. The Commission shall award up to \$1,125,031 in Federal Funding Account funds to California Broadband Alliance in order to complete the Radonich project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
10. The Commission shall award up to \$13,804,241 in Federal Funding Account funds to Comcast in order to complete the Sutter County project, as described in the appendices. The specific locations to be provided service will be updated and reconciled with the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric after detailed engineering and project design, and the grant amount may be reduced consistent with a reduction in the number of locations.
11. To ensure compliance with all program rules and guidelines, the Commission will not release funds to an applicant, including but not limited to the County of Marin, the City of Ukiah, and the California Broadband Alliance, proposing to enter into agreement(s) with a third party or third parties for the ownership, operation, and/or leasing of the proposed infrastructure or network until the applicant provides the Commission with an advanced copy of the agreement document(s) as well as any signed agreements.
12. Applicants that committed to provide voice and/or Lifeline service must provide voice service and participate in LifeLine for five years after project completion in Federal Funding Account project areas.

13. For those projects not determined to be categorically exempt, the Commission cannot release funds for construction activities until California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is complete. The awardees must comply with the requirements set forth in the CEQA Section of the Resolution. The awardees must provide their Proponent's Environmental Assessment for each project prior to the first payment.
14. Awardee(s) shall comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions set forth in this resolution.
15. When a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program is identified by the Commission, all awardees shall participate in that program.
16. All construction covered by the grant must be completed within the applicable 18-month or 24-month time frame. In the event of extenuating circumstances jeopardizing this timeline, the Awardee(s) must notify the Communications Division's Director as soon as they become aware of any delay. If such notice is not provided, staff can take corrective actions including reducing payment for failure to satisfy this requirement.
17. If the awardee(s) fail to complete the project(s) in accordance with the terms outlined in Decision 22-04-055 and with the terms of the Commission's approval, as set forth in this resolution, awardees must reimburse some or all the Federal Funding Account grants received or take other corrective action.
18. Comcast's applications for the Marin County, and Sutter County projects propose to freeze the price for one plan for 10 years, and do not request a waiver of the requirement to freeze all other plans offered. Accordingly, this grant is recommended for award with the understanding that Comcast serve customers in the project area at prices not exceeding those in the application for all plans in the application for five years. If Comcast cannot satisfy this requirement Comcast may request a waiver including an explanation of why a waiver is being requested and a rationale for why a waiver should be granted.
19. If staff evaluation finds any of the projects can be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.
20. The effective date of each award and encumbrance of funds is to be set, in consultation with the Applicant, by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee. All awards are contingent on

available state budget appropriations funding and may be subject to Budget Letter 24-07.²⁹

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

²⁹ Department of Finance Budget Letter 24-07, "Onetime Appropriation(s) Expenditure Freeze Pursuant to Section 21 of the Budget Act of 2023 (As Amended by Section 74 of AB 106 (Chapter 9, Statutes of 2024))," available at: <https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/2024/04/BL-24-07.pdf>

APPENDIX A

Comcast California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following Comcast project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Sutter County

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing Federal Funding Account funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other Comcast activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment.

Prior to any construction activity for the project, Comcast is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.).

Comcast should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division CEQA Unit well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review.

Comcast must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of this project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

**Comcast California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements
(Continued)**

The following Comcast project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Marin County

Approximately two miles of new fiber will be placed in existing conduit or in new conduit to be installed along existing roadways using directional boring or micro trenching. A 6 inch X 18 inch pedestal will be installed at each customer service point.

Based on the information that Comcast provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R) Section 15301 (Existing facilities), 14 C.C.R Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, the Marin County Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for the construction activities.

APPENDIX B

County of Marin California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following County of Marin project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Marin Coastal Hwy 1

The Marin Coastal Hwy 1 project is in Marin County. The approximately 18 miles of new fiber will be placed in existing conduit or in new conduit to be installed along existing roadways using directional boring. A 10'X20' prefabricated aggregate shelter will be installed on already developed County property.

Based on the information that Marin County provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing facilities), 14 C.C.R. Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R. Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, the Marin Coastal Highway Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for the construction activities.

APPENDIX C
Round Valley Indian Tribes California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following Round Valley Indian Tribes project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing Federal Funding Account funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other Round Valley Indian Tribes' activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment.

Prior to any construction activity for the project, Round Valley Indian Tribes is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.).

Round Valley Indian Tribes should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division CEQA Unit well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review.

Round Valley Indian Tribes' listed application is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, as acknowledged in its application. Round Valley Indian Tribes should make every effort to ensure that the Commission's CEQA Unit is aware of and included in the NEPA process. Round Valley Indian Tribes must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

Round Valley Indian Tribes must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of this project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

APPENDIX D

City of Fort Bragg California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following City of Fort Bragg project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Fort Bragg Gig

The City of Fort Bragg provided the Commission with its project plans to install new underground fiber in conduit within previously disturbed ground adjacent to existing roadways. The project alignment runs throughout the City of Fort Bragg on mostly residential roads. Upon completion of all underground conduit placement, the surface will be returned to its original condition.

Based on the information that the City of Fort Bragg provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) § 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 C.C.R. § 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land). Thus, the City of Fort Bragg Gig project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

APPENDIX E

City of Ukiah California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following City of Ukiah project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing Federal Funding Account funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other City of Ukiah activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment.

Prior to any construction activity for the project, the City of Ukiah is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq).

The City of Ukiah should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division CEQA Unit well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review.

The City of Ukiah must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of this project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

APPENDIX F

Hankins Information Technology California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following Hankins Information Technology projects are subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- HIT San Benito

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing Federal Funding Account funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other Hankins Information Technology activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment.

Prior to any construction activity for the project, Hankins Information Technology is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq).

Hankins Information Technology should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division CEQA Unit well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review.

Hankins Information Technology must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of this project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

APPENDIX G

California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet Communications California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet Communications projects are subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Hutchinson
- Mnt Bache
- Radonich

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing Federal Funding Account funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet Communications activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment.

Prior to any construction activity for the projects, the California Broadband Alliance or Surfnet Communications is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.).

California Broadband Alliance or Surfnet Communications should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division CEQA Unit well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review.

The California Broadband Alliance or Surfnet Communications must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of these projects until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

APPENDIX H
Comcast Marin County Project
Key Information

Project Name	Marin County
Applicant Name	Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC
Community Names	Novato
County	Marin County
County Allocation	\$11,540,164
Project Size (in square miles)	0.09
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1250/1250 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 100/100 Mbps ³⁰
Low-income plan	Yes, \$9.95/month for 50/10 Mbps, with Internet Essentials, or speeds of up to 100/20 Mbps for \$29.95/month with Internet Essentials Plus
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 100/100 Mbps ³¹
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$93,456
Area Households	426
Area Population	860
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	350
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1,076
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	152

³⁰ In its Application for this project, Comcast sought confidential treatment of, among other things, this price and speed pursuant to the CPRA, Public Utilities Code § 583, and G.O. 66-D. As an express requirement to receive this proposed public grant, this information does not qualify as a trade secret, and the public interest in its disclosure outweighs the public interest in its nondisclosure.

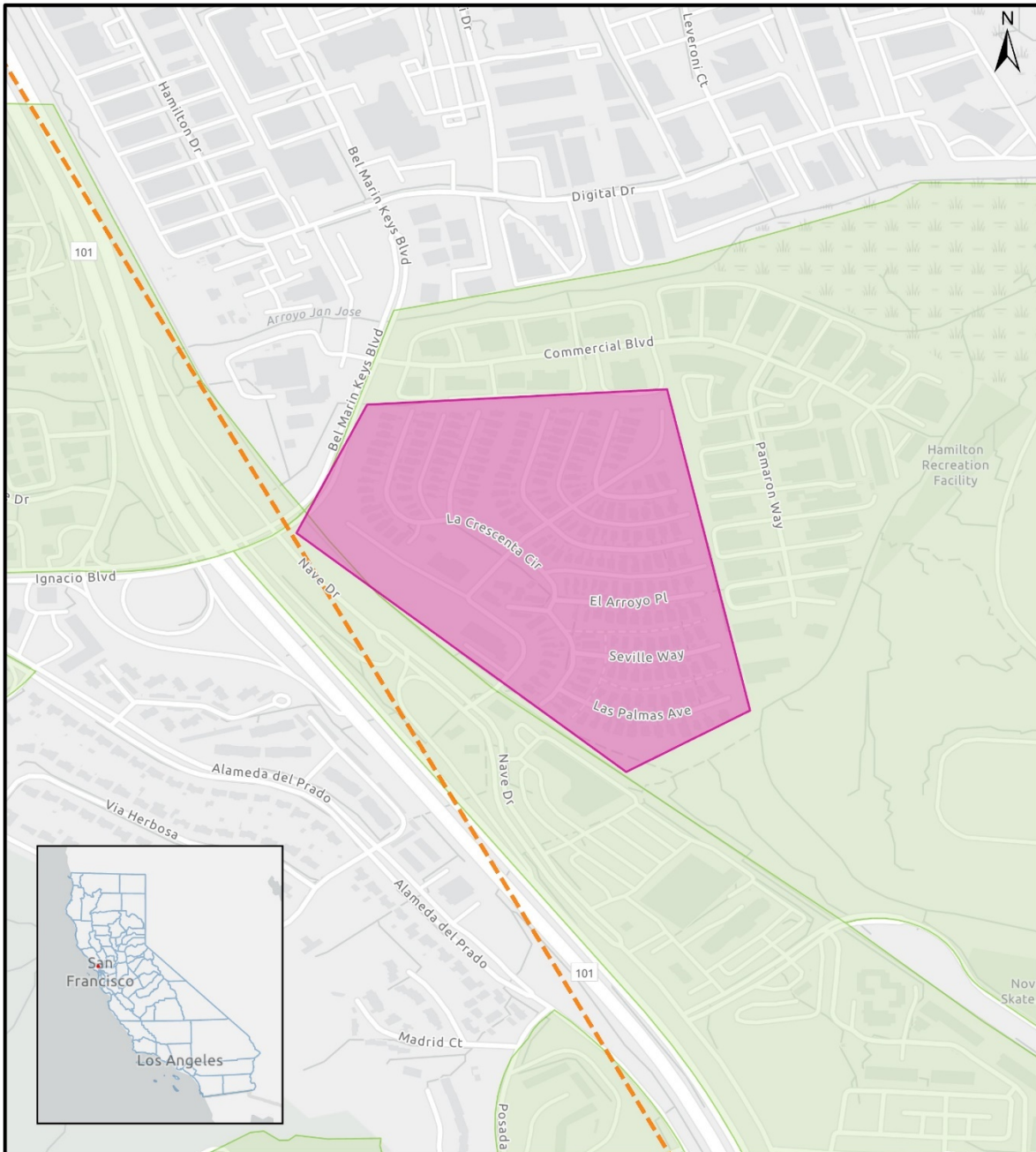
³¹ In its Application for this project, Comcast sought confidential treatment of, among other things, this price and speed pursuant to the CPRA, Public Utilities Code § 583, and G.O. 66-D. As an express requirement to receive this proposed public grant, this information does not qualify as a trade secret, and the public interest in its disclosure outweighs the public interest in its nondisclosure.

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Unserved locations in the project area	137
Unserved units in the project area	273
Estimated unserved population in the project area	542
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	136
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	272
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	1
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	1
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	No
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$283,964
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$573,607
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$289,643
Applicant funded	\$283,964
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$1,061
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$269

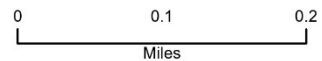
Map of Comcast's Marin County Project

Comcast- Marin County- Marin County



Marin County

- Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
- FFA Project Areas
- Tribal Lands
- Low-Income Areas



Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

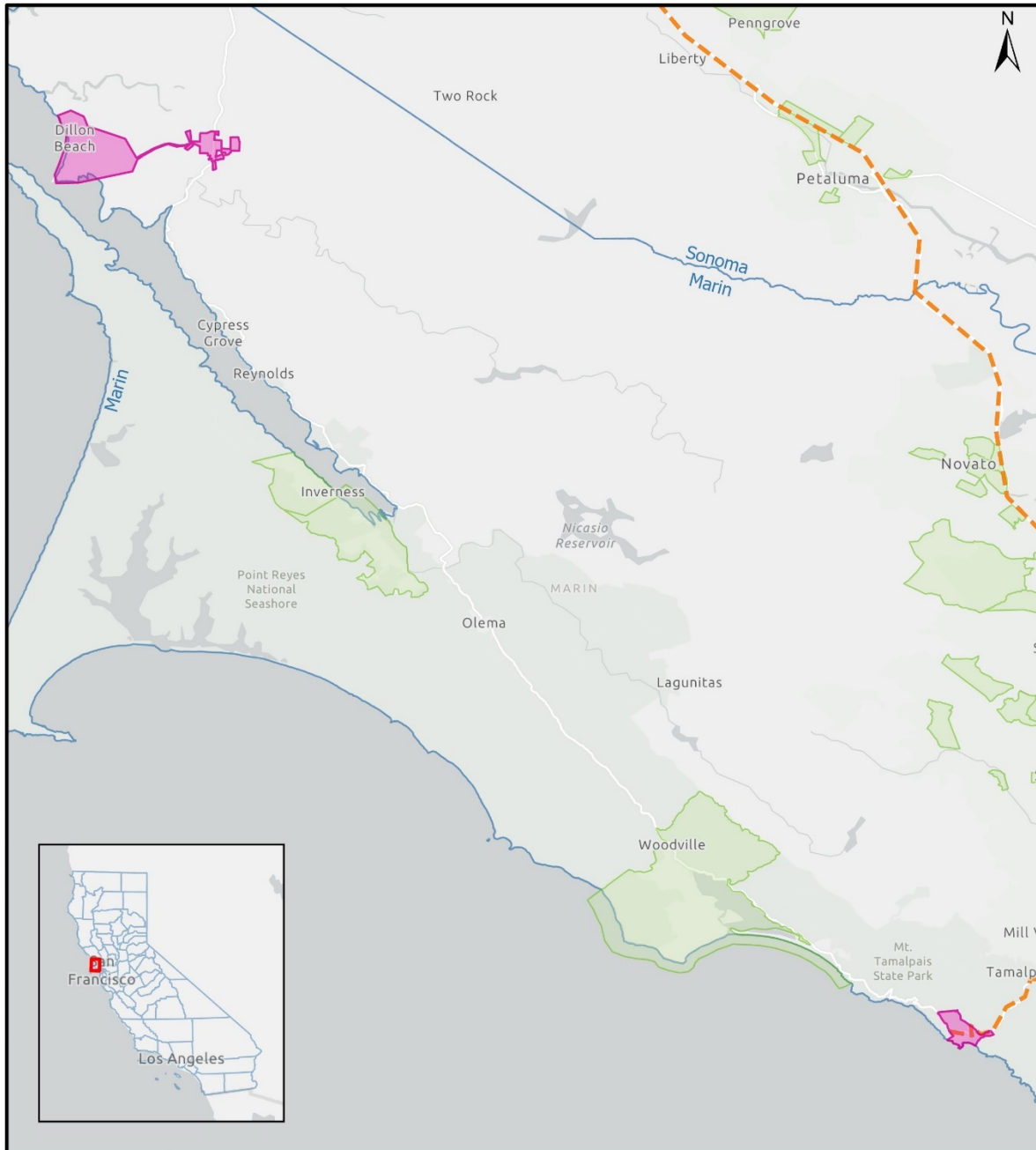
**APPENDIX I
Marin Coastal Hwy 1
Key Information**

Project Name	Marin Coastal Hwy 1
Applicant Name	County of Marin
Community Names	Muir Beach 94965, Tomales 94971, and Dillon Beach 94929.
County	Marin County
County Allocation	\$11,540,164
Project Size (in square miles)	6
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1000/1000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	No
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 100/100 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$145,500
Area Households	400
Area Population	851
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	710
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	839
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	694
Unserved locations in the project area	700
Unserved units in the project area	828
Estimated unserved population in the project area	837
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	79

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	207
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	12
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	6
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$11,060,331
Deployment Schedule	12 Months
Total Project Cost	\$11,060,331
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$11,060,331
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$13,358
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$13,183

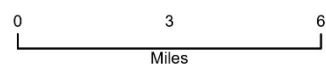
Map of Marin Coastal Hwy 1

County of Marin- Marin Coastal Hwy 1- Marin County



Marin Coastal Hwy 1

- Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
- FFA Project Areas
- Tribal Lands
- Low-Income Areas



Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

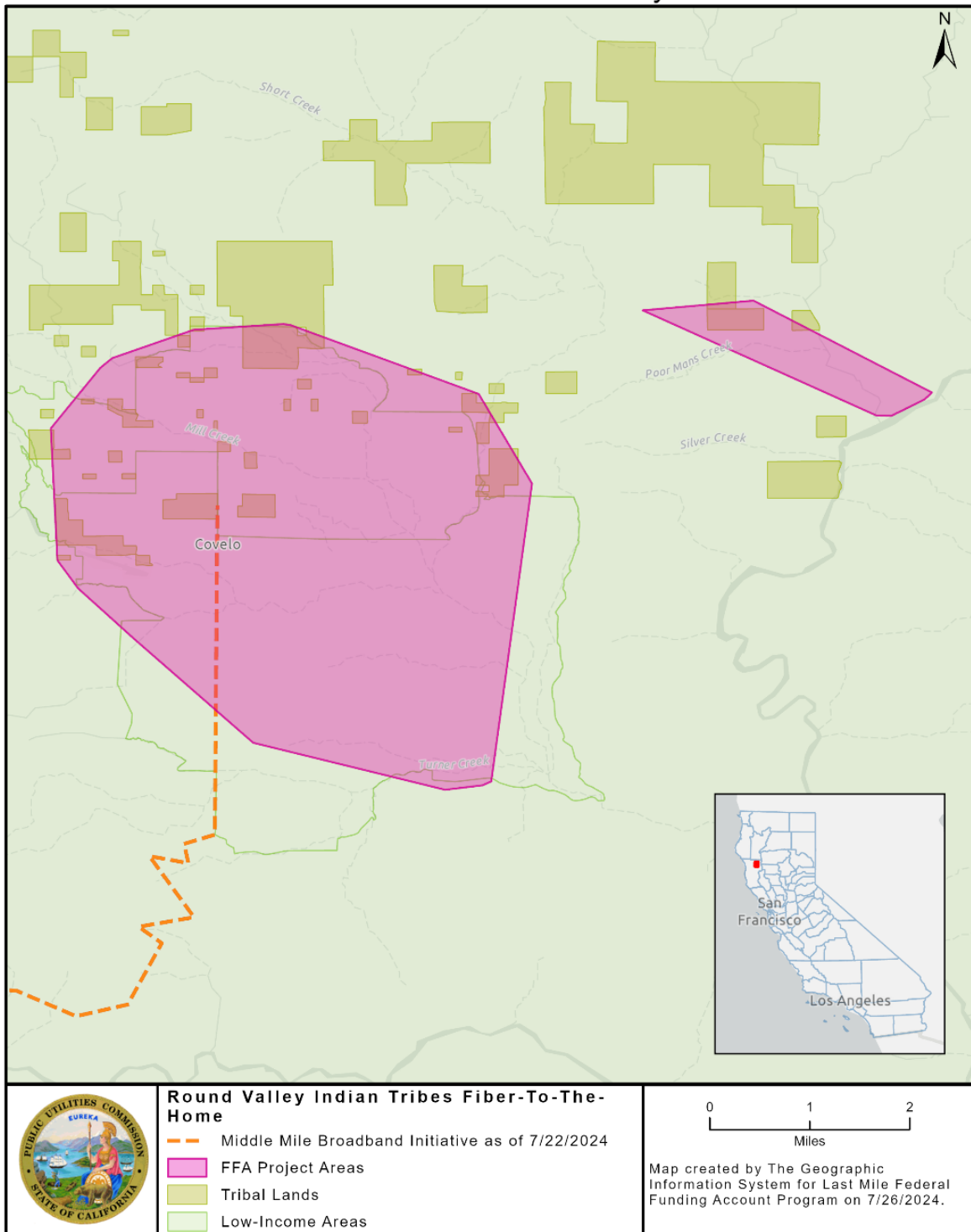
APPENDIX J
Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home
Key Information

Project Name	Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home
Applicant Name	Round Valley Indian Tribes
Community Names	Round Valley Indian Tribes
County	Mendocino County
County Allocation	\$57,430,812
Project Size (in square miles)	33
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	10 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$43,750
Area Households	979
Area Population	2,719
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	929
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1,199
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	851
Unserved locations in the project area	851
Unserved units in the project area	1,099
Estimated unserved population in the project area	2,651
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	138
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	386
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	16

Public safety locations benefitting from the project	6
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	51.2 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$14,069,065
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$21,103,597
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$50,172,025
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$35,172,662
Applicant funded	\$14,999,363
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$19,203
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$17,601

Map of Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home

Round Valley Indian Tribes- Round Valley Indian Tribes Fiber-To-The-Home- Mendocino County

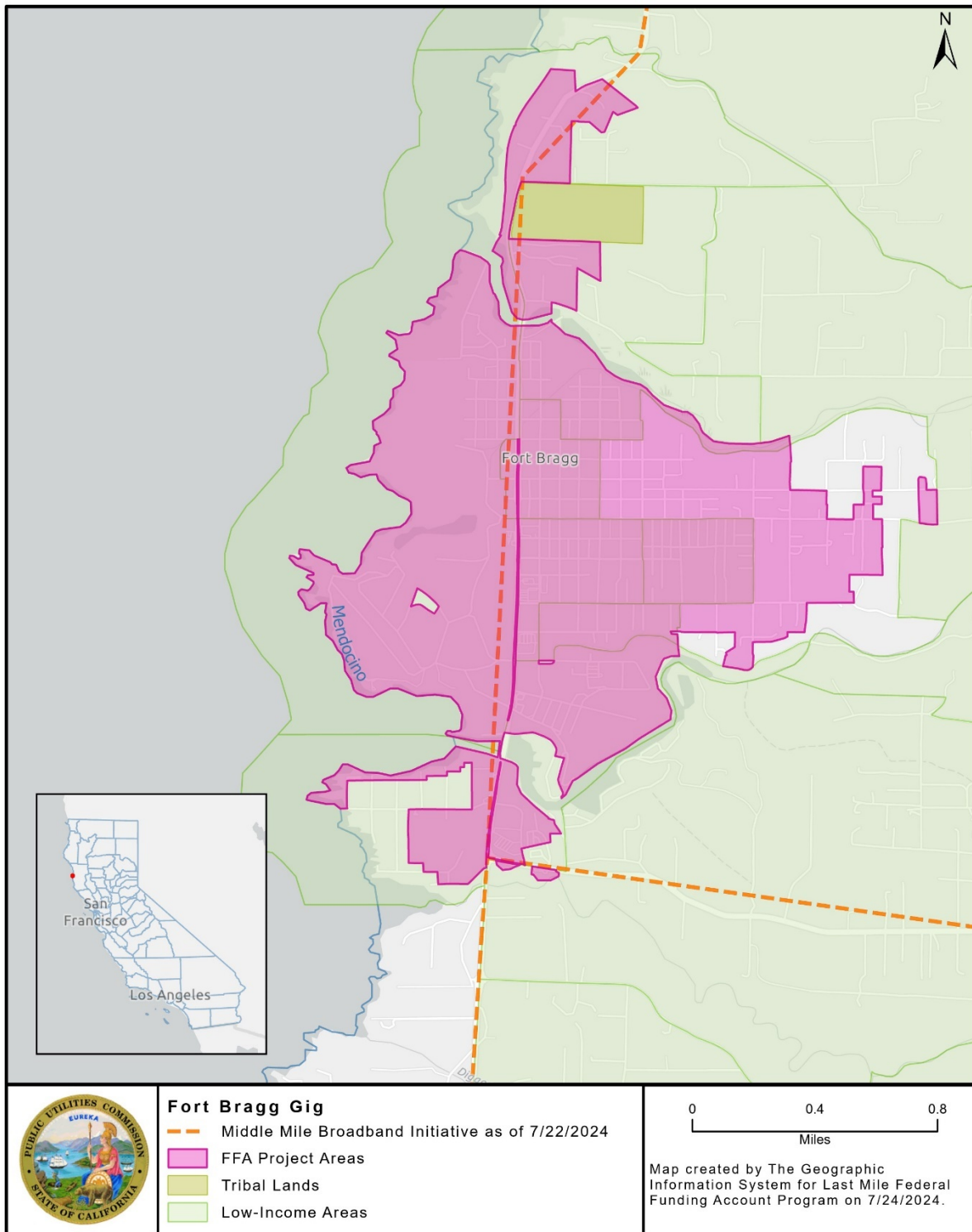


**APPENDIX K
Fort Bragg Gig
Key Information**

Project Name	Fort Bragg Gig
Applicant Name	City of Fort Bragg
Community Names	Fort Bragg
County	Mendocino
County Allocation	\$57,430,812
Project Size (in square miles)	5
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10,000/6,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 500/500Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$40/month for 500/500 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 500/500 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	92 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$42,782
Area Households	3,448
Area Population	8,733
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	2,858
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	4,511
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	380
Unserved locations in the project area	256
Unserved units in the project area	370
Estimated unserved population in the project area	608
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	76
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	265

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	47
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	7
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$10,300,000
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$14,700,000
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$10,300,000
Applicant funded	\$4,400,000
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$27,838
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$2,283

Map of Fort Bragg Gig City of Fort Bragg- Fort Bragg Gig- Mendocino County



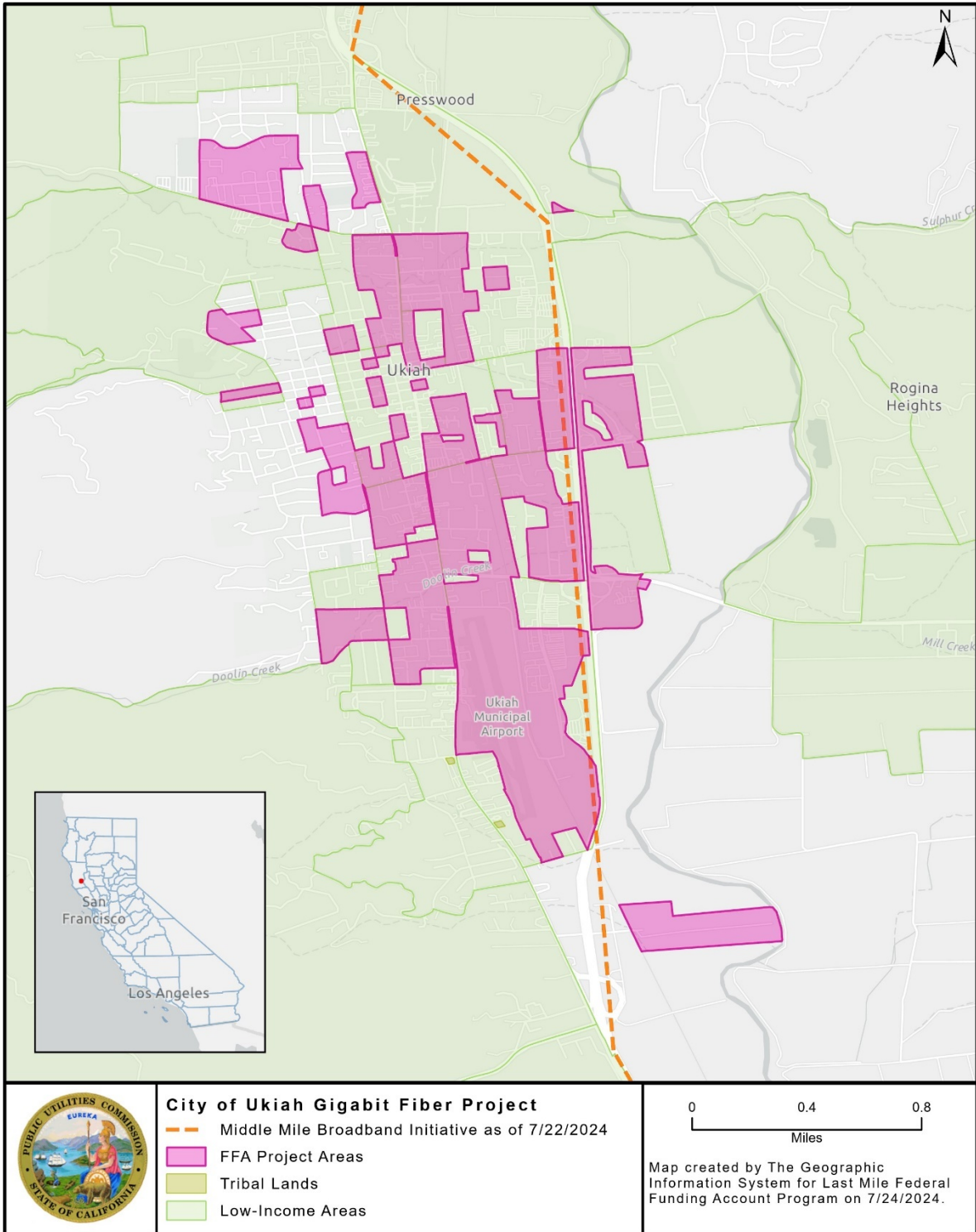
APPENDIX L
City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project
Key Information

Project Name	City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project
Applicant Name	City of Ukiah
Community Names	Ukiah
County	Mendocino
County Allocation	\$57,430,812
Project Size (in square miles)	3
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10,000/10,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$39.99/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$29.99/month for 10,000/10,000 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$39.99/month for 50/20 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	88 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$48,358
Area Households	3,855
Area Population	9,142
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	5,148
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	9,136
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	375
Unserved locations in the project area	375
Unserved units in the project area	872
Estimated unserved population in the project area	1,635
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	241

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	748
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	44
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	10
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$5,587,154
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$6,403,261
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$5,587,154
Applicant funded	\$816,107
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$6,407
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$612

Map of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project

City of Ukiah- City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber Project- Mendocino County

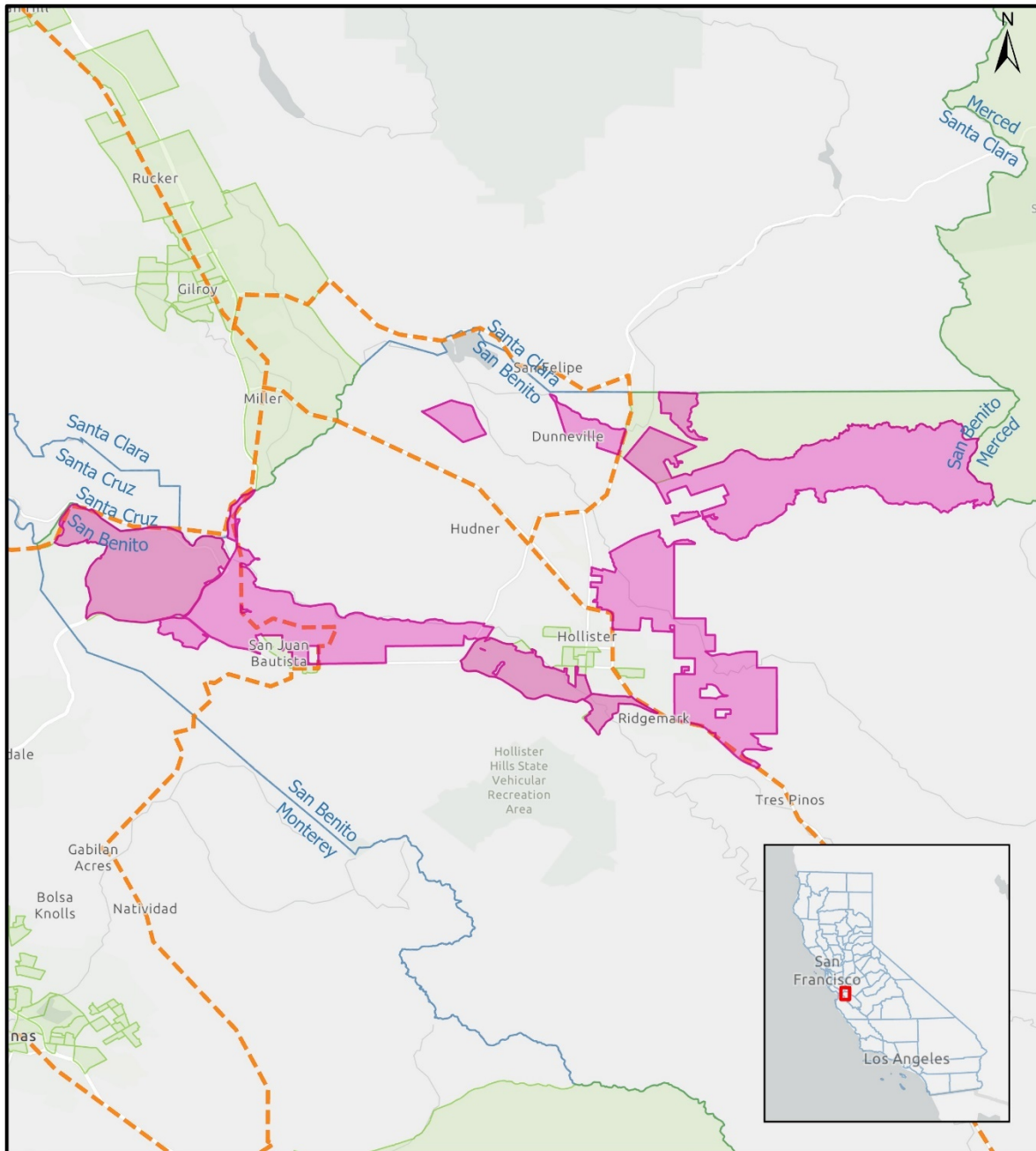


**APPENDIX M
HIT San Benito
Key Information**

Project Name	HIT San Benito
Applicant Name	Hankins Information Technology, Inc.
Community Names	Hollister, San Juan, and Aromas
County	San Benito
County Allocation	\$10,436,025
Project Size (in square miles)	83
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10,000/10,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	55 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$72,639
Area Households	2,215
Area Population	6,560
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	4,605
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	5,831
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	1,200
Unserved locations in the project area	1,154
Unserved units in the project area	1,677
Estimated unserved population in the project area	4,572
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	287
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	810

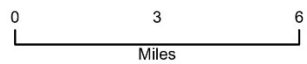
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	13
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	2
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$10,436,024
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$11,114,635
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$10,436,024
Applicant funded	\$678,611
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$6,223
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$1,790

Map of HIT San Benito Hankins- HIT San Benito- San Benito County



HIT San Benito

-  Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
-  FFA Project Areas
-  Tribal Lands
-  Low-Income Areas



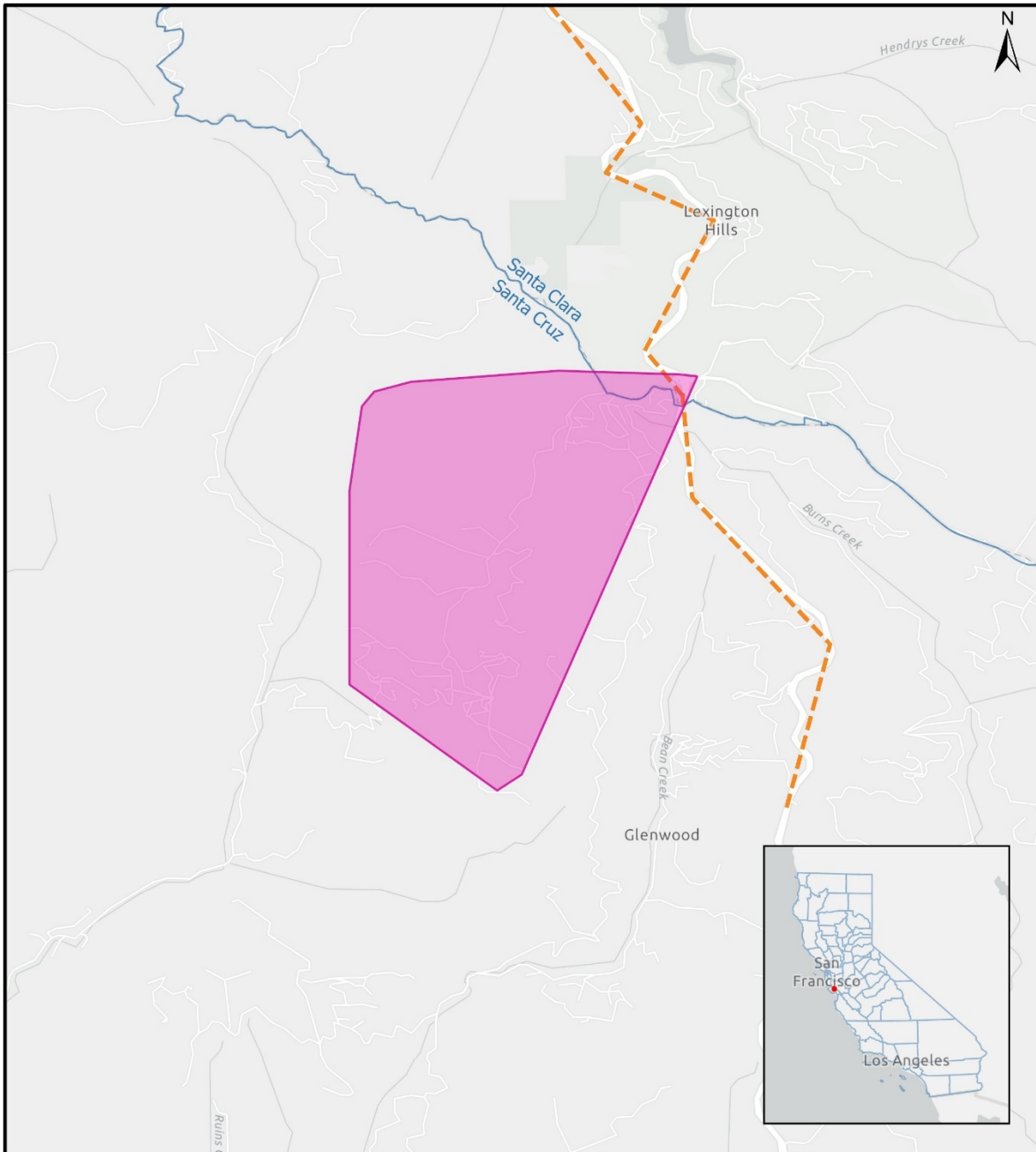
Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

**APPENDIX N
Hutchinson
Key Information**

Project Name	Hutchinson
Applicant Name	Surfnet Communications, Inc.
Community Names	Hutchinson
County	Santa Cruz
County Allocation	\$10,323,008
Project Size (in square miles)	4
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$153,848
Area Households	358
Area Population	805
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	319
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	430
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	239
Unserved locations in the project area	251
Unserved units in the project area	343
Estimated unserved population in the project area	760
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	69
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	161

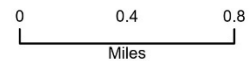
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	0
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	0
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$2,232,995
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$2,232,995
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$2,232,995
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$6,510
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$5,193

Map of Hutchinson Surfnet- Hutchinson- Santa Cruz County



Hutchinson

- Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
- FFA Project Areas
- Tribal Lands
- Low-Income Areas



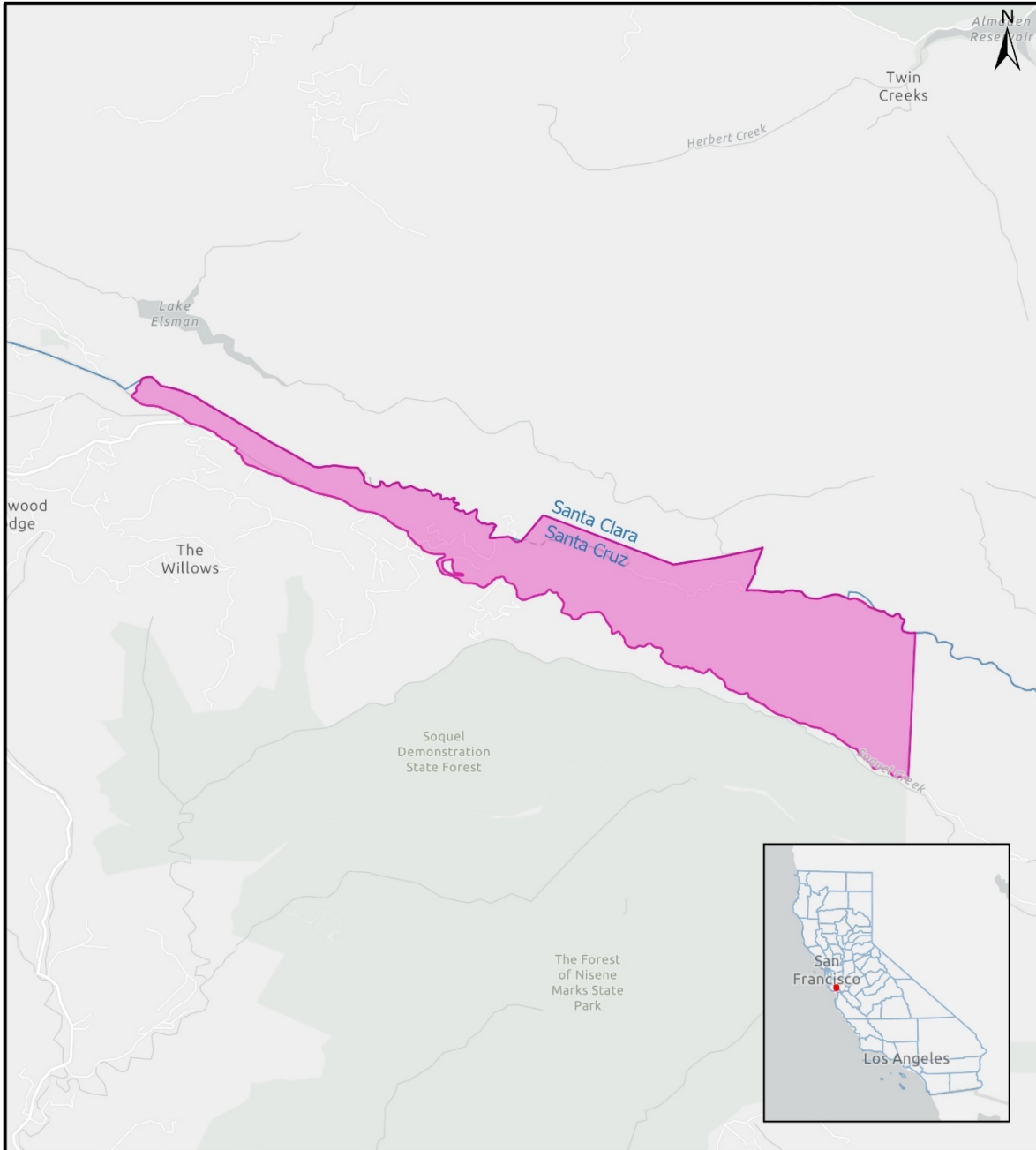
Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

APPENDIX O
Mnt Bache
Key Information


Project Name	Mnt Bache
Applicant Name	Surfnet Communications, inc.
Community Names	Mnt Bache
County	Santa Cruz
County Allocation	\$10,323,008
Project Size (in square miles)	5
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1000/1000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$126,250
Area Households	154
Area Population	408
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	212
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	284
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	101
Unserved locations in the project area	84
Unserved units in the project area	121
Estimated unserved population in the project area	307
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	29
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	66

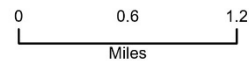
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	0
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	0
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$990,767
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$990,767
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$990,767
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$8,188
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$3,489

Map of Mnt Bache Surfnet- Mnt Bache- Santa Cruz County



Mnt Bache

-  Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
-  FFA Project Areas
-  Tribal Lands
-  Low-Income Areas



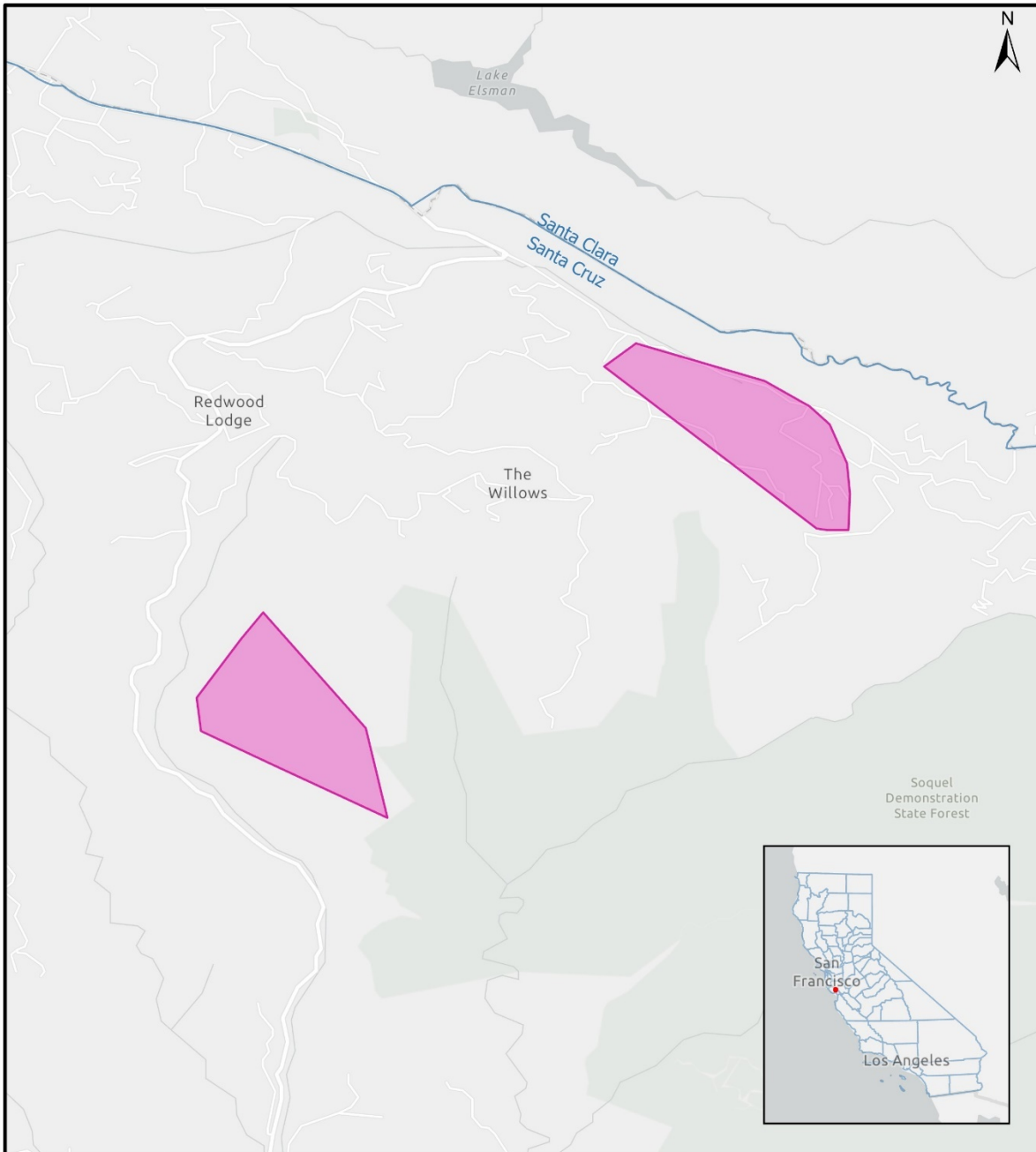
Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

**APPENDIX P
Radonich
Key Information**


Project Name	Radonich
Applicant Name	Surfnet Communications, Inc.
Community Names	Radonich
County	Santa Cruz
County Allocation	\$10,323,008
Project Size (in square miles)	1
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$30/month for 100/100 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$126,250
Area Households	87
Area Population	210
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	123
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	170
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	70
Unserved locations in the project area	57
Unserved units in the project area	78
Estimated unserved population in the project area	158
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	20
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	41

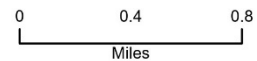
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	1
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	1
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	Yes
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$1,125,031
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$1,125,031
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$1,125,031
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$14,423
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$6,618

Map of Radonich Surfnet- Radonich- Santa Cruz County



Radonich

-  Middle Mile Broadband Initiative as of 7/22/2024
-  FFA Project Areas
-  Tribal Lands
-  Low-Income Areas



Map created by The Geographic Information System for Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program on 7/24/2024.

**APPENDIX Q
Sutter County
Key Information**

Project Name	Sutter County
Applicant Name	Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC
Community Names	Yuba City, Live Oak
County	Sutter
County Allocation	\$20,397,554
Project Size (in square miles)	36
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,250/1,250 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 100/100 Mbps ³²
Low-income plan	Yes, \$9.95/month for 50/10 Mbps, with Internet Essentials, or speeds of up to 100/20 Mbps for \$29.95/month with Internet Essentials Plus
Low-cost plan (non-income qualified)	Yes, \$40/month for 100/100 Mbps ³³
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	99 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$61,250
Area Households	546
Area Population	1,679
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	689
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	857
Unserved locations applicant proposes to serve	458

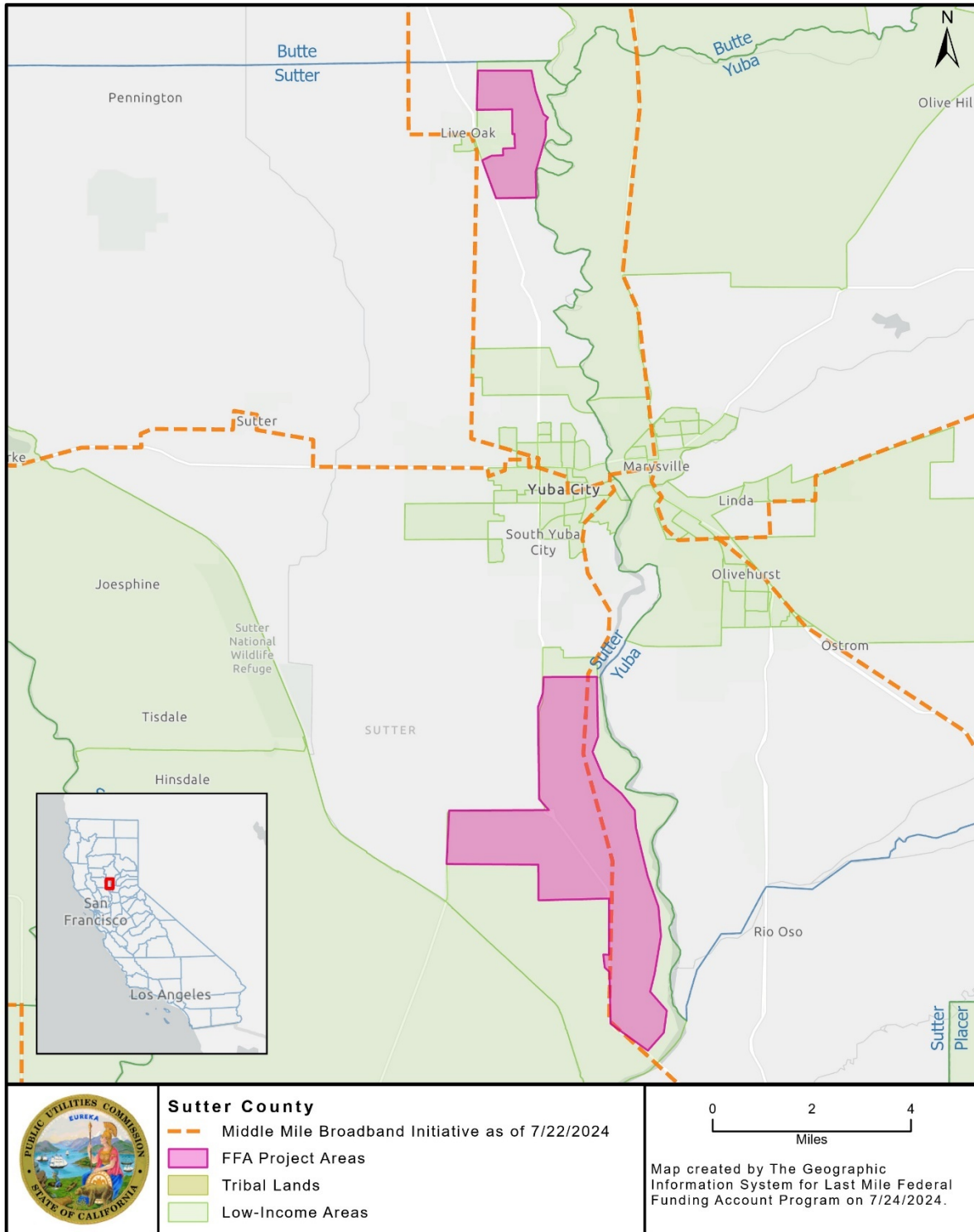
³² In its Application for this project, Comcast sought confidential treatment of, among other things, this price and speed pursuant to the CPRA, Public Utilities Code § 583, and G.O. 66-D. As an express requirement to receive this proposed public grant, this information does not qualify as a trade secret, and the public interest in its disclosure outweighs the public interest in its nondisclosure.

³³ In its Application for this project, Comcast sought confidential treatment of, among other things, this price and speed pursuant to the CPRA, Public Utilities Code § 583, and G.O. 66-D. As an express requirement to receive this proposed public grant, this information does not qualify as a trade secret, and the public interest in its disclosure outweighs the public interest in its nondisclosure.

Unserved locations in the project area	418
Unserved units in the project area	537
Estimated unserved population in the project area	1,392
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	99
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	218
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	2
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	1
Does the project connect to public open access middle mile?	No
Distance of middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last mile delivery	\$13,804,241
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$13,804,241
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$13,804,241
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$25,706
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$16,108

Map of Comcast's Sutter County Project

Comcast- Sutter County- Sutter County



**California Public Utilities Commission
Federal Funding Account, Last Mile Program
Guidance to Staff Regarding
CONSENT FORM
Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Terms**

Awardee Name: _____

Key Project Contact: _____

The Awardee identified above acknowledges receipt of the California Public Utilities Commission Resolution or Award Letter and agrees to comply with all grant terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in the Resolution or Award Letter including those in the Federal Funding Account, Last Mile Program Rules. Awards are contingent on available state budget appropriations funding and may be subject to Budget Letter 24-07.³⁴

Undersigned representative of _____ [Name of Awardee] is duly authorized to execute this Consent Form on behalf of the Awardee and to bind the Awardee to the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in California Public Utilities Commission Resolution or Award Letter and those in the Federal Funding Account, Last Mile Program Rules.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature of Awardee Representative: _____

Title _____

Printed Name _____

Name of Business, Organization, Local Agency or Tribe:

Business Address (include street address, suite/apt. number, city, state, and ZIP Code):

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

³⁴ Department of Finance Budget Letter 24-07, "Onetime Appropriation(s) Expenditure Freeze Pursuant to Section 21 of the Budget Act of 2023 (As Amended by Section 74 of AB 106 (Chapter 9, Statutes of 2024))," available at: <https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/2024/04/BL-24-07.pdf>