

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17845
September 26, 2024**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17845: Approves seven applications for grants for up to \$102,939,784 from the Last Mile Federal Funding Account in El Dorado and Santa Clara counties, providing service to 4,376 unserved locations.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution recommends approval of seven Last Mile Federal Funding Account grants in the amount of up to \$102,939,784.

This Resolution is the sixth 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 seven projects in this Resolution propose to make investments bringing the social, economic, civic, and public safety benefits of high-speed broadband to 4,376 unserved locations and an estimated unserved population of 16,308 in El Dorado and Santa Clara counties. An estimated total population of 20,191 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.

Staff recommends grant awards to four entities (listed in the order in which they appear in this Resolution): The County of El Dorado, the City of Placerville, Hankins Information Technology, Inc. (Hankins Information Technology or HIT), and the California Broadband Alliance.

The County of El Dorado is a local government of California. The City of Placerville is an incorporated city located in El Dorado County. Hankins Information Technology is an independent Internet Service Provider 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 seven 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
El Dorado						
The City of Placerville	Placerville Broadband	264	469	1,301	2,145	\$20,198,943
County of El Dorado	Coloma Broadband Project	82	168	377	386	\$4,692,838
County of El Dorado	Garden Valley Broadband Project	605	788	1,683	1,693	\$25,227,011
County of El Dorado	Indian Creek Broadband Project	945	1,176	2,884	2,908	\$30,766,152
County of El Dorado	Georgetown Broadband Project	161	458	898	960	\$5,636,823
Subtotal		2,057	3,059	7,143	8,092	\$86,521,767
Santa Clara						
Hankins Information Technology	HIT Santa Clara	2,175	2,861	8,963	11,895	\$13,813,142
Surfnet Communications	Lexington ConnectEd	144	102	202	204	\$2,604,875
Subtotal		2,319	2,963	9,165	12,099	\$16,418,017
Grand Total		4,376	6,022	16,308	20,191	\$102,939,784

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 Decision (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 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 Megabits per second (Mbps) down and 20 Megabits per second 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.

¹ Statute 2021, Chapters 84 and 112.

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.

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.

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-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>.

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."

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

El Dorado County Summary

The allocation for projects in El Dorado County in D. 22-04-005 is \$111,856,097. This Resolution recommends awarding five grants for projects in El Dorado County: four grants to El Dorado County and one grant to the City of Placerville. The recommended grant amount for projects in El Dorado County is \$86,521,767, which leaves a remainder of \$25,334,330 of the allocation for El Dorado County.

El Dorado County Awards

1. City of Placerville, Placerville Broadband

Staff recommends the Commission approve the City of Placerville's application for a grant of up to \$20,198,943 for the Placerville Broadband project.

The Placerville Broadband project proposes to serve an estimated 264 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 469 unserved units in the project area, including 116 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 315 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 1,301 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 2,145 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Placerville. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1/1 gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The City of Placerville will deploy approximately 40 miles of last-mile open-access network infrastructure. The network will be underground. The project is designed to provide competitive access from multiple service providers over the last-mile open-access infrastructure to benefit all locations in the project area. The project will benefit

⁷ Federal broadband programs include the Connect America Fund II, Community Connects Grant Program, Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, Rural E-Connectivity Program, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and Telephone Loan Program.

all locations in the project area; connections to served locations will be separately funded.

The City of Placerville will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D.22-04-055, Section 3.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$20,198,943, 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 the City of Placerville responded to the objection. Staff verified that the served locations in the project area are necessary for the project to be financially viable. The City of Placerville's proposed project area was not modified in response to objections; the Federal Final Rule⁸ and D.22-04-055⁹ allow projects serving unserved locations to include served locations to make the project viable.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in El Dorado County.¹⁰ Placerville Broadband project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of the updated Federal Communications Commission and Federal Funding Account unserved data (as of June 30, 2023). In response to an objection and this data, the number of unserved locations remains unchanged at 264, 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 Locations 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 City of Placerville Police Department and the El Dorado Fire Protection District.

⁸ 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>.

⁹ D.22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 2, p. A-5.

¹⁰ 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 households located in a 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 confirmed that the 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, the Placerville Broadband Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

The City of Placerville and the Placerville Broadband project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of the City of Placerville for a grant of up to \$20,198,943 for the Placerville Broadband project.

2. El Dorado County, Coloma Broadband Project

Staff recommends the Commission approve El Dorado County's application for a grant of up to \$4,692,838 for the Coloma Broadband Project.

El Dorado County is the applicant and awardee. The County will retain ownership and anticipates entering into an agreement with an entity, currently planned to be Cal.net, to maintain and be the sole internet service provider on the network. The agreement between El Dorado County and Cal.net is currently anticipated to be for an initial term of 10 years with 3-year optional extensions and includes terms for early termination. Cal.net or any other or subsequent provider will provide service over the network funded by this grant. This recommended award is conditioned on the El Dorado County retaining 100 percent ownership and that the County's agreements with other entities are consistent with the program requirements.

The Coloma Broadband Project proposes to serve an estimated 82 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 168 unserved units in the project area, including 23 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 65 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 377 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 386 will benefit from these investments in the community of Coloma and surrounding unincorporated El Dorado County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second download/500 megabits per second upload service to consumers, and is designed to offer service to every resident who wants to connect.

El Dorado County will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed in the application. The County has committed to not increasing the rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$4,692,838, 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 did not receive any objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in El Dorado County.¹¹ The unserved locations of the Coloma Broadband Project were evaluated in light of the 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 is unchanged at 82, 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 Locations 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 Sierra Business Council and the Microsoft Corporation.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in a High Fire Threat District 2. The approximately eight miles of network infrastructure will be installed underground. 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. El Dorado County must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If El Dorado County 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.

¹¹ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

El Dorado County and the Coloma Broadband Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of El Dorado County for a grant of up to \$4,692,838 for the Coloma Broadband Project.

3. *El Dorado County, Garden Valley Broadband Project*

Staff recommends the Commission approve El Dorado County's application for a grant of up to \$25,227,011 for the Garden Valley Broadband Project.

El Dorado County is the applicant and awardee. The County will retain ownership and anticipates entering into an agreement with an entity, currently planned to be Cal.net, to maintain and be the sole internet service provider on the network. The agreement between El Dorado County and Cal.net is currently anticipated to be for an initial term of 10 years with 3-year optional extensions and includes terms for early termination. Cal.net or any other or subsequent provider will provide service over the network funded by this grant. This recommended award is conditioned on El Dorado County retaining 100 percent ownership and that the County's agreements with other entities are consistent with the program requirements.

The Garden Valley Broadband Project proposes to serve an estimated 605 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 650 unserved locations in the project area, including 119 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 257 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 1,683 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 1,693 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Garden Valley and surrounding unincorporated El Dorado County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second download/500 megabits per second upload service to consumers, and is designed to offer service to every resident who wants to connect.

The El Dorado County Garden Valley Broadband Project network will be able to serve every resident who wants to connect. The approximately 47 miles of network infrastructure will be installed underground.

The Garden Valley Broadband Project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; seven percent of the unserved locations are low-income. El Dorado County will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed in the application. The County has committed to not increasing rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$25,227,011, 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 did not receive any objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in El Dorado County.¹² The unserved locations of the Garden Valley Broadband Project were evaluated in light of the 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 is unchanged at 605, 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 Locations 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 Sierra Business Council and the Microsoft Corporation.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat Districts 2 and 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. El Dorado County must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If El Dorado County 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.

El Dorado County and the Garden Valley Broadband Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of El Dorado County for a grant of up to \$25,227,011 for the Garden Valley Broadband Project.

¹² See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalfundingaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited July 17, 2024).

4. *El Dorado County, Indian Creek Broadband Project*

Staff recommends the Commission approve El Dorado County's application for a grant of up to \$30,766,152 for the Indian Creek Broadband Project.

El Dorado County is the applicant and awardee. El Dorado County will retain ownership and anticipates entering into an agreement with an entity, currently planned to be Cal.net, to maintain and be the sole internet service provider on the network. The agreement between El Dorado County and Cal.net is currently anticipated to be for an initial term of 10 years with 3-year optional extensions and includes terms for early termination. Cal.net or any other or subsequent provider will provide service over the network funded by this grant. This recommended award is conditioned on El Dorado County retaining 100 percent ownership and that the County's agreements with other entities are consistent with the program requirements.

The Indian Creek Broadband Project proposes to serve an estimated 945 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 1,176 unserved units in the project area, including 237 Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 513 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 2,884 in the communities of Indian Creek and Surrounding Unincorporated El Dorado County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit download/500 megabits upload service to consumers, and is designed to offer service to every resident who wants to connect.

The El Dorado County Indian Creek Broadband Project network will be able to serve every resident who wants to connect. The approximately 57 miles of network infrastructure will be installed underground.

El Dorado County will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed in the application. The County has committed to not increasing rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$30,766,152, 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 did not receive any objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in El Dorado County.¹³ The unserved locations of the Indian Creek Broadband Project were evaluated in light of the 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 is unchanged at 945, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is unchanged.

The following submitted letters of support for this application: the Sierra Business Council and the Microsoft Corporation.

The proposed project provides the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure and will benefit households located in High Fire Threat Districts. 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. El Dorado County must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If El Dorado County 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.

El Dorado County and the Indian Creek Broadband Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of El Dorado County for a grant of up to \$30,766,152 for the Indian Creek Broadband Project.

5. El Dorado County, Georgetown Broadband Project

Staff recommends the Commission approve El Dorado County's application for a grant of up to \$5,636,823 for the Georgetown Broadband Project.

El Dorado County is the applicant and awardee. El Dorado County will retain ownership and anticipates entering into an agreement with an entity, currently planned to be Cal.net, to maintain and be the sole internet service provider on the network. The agreement between El Dorado County and Cal.net is currently anticipated to be for an initial term of 10 years with 3-year optional extensions and includes terms for early termination. Cal.net or any other or subsequent provider will provide service over the network funded by this grant. This recommended award is conditioned on El Dorado County retaining 100 percent ownership and that County's agreements with other entities are consistent with the program requirements.

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

The Georgetown Broadband Project proposes to serve an estimated 161 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 458 unserved units in the project area, including 62 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 145 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 898 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 960 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Georgetown and Surrounding Unincorporated El Dorado County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second/500 megabits per second service to consumers, and is designed to offer service to every resident who wants to connect.

The El Dorado Georgetown Broadband Project network will be able to serve every resident who wants to connect. The approximately 11 miles of network infrastructure will be installed underground.

El Dorado County will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed by the application. The County has committed to not increasing rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$5,636,823, 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 did not receive any objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in El Dorado County.¹⁴ The unserved locations of the Georgetown Broadband Project were evaluated in light of the 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 is unchanged at 161, 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 Locations 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: Sierra Business Council and Microsoft Corporation.

¹⁴ 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 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. El Dorado County must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If El Dorado County 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.

El Dorado County and the Georgetown Broadband Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of El Dorado County for a grant of up to \$5,636,823 for the Georgetown Broadband Project] project.

Santa Clara Summary

The allocation for projects in Santa Clara County in D. 22-04-005 is \$36,014,517. This Resolution recommends awarding one grant to Hankins Information Technology and one grant to the California Broadband Alliance, which has partnered with the applicant Surfnet Communications, for projects in Santa Clara County. The recommended grant amount for projects in Santa Clara County is \$16,418,017, which leaves a remainder of \$19,596,500 of the allocation for Santa Clara.

Santa Clara Awards

1. Hankins Information Technology, HIT Santa Clara

Staff recommends the Commission approve Hankins Information Technology's application for a grant of up to \$13,813,142 for the HIT Santa Clara project.

The HIT Santa Clara project proposes to serve an estimated 2,212 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 2,861 unserved units in the project area, including 314 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 1,010 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 8,963 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 11,895 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Gilroy, San Martin, Morgan Hill, and Coyote Valley. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 10 gigabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The HIT Santa Clara project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 48 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Hankins Information Technology will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed by the project. HIT has committed to not increasing rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$13,813,142, 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, one of which was later withdrawn. The second objection was analyzed for overlap with the project and included 37 locations in the proposed project. Staff will remove the overlapping locations and consult with the applicant about reducing the project budget accordingly. For other locations in the project area, staff verified that the served locations in the project area are necessary for the project to be viable. The HIT Santa Clara proposed project area was not modified in response to objections beyond the removal of the 37 locations; the Federal Final Rule¹⁵ and D.22-04-055¹⁶ allow projects serving unserved locations to include served locations to make the project viable.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Santa Clara County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.¹⁷ HIT Santa Clara's project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of the 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 was reduced by 37 to 2,175, and staff will consult with the applicant about commensurate reduction of the total grant amount. 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 Federal

¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁶ D.22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 2, p. A-5.

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

Funding Account award will not fund locations supported by a federal broadband program with Capital Project Fund monies.¹⁸

Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools submitted a letter of support for this project on behalf of the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

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; 90 percent of the estimated 85 miles of infrastructure will be installed underground. 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 HIT Santa Clara project 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 Information Technology and the HIT Santa Clara project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of Hankins Information Technology for a grant of up to \$13,813,142 for the HIT Santa Clara project.

2. Surfnets Communications, Lexington ConnectEd

Staff recommends the Commission approve Surfnets Communications' application for a grant of up to \$2,604,875 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Lexington ConnectEd project.

The Lexington ConnectEd project proposes to serve an estimated 144 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 102 unserved units in the project area, including 13 unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit locations representing an estimated 36 unserved units. An estimated unserved population of 202 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 204 will benefit from these investments in the Lexington Basin community. The last-

¹⁸ 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).

mile fiber project will provide up to one gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

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 will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, for the life of the infrastructure proposed by the application. Surfnet has committed to not increasing rates on a suite of plans for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$2,604,875, 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 three objections and Surfnet Communications responded to the objections. Staff confirmed that 40 locations in the project area are already served, which have been removed from the project.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Santa Clara County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.¹⁹ The Lexington ConnectEd project area's unserved locations were evaluated in light of the 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 revised from 144 to 104, the project area is reduced to 10 square miles, and the total grant amount is reduced from \$2,921,441 to \$2,604,875. 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.

David Campos, Deputy County Executive, submitted a letter of support for this project on behalf of the County of Santa Clara.

¹⁹ 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 households located in a High Fire Threat District 3 and an area prone to mudslides that wash out underground infrastructure. Approximately 90 percent of the infrastructure will be installed on existing aerial facilities (poles). 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 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 California Broadband Alliance, Surfnet Communications, and the Lexington ConnectEd project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of Surfnet Communications for a grant of up to \$2,604,875 to the California Broadband Alliance for the Lexington ConnectEd project.

Comments

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1), a Notice of Availability of this draft resolution was e-mailed on August 23, 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 September 12, 2024, by Charter.

Charter's Comments

Charter states that it opposes the Draft Resolution's recommended approval of Hankins Information Technology's HIT Santa Clara project, to the extent that it funds locations where service is already offered by existing providers. Charter suggests that served locations in the HIT Santa Clara project area should be removed from the proposed grant. Charter states that it submitted an objection demonstrating that it can provide broadband service in the HIT Santa Clara project area, and that the Draft Resolution did

not take this into consideration. Charter requests a justification for funding served locations.

Staff Response to Comments

Staff acknowledges that Charter filed a timely objection to the HIT Santa Clara project. Staff considered Charter's objection while holistically reviewing and analyzing the applications submitted in Santa Clara County, including the HIT Santa Clara project, but the objection was omitted from the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution has been revised accordingly.

Staff has determined that there are 37 locations in the HIT Santa Clara project area that are served by Charter. The recommended award is updated accordingly.

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 megabits per second download and 100 megabits per second upload, with not more than 100 milliseconds of latency.

D. Affordability: All projects shall participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program 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 Affordable Connectivity Program. Should the Affordable Connectivity 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 Affordable Connectivity Program 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.²⁰

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.²¹

G. Prevailing Wage: Section 1720 of the California Labor Code requires Federal Funding Account projects be subject to prevailing wage requirements.²² 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.

²⁰ 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>.

²¹ D. 22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 14.

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

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. The City of Placerville submitted an application for Placerville Broadband on September 29, 2023.
5. The County of El Dorado submitted applications for the Coloma Broadband Project, Garden Valley Broadband Project, Indian Creek Broadband Project, and Georgetown Broadband Project on September 29, 2023.
6. Hankins Information Technology submitted an application for the HIT Santa Clara project on September 28, 2023.
7. Surfnet Communications submitted an application for the Lexington ConnectEd project on September 29, 2023.
8. Applicants responded to a supplemental data request that was due on March 12, 2024, providing information on project route miles, poles, unserved locations, middle-mile connectivity, and other updated project specific information.
9. The Commission has determined that the City of Placerville's Placerville Broadband Project is categorically exempt from 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.

10. The Commission has determined that the County of El Dorado's Coloma Broadband Project, Garden Valley Broadband Project, Indian Creek Broadband Project, and Georgetown Broadband Project are not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review at this time.
11. The Commission has determined that Hankins Information Technology's HIT Santa Clara project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review at this time.
12. The Commission has determined that Surfnets Lexington ConnectEd 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. Communications Division staff analyzed the applications for compliance with Commission and Federal rules, reviewed local feedback, and conducted fiscal and technical analysis.
14. All applications listed above met minimum eligibility requirements provided in Decision 22-04-055.
15. 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.
16. Draft Resolution T-17835 was emailed to the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List on August 23, 2024, in compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission shall award up to \$20,198,843 in Federal Funding Account funds to The City of Placerville in order to complete the Placerville Broadband 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 \$4,692,838 in Federal Funding Account funds to the County of El Dorado in order to complete the Coloma Broadband 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 \$25,227,011 in Federal Funding Account funds to the County of El Dorado in order to complete the Garden Valley Broadband 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 \$30,766,152 in Federal Funding Account funds to the County of El Dorado in order to complete the Indian Creek Broadband 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 \$5,636,823 in Federal Funding Account funds to the County of El Dorado in order to complete the Georgetown Broadband 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 County of El Dorado shall retain ownership of 100 percent of the infrastructure funded by grants for the Coloma Broadband Project, Garden Valley Broadband Project, Indian Creek Broadband Project, and Georgetown Broadband Project.
7. The Commission shall award up to \$13,813,142 in Federal Funding Account funds to Hankins Information Technology in order to complete the HIT Santa Clara 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 \$2,604,875 in Federal Funding Account funds to the California Broadband Alliance in order to complete the Lexington ConnectEd 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. To ensure compliance with all program rules and guidelines, the Commission will not release funds to an applicant, including but not limited to the City of Placerville, the County of El Dorado, and 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Awardee(s) shall comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions set forth in this resolution.
13. When a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program is identified by the Commission, all awardees shall participate in that program.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

17. 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.

This resolution is effective today.

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

Rachel Peterson
Executive Director

APPENDIX A

City of Placerville California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

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

- Placerville Broadband Project

The Placerville Broadband Project is located entirely within the City of Placerville. The Commission was provided with project plans to install approximately 40 miles of fiber underground in city-owned Right of Way. The predominant installation method for the fiber and conduit will be horizontal boring at a depth of 40 inches in the City's Right of Way, existing public easement, or within developed private properties immediately adjacent to existing facilities. Two prefabricated 10 feet by 20 feet telecommunications shelters will be installed within the City's developed urban area.

Based on information that the City of Placerville 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 Placerville Broadband Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

APPENDIX B
County of El Dorado California Environmental Quality Act Compliance
Requirements

The following County of El Dorado projects are subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Coloma Broadband Project
- Garden Valley Broadband Project
- Indian Creek Broadband Project
- Georgetown Broadband 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 County of El Dorado 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 County of El Dorado 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 County of El Dorado 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 County of El Dorado's listed applications are subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, as acknowledged in its application. The County of El Dorado should make every effort to ensure that the Commission's CEQA Unit is aware of and included in the NEPA process. The County of El Dorado 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.

The County of El Dorado 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 C

Hankins Information Technology California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

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

- HIT Santa Clara

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's listed application is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, as acknowledged in its application. Hankins Information Technology should make every effort to ensure that the Commission's CEQA Unit is aware of and included in the NEPA process. Hankins Information Technology 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.

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 D

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

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

- Lexington ConnectEd

The Lexington ConnectEd project is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County, south of the city of Los Gatos. Surfnet Communications provided the Commission with its project plans to install fiber utilizing existing aerial facilities within the existing Public Rights of Way. Surfnet Communications plans to install approximately 11.3 miles of fiber and strand on existing poles. Surfnet Communications will ensure poles comply with General Order 95 and the approval of Pacific Gas and Electric for joint occupancy when placing fiber on existing poles or replacing poles.

Based on the information that Surfnet Communications 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), 14 C.C.R. § 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R. § 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, the Lexington ConnectEd project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

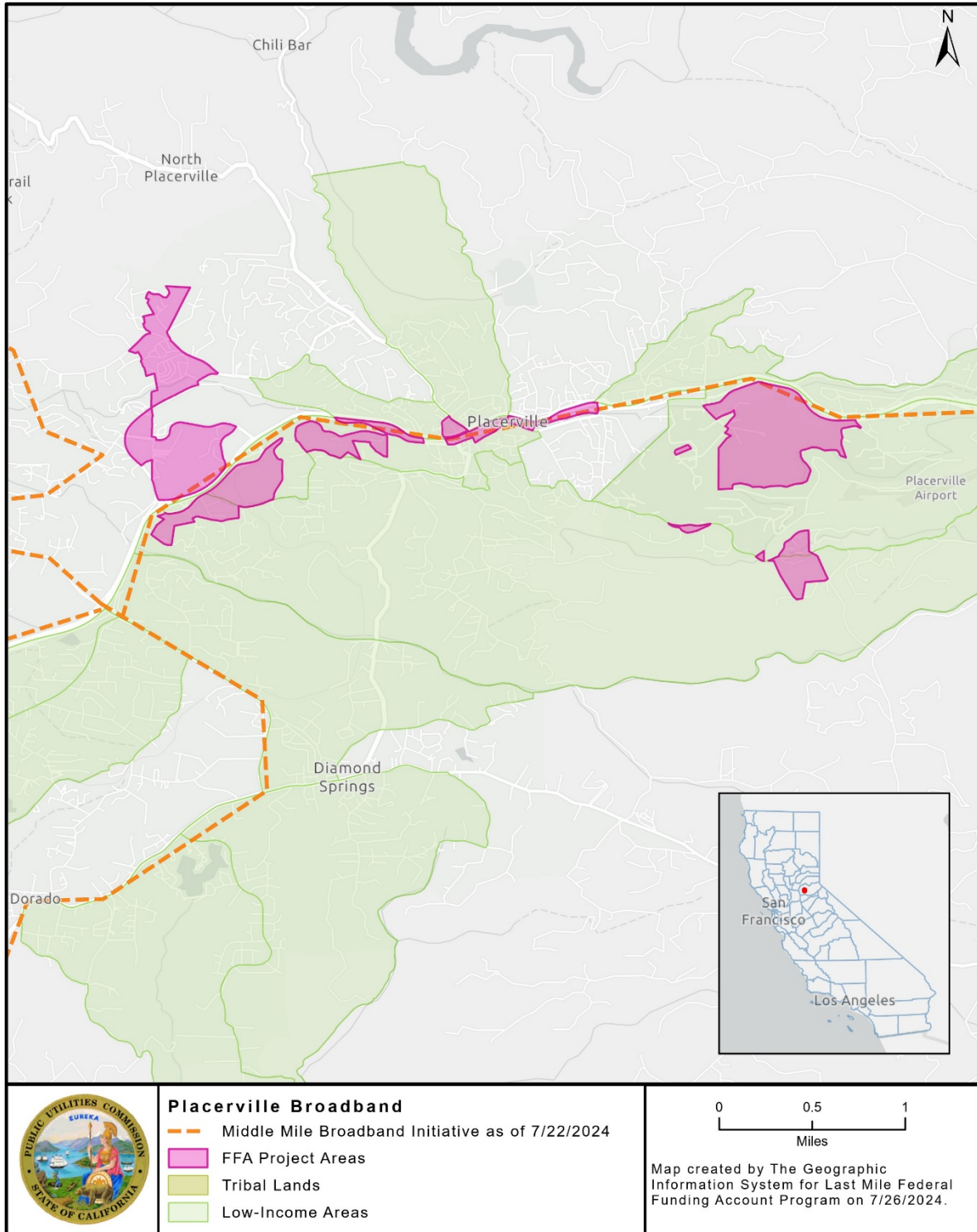
APPENDIX E
Placerville Broadband
Key Information

Project Name	Placerville Broadband
Applicant Name	Placerville, City of
Community Names	Placerville
County	El Dorado
County Allocation	\$111,856,097
Project Size (in square miles)	2
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1/1 Gbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	No
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	30 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$65,319
Area Households	656
Area Population	2,145
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	1,888
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	2,967
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	264
Unserved locations in the project area	270
Unserved units in the project area	469
Estimated unserved population in the project area	1,301
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	116

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	315
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	12
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	4
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	\$20,198,943
Deployment Schedule	12 Months
Total Project Cost	\$20,198,943
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$20,198,943
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$43,068
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$6,808

Map of Placerville Broadband

City of Placerville- Placerville Broadband- El Dorado County

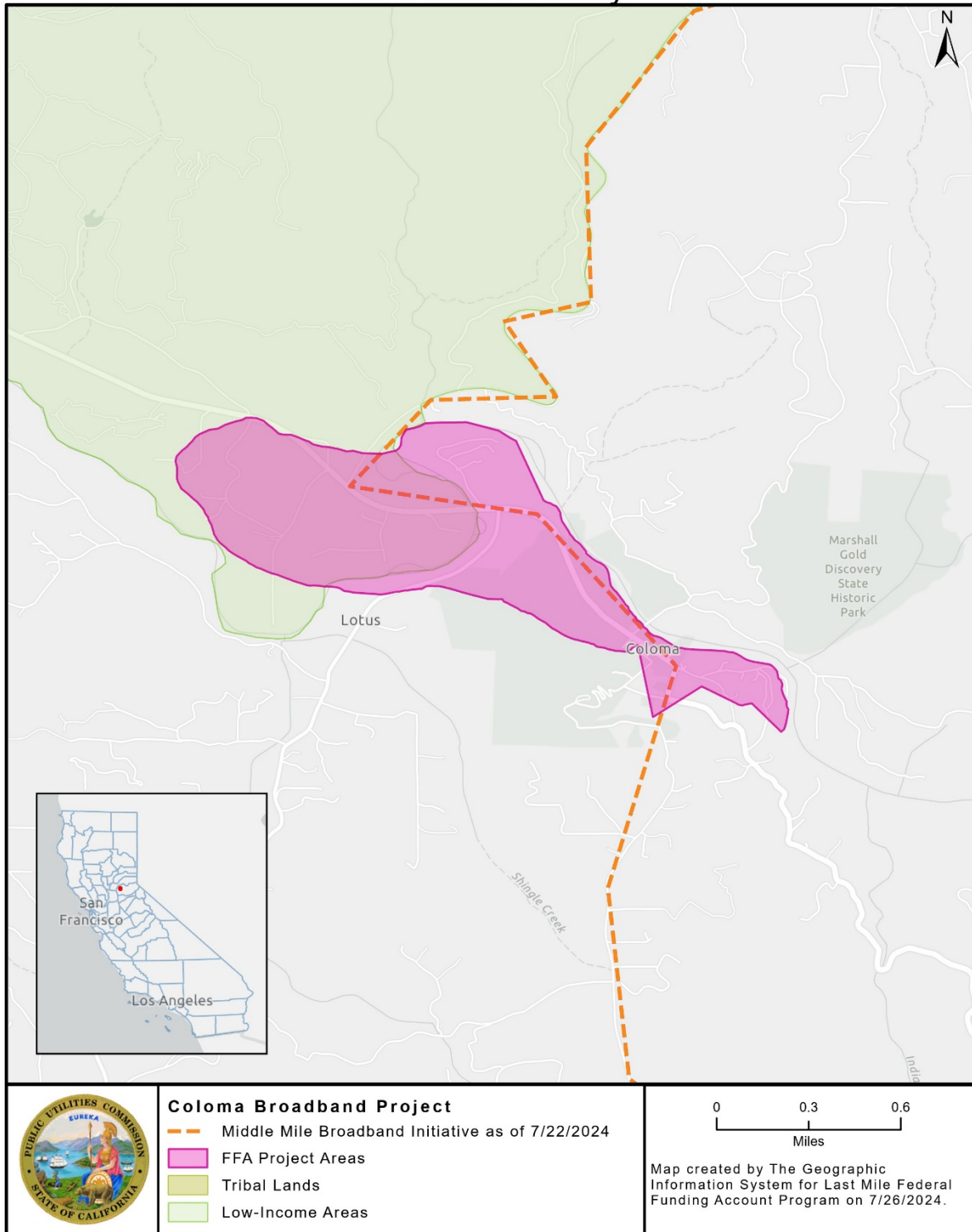


APPENDIX F
Coloma Broadband Project
Key Information

Project Name	Coloma Broadband Project
Applicant Name	El Dorado County
Community Names	Coloma and Surrounding Unincorporated El Dorado County
County	El Dorado
County Allocation	\$111,856,097
Project Size (in square miles)	2
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1 Gbps/500 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$32.97 for 10/10 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$39.97 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$39.97 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	43 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$103,021
Area Households	157
Area Population	386
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	243
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	321
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	82
Unserved locations in the project area	126
Unserved units in the project area	168
Estimated unserved population in the project area	377
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	23

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	65
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	\$4,692,838
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$4,692,838
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$4,692,838
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$27,934
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$14,619

Map of Coloma Broadband Project El Dorado County- Coloma Broadband Project- El Dorado County



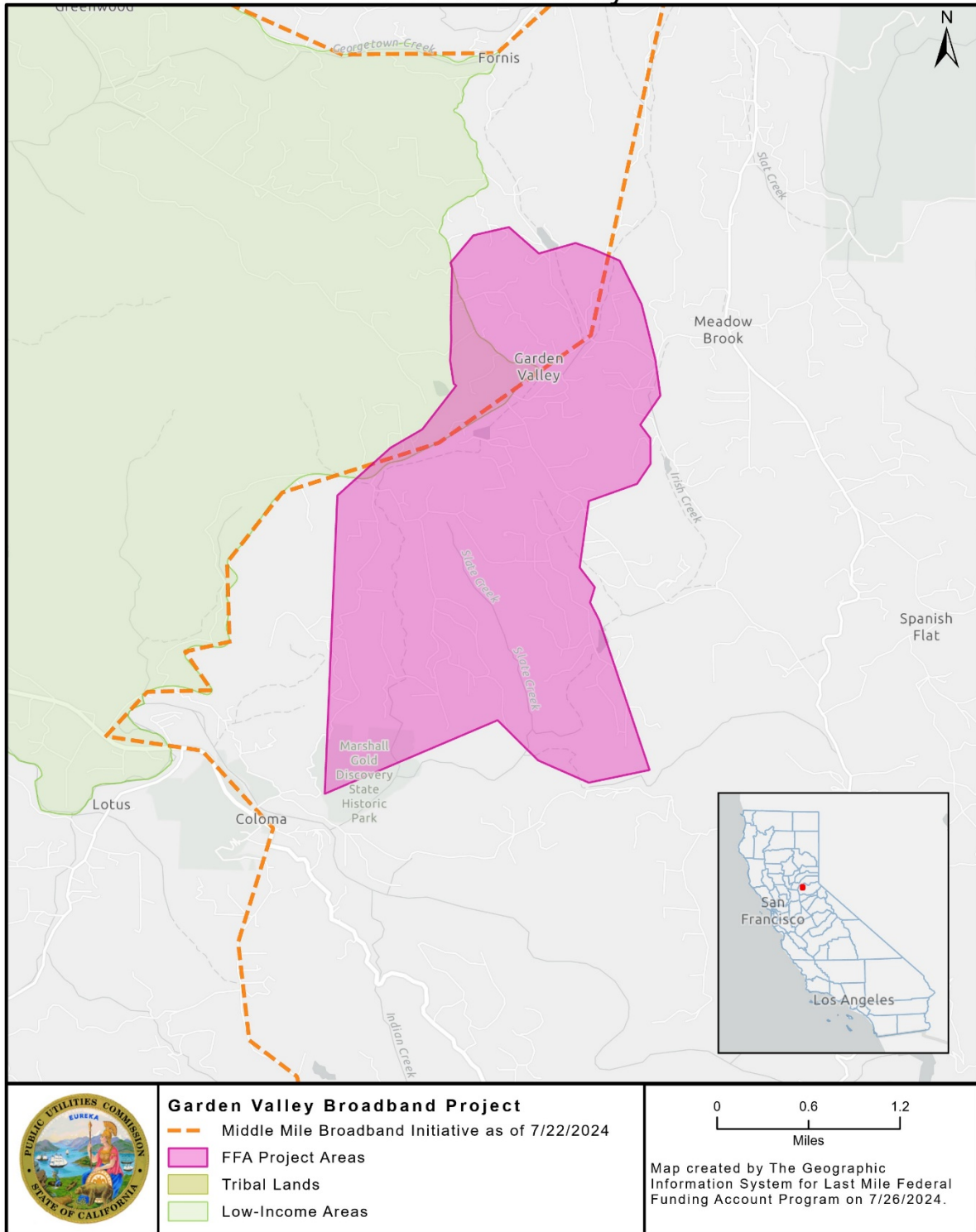
APPENDIX G
Garden Valley Broadband Project
Key Information

Project Name	Garden Valley Broadband Project
Applicant Name	El Dorado County
Community Names	Garden Valley and surrounding unincorporated El Dorado County
County	El Dorado
County Allocation	\$111,856,097
Project Size (in square miles)	11
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1 Gbps/500 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$32.97 for 10/10 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$39.97 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$39.97 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	7 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$73,958
Area Households	730
Area Population	1,693
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	749
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	919
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	605
Unserved locations in the project area	650
Unserved units in the project area	788
Estimated unserved population in the project area	1,683
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	119
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	257

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	6
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	3
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	\$25,227,011
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$25,227,011
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$25,227,011
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$32,014
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$27,451

Map of Garden Valley Broadband Project

El Dorado County- Garden Valley Broadband Project- El Dorado County

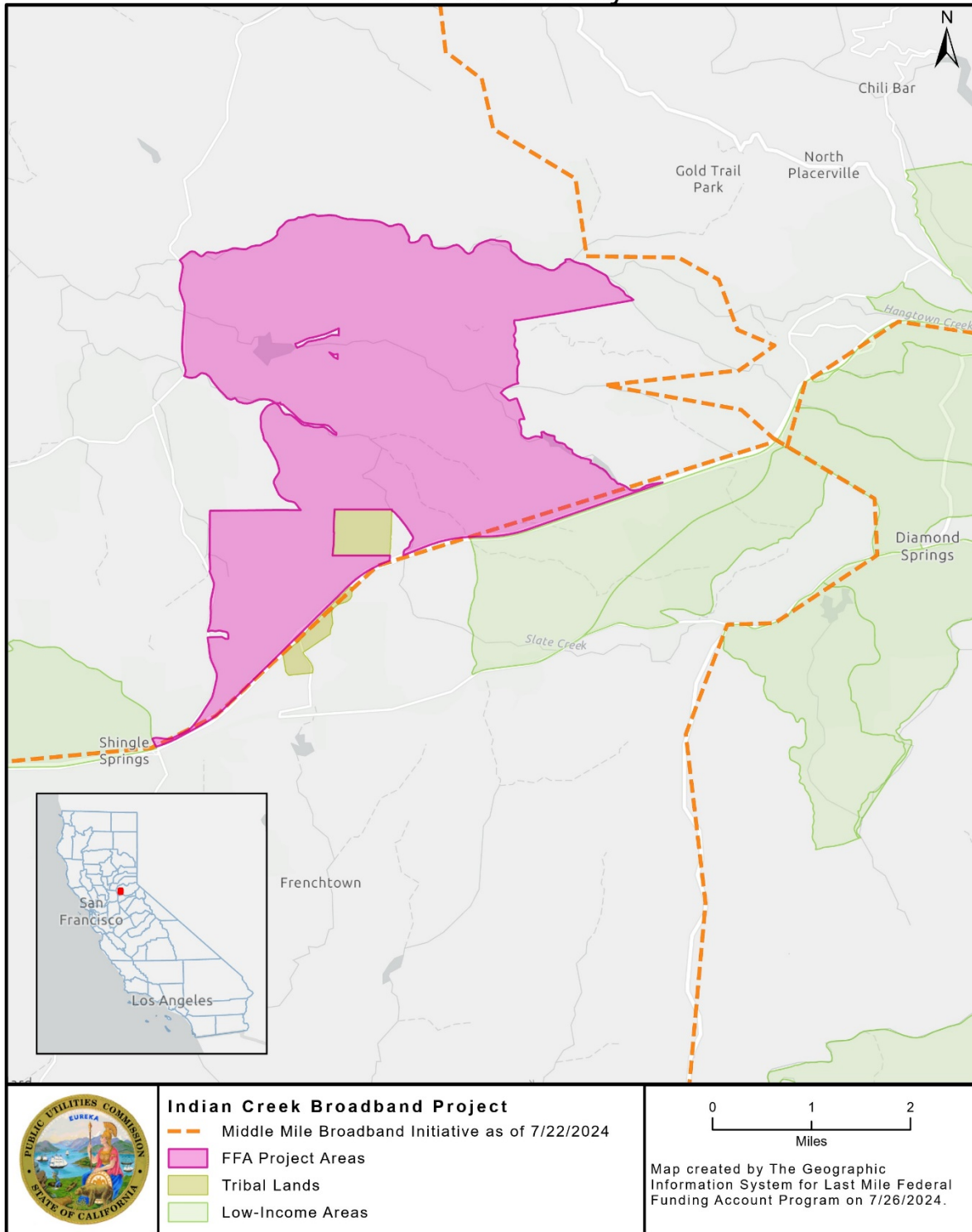


APPENDIX H
Indian Creek Broadband Project
Key Information

Project Name	Indian Creek Broadband Project
Applicant Name	El Dorado County
Community Names	Indian Creek and Surrounding Unincorporated El Dorado County
County	El Dorado
County Allocation	\$111,856,097
Project Size (in square miles)	18
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1 Gbps/500 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$32.97 for 10/10 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$39.97 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$109,375
Area Households	1,104
Area Population	2,908
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	1,193
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1,660
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	945
Unserved locations in the project area	900
Unserved units in the project area	1,176
Estimated unserved population in the project area	2,884
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	237
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	513

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	2
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	2 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$30,766,152
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$30,766,152
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$30,766,152
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$26,162
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$18,534

Map of Indian Creek Broadband Project El Dorado County- Indian Creek Broadband Project- El Dorado County

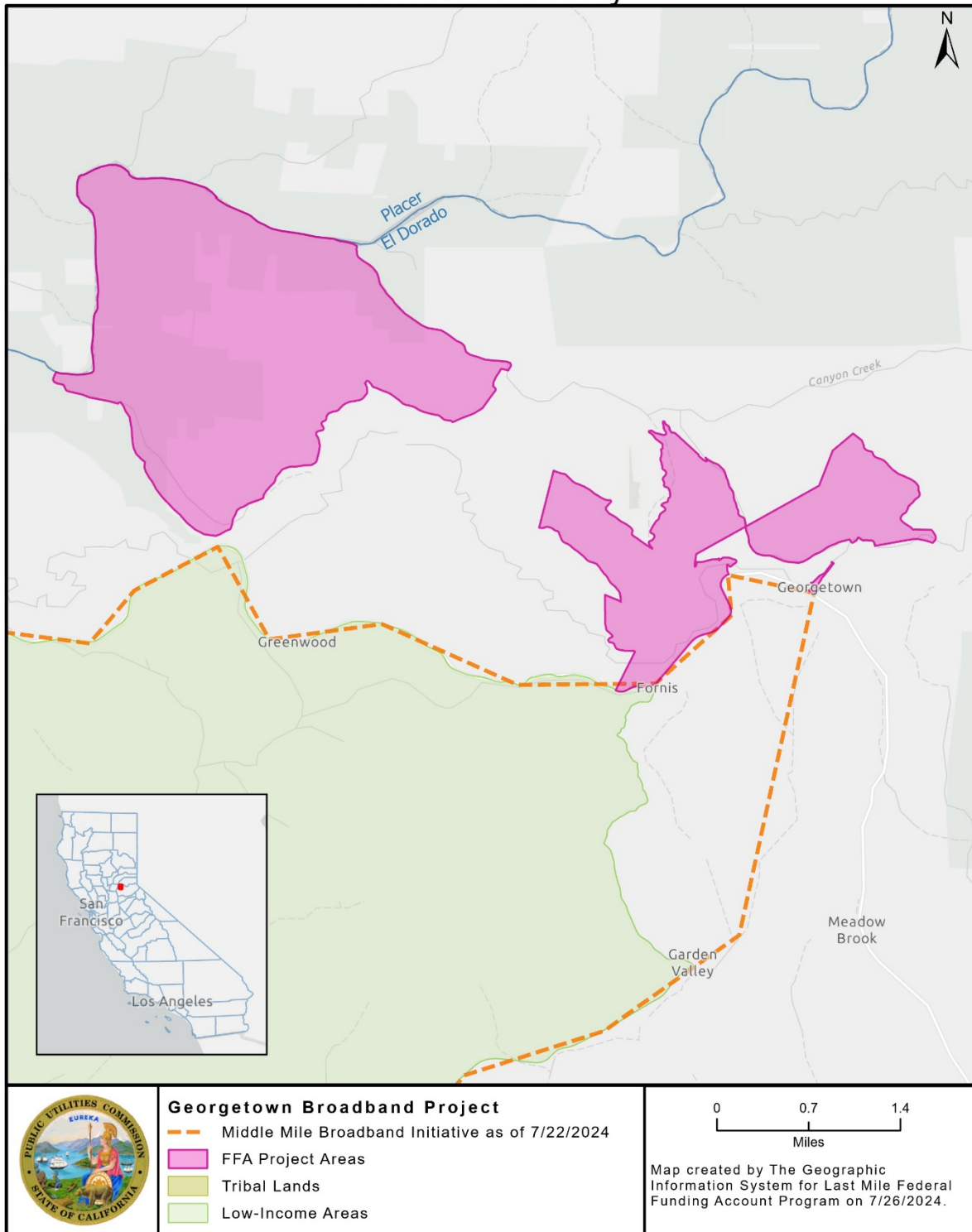


APPENDIX I
Georgetown Broadband Project
Key Information

Project Name	Georgetown Broadband Project
Applicant Name	El Dorado County
Community Names	Georgetown and Surrounding Unincorporated El Dorado County
County	El Dorado
County Allocation	\$111,856,097
Project Size (in square miles)	14
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1 Gbps/500 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$32.97 for 10/10 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$39.97 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$75,279
Area Households	434
Area Population	960
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	678
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	847
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	161
Unserved locations in the project area	375
Unserved units in the project area	458
Estimated unserved population in the project area	898
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	62

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	145
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?	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	\$5,636,823
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$5,636,823
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$5,636,823
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$12,307
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$6,655

Map of Georgetown Broadband Project
El Dorado County- Georgetown Broadband Project-
El Dorado County

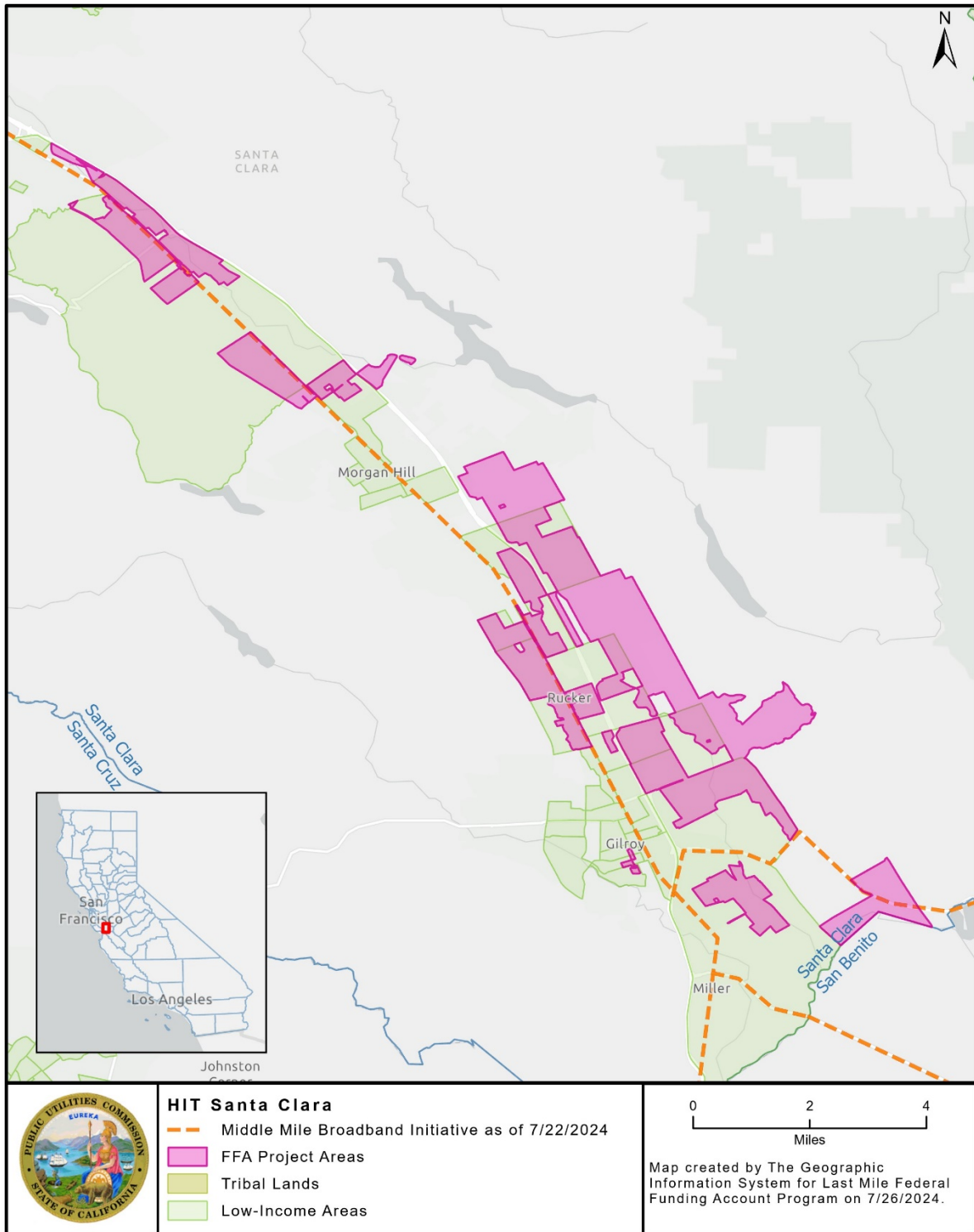


**APPENDIX J
HIT Santa Clara
Key Information**

Project Name	HIT Santa Clara
Applicant Name	Hankins Information Technology Inc.
Community Names	Gilroy, San Martin, Morgan Hill, and Coyote Valley
County	Santa Clara
County Allocation	\$36,014,517
Project Size (in square miles)	37
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10/10 Gbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	No
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	12 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	48 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$90,000
Area Households	3,472
Area Population	11,895
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	6,194
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	8,454
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	2,175
Unserved locations in the project area	2,165
Unserved units in the project area	2,861
Estimated unserved population in the project area	8,963
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	314
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	1,010

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	28
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	\$13,813,142
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$13,813,142
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$13,813,142
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$4,828
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$1,634

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



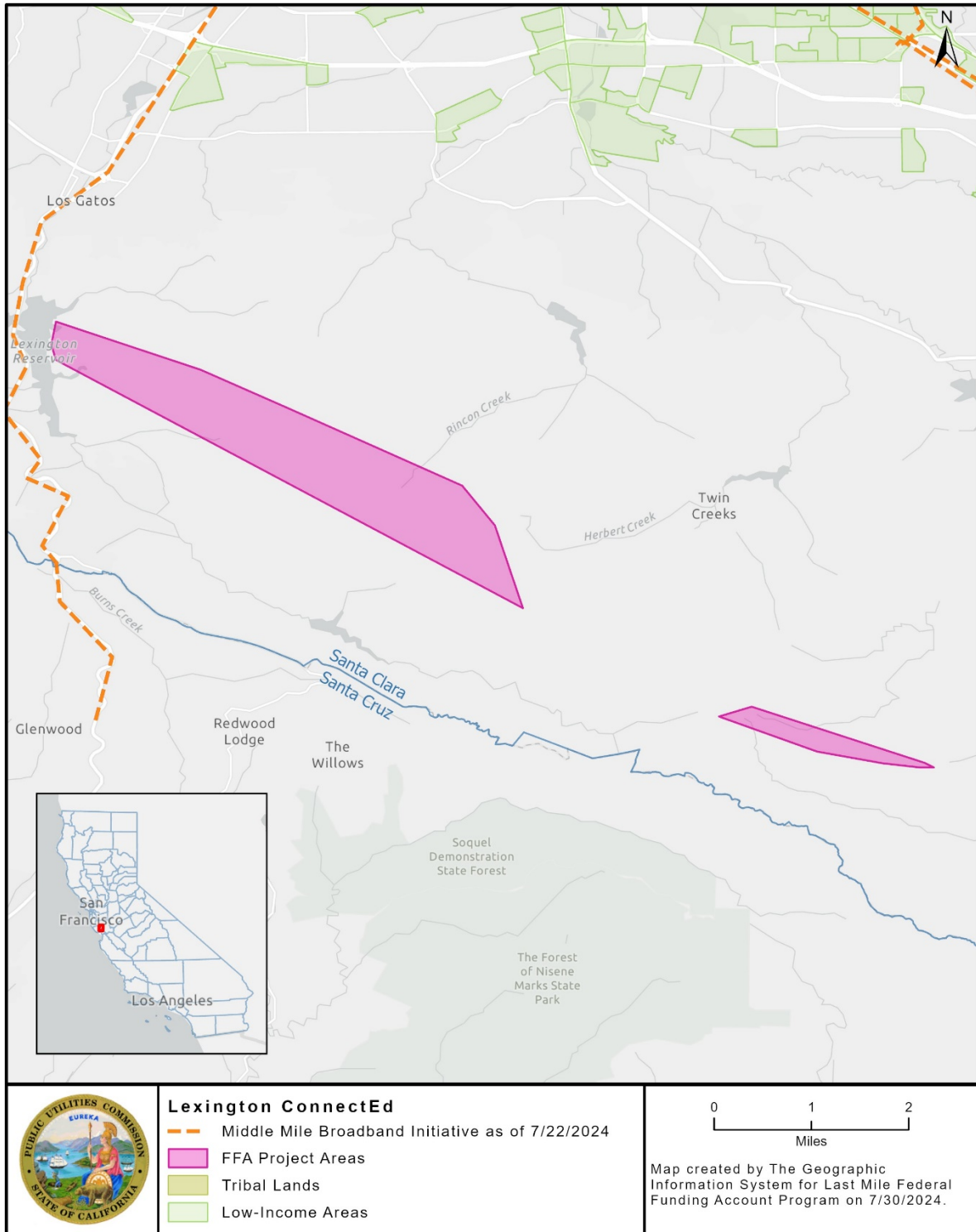
APPENDIX K
Lexington ConnectEd
Key Information

Project Name	Lexington ConnectEd
Applicant Name	Surfnet Communications, Inc.
Community Names	Lexington Basin
County	Santa Clara
County Allocation	\$36,014,517
Project Size (in square miles)	10
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$30 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	0 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$108,949
Area Households	92
Area Population	204
Estimated locations within 1,000 feet of the project area (location passings)	104
Estimated units within 1,000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	128
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	104
Unserved locations in the project area	79
Unserved units in the project area	102
Estimated unserved population in the project area	202
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	13

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	36
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	11 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$2,604,875
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$2,604,875
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$2,604,875
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$25,538
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$20,351

Map of Lexington Connected

Surfnet- Lexington ConnectEd- Santa Clara County



APPENDIX L
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: _____

Project Name: _____

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 and those in the Federal Funding Account, Last Mile program rules. Awards are contingent on available state budget appropriations funding.

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 Representative's Organization:

Business Address:

Street address, suite/apt. number

City, state, and ZIP Code

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____