

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17846
September 26, 2024**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17846: Approves seven applications for grants for up to \$69,279,104 from the Last Mile Federal Funding Account in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Siskiyou counties, providing service to 2,612 unserved locations.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution recommends approval of seven Last Mile Federal Funding Account grants in the amount of up to \$69,279,102.

This Resolution is the seventh 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 2,612 unserved locations and an estimated unserved population of 5,393 in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Siskiyou counties. An estimated total population of 7,896 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 29 percent of the locations that will receive service are located in low-income areas and 81 percent are located in Disadvantaged Communities.

Staff recommends grant awards to six entities (listed in the order in which they appear in this Resolution): The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, The Karuk Tribe, Yurok Telecommunications Corporation, Vero Fiber Networks, LLC (Vero Fiber Networks), AT&T, and Siskiyou Telephone Company.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is a sovereign Tribal nation; the Smith River Rancheria and surrounding tribally-owned lands are located in Del Norte County. The Karuk Tribe is a sovereign Tribal nation that owns federal trust land in Humboldt County and Siskiyou County. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation is a telecommunications company owned by the Yurok Tribe, which is a sovereign Tribal nation; the Yurok Reservation is located in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Vero Fiber Networks is an independent telecommunications company offering service in select parts of northern California. AT&T is an incumbent telecommunications company offering service throughout California. Siskiyou Telephone Company is an independent incumbent telecommunications company serving parts of Siskiyou County.

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
Del Norte						
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	Tolowa FFA Broadband Project	320	320	286	1,206	\$4,799,149
Subtotal		320	320	286	1,206	\$4,799,149
Humboldt						
Karuk Tribe	Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home	227	383	735	767	\$27,445,463
Vero Fiber Networks	Arcata Bay	244	274	629	1,921	\$4,396,296
AT&T	Humboldt - 1B	138	179	301	317	\$775,000
AT&T	Humboldt - 1	204	292	611	570	\$531,021
Subtotal		813	1,128	2,276	3,575	\$33,147,780
Siskiyou						
Siskiyou Telephone Company	Siskiyou Telephone	305	287	532	624	\$11,730,137

	Last Mile Project					
Subtotal		305	287	532	624	\$11,730,137

Multiple Counties						
Yurok Telecommunications Corporation	YTEL FTTH Project	1,174	1,193	2,299	2,491	\$19,602,036
Subtotal		1,174	1,193	2,299	2,491	\$19,602,036
Grand Total		2,612	2,928	5,393	7,896	\$69,279,102

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 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.

¹ Statute 2021, Chapters 84 and 112.

- Preference for a low-cost plan that is \$40/month or less and provides speeds of at least 50 megabits per second 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.

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.

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>.

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

Del Norte County Summary

The allocation for projects in Del Norte County in D. 22-04-005 is \$10,289,691. This Resolution recommends awarding one grant to the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation for a project in Del Norte County. This Resolution also recommends awarding one grant to Yurok Telecommunications Corporation for a project in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. The recommended grant amount for projects exclusively in Del Norte County is \$4,799,149 and the recommended grant amount for multi-county project locations in Del Norte County is \$5,490,542. The combined recommended grant amount in Del Norte County is \$10,289,691.

Del Norte County Awards

- 1. Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Tolowa FFA Broadband Project*

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, 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.

Staff recommends the Commission approve Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's application for a grant of up to \$4,799,149 for the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project.

The Tolowa FFA Broadband Project proposes to serve an estimated 320 unserved locations based on an August 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 286 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 1,206 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Smith River. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 10,000/10,000 Mbps symmetrical service to consumers.

The Tolowa Broadband Project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 54 percent of the unserved locations are located in disadvantaged communities. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$5,199,149 of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 92 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 Del Norte County.⁸ The Tolowa FFA 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 this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 275, 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 Crescent City-Del Norte Chamber of Commerce and the Del Norte County Library.

⁸ 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 Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative. The project includes \$3,028,950 to deploy approximately 10 miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and backhaul fiber, and to connect to the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. The middle-mile component will provide a carrier-neutral middle-mile fiber backbone to serve the Tribal Community, Community Anchor Institutions, and unserved customers in the Smith River area.

Based on the information that the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation provided, 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.) § 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 C.C.R. § 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction). Thus, the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Tolowa FFA 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 Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation for a grant of up to \$ 4,799,149 for the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project.

Humboldt County Summary

The allocation for projects in Humboldt County in D. 22-04-005 is \$59,539,101. This Resolution recommends awarding five grants for projects in Humboldt County: one grant to the Karuk Tribe, one grant to Vero Fiber Networks, and three grants to AT&T. This Resolution also recommends awarding one grant to Yurok Telecommunications Corporation for a project in Humboldt County and Del Norte County. The recommended grant amount for projects exclusively in Humboldt County is \$35,303,708, and the recommended grant amount for multi-county project locations in Humboldt County is \$14,111,494. The combined recommended grant amount for Humboldt County is \$49,415,274, which leaves a remainder of \$10,123,827 of the allocation for Humboldt County.

Humboldt County Awards

1. Karuk Tribe, Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home

Staff recommends the Commission approve Karuk Tribe's application for a grant of up to \$27,445,463 for the Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project.

The Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project proposes to serve an estimated 227 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 735 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 767 will benefit from these investments in the community of Orleans. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1,000 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. The Karuk Tribe will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$53,015,547, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 52 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.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Humboldt County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area. The unserved locations in the Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project area 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 227, 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 Karuk Tribal Council; Assemblymember Jim Wood; California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt; the Northern California Indian Development Council; the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission.

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 Siskiyou Telephone's and the open-access Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. The project includes \$1,502,291 to deploy approximately 15.7

miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and backhaul fiber, and to connect to the 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 Karuk Tribe must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If the Karuk Tribe 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 Karuk Tribe and the Karuk Tribe 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 application of the Karuk Tribe for a grant of up to \$27,445,463 for the Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project.

2. Vero Fiber Networks, Arcata Bay

Staff recommends the Commission approve Vero Fiber Networks' application for a grant of up to \$4,396,296 for the Arcata Bay project.

The Arcata Bay project proposes to serve an estimated 244 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 629 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 1,921 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Indianola, Fairhaven, and Manila. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1 gigabit per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Arcata Bay project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Vero Fiber Networks will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$6,280,422, 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 did not receive any objections.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Humboldt County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.³ Arcata Bay 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 this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 244, 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: Assemblymember Jim Wood and the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission.

This project is not located in a High Fire Threat District and does not present safety concerns. This project will connect to AT&T's middle-mile infrastructure until the open-access Middle Mile Broadband Initiative interconnection point has been established in Arcata. The project includes \$591,425 to deploy approximately 14 miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and backhaul fiber, and to connect to the 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. Vero Fiber Networks must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Vero Fiber Networks 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.

Vero Fiber Networks and the Arcata Bay project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of Vero Fiber Networks for a grant of up to \$4,396,296 for the Arcata Bay project.

3. *AT&T, Humboldt - 1B*

Staff recommends the Commission approve AT&T's application for a grant of up to \$775,000 for the Humboldt - 1B project.

The Humboldt - 1B project proposes to serve an estimated 138 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of

301 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 317 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Weott in Humboldt County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 5,000 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Humboldt - 1B project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$ 1,271,978, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 61 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.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Humboldt County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.⁵ The Humboldt - 1B 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 this data, the number of unserved locations is unchanged at 138, 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.

This project did not receive letters of support.

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 AT&T's infrastructure for middle-mile access.

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. AT&T must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If AT&T 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.

AT&T and the Humboldt - 1B project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of AT&T for a grant of up to \$775,000 for the Humboldt - 1B project.

4. *AT&T, Humboldt - 1*

Staff recommends the Commission approve AT&T's application for a grant of up to \$531,021 for the Humboldt - 1 project.

The Humboldt - 1 project proposes to serve an estimated 204 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 611 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 570 will benefit from these investments in the community of Kneeland in Humboldt County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 5,000 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Humboldt - 1 project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 14 percent of the unserved locations are low-income.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$1,062,042, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 50 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 AT&T responded to the objection. In response to the objection, AT&T reduced its project area to remove served areas. Staff verified that the revised project area is unserved.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Humboldt County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.⁶ Humboldt - 1 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 the objection, comment, and this data, the number of unserved locations is revised from 822 to 204, the project area is reduced to seven square miles, and the total grant amount is reduced from \$5,344,052 to \$531,021. 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.

This project did not receive letters of support.

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 AT&T's infrastructure for middle-mile access.

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. AT&T must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If AT&T 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.

AT&T and the Humboldt - 1 project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of AT&T for a grant of up to \$531,021 for the Humboldt - 1 project.

Siskiyou County Summary

The allocation for projects in Siskiyou County in D. 22-04-005 is \$45,789,155. This Resolution recommends awarding one grant to Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project for projects in Siskiyou County. The recommended grant amount for projects in Siskiyou County is \$11,730,137, which leaves a remainder of \$34,059,018 of the allocation for Siskiyou County.

Siskiyou County Awards

1. Siskiyou Telephone Company, Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project

Staff recommends the Commission approve Siskiyou Telephone Company's application for a grant of up to \$11,730,137 for the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project.

The Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project proposes to serve an estimated 305 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 532 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 624 will benefit from these investments in the communities along Route 3, including Fort Jones and Greenview in Siskiyou County. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1,000 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 72 percent of the unserved locations are low income. Siskiyou Telephone Company will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$13,028,668, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 90 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 Siskiyou County.⁹ The project area for the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project'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 this data, the number of unserved remains unchanged at 305, 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: California State Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, City of Etna Mayor Cliff Munson, and the Siskiyou Economic Development Council.

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 a High Fire Threat District 2. This project will connect to the open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Based on the information that Siskiyou Telephone Company provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the 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 Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for the construction activities.

Siskiyou Telephone Company and the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division

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

recommends that the Commission approve the application of Siskiyou Telephone Company for a grant of up to \$11,730,137 for the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project.

Del Norte / Humboldt Counties

1. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation, YTEL FTTH Project

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's application for a grant of up to \$19,602,036 for the YTEL FTTH Project. Of the \$19,602,036 recommended for award, \$14,111,494 is for infrastructure in Humboldt County and \$5,490,542 is for infrastructure in Del Norte County.

The YTEL FTTH Project proposes to serve an estimated 1,174 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. An estimated unserved population of 2,299 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 2,491 will benefit from these investments on the Yurok Tribal Reservation and from Orick to Big Lagoon. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 10,000 megabits per second symmetrical service to consumers.

The YTEL FTTH Project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 100 percent of the unserved locations are low-income. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and has committed to maintaining its prices for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$19,602,036, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 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.

One Federal Funding Account Public Map comment was submitted in Humboldt County, which did not pertain to the eligibility of locations in the project area.² The unserved locations in the YTEL FTTH Project area 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 970, 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, the Yurok Office of Emergency Services, the Yurok Economic Development Corporation, and the Kee Cha-E-Nar Corporation.

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. The project includes \$5,441,140 to deploy approximately 32.2 miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and backhaul fiber, and to connect to the 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. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Yurok Telecommunications Corporation 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.

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation and the YTEL FTTH Project comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve the application of Yurok Telecommunications Corporation for a grant of up to \$19,602,036 for the YTEL FTTH 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 AT&T. Reply comments were submitted on September 17, 2024, by The Utility Reform Network.

AT&T's Comments

AT&T commented on its application for the project Humboldt – 1A, its pricing commitments, and its commitments to participate in the California LifeLine Program.

AT&T requests to withdraw its Humboldt – 1A application and states its intention to revise and resubmit a similar project if there is a second round of Federal Funding Account applications.

With respect to AT&T's pricing and affordability commitments, AT&T states that it seeks to clarify that the pricing AT&T committed to in its applications only includes pricing for standalone broadband service, and that the pricing for voice services was not included in AT&T's applications. AT&T also states that its understanding is that Federal Funding Account applicants who commit to provide LifeLine discounts on voice service retain the flexibility to choose which eligible service(s) they make available for either the California LifeLine and/or federal Lifeline benefit.

The Utility Reform Network's Reply Comments

The Utility Reform Network states that the Commission should require AT&T to provide both California LifeLine and federal Lifeline discounts for at least five years in its Federal Funding Account project areas. The Utility Reform Network also states that D. 22-04-055 does not allow a grantee the flexibility to modify its pricing commitments in the manner that AT&T requests. The Utility Reform Network suggests that the Commission should clarify whether AT&T intends to withdraw any other applications before awarding additional Federal Funding Account grants to AT&T.

Staff Response to Comments

Staff has revised the Resolution to remove the recommended award to AT&T for the Humboldt – 1A application.

With respect to AT&T's pricing commitments, Staff understands that the prices and service plans that AT&T committed to in its Federal Funding Account applications refer to standalone broadband service.

Separately, Staff has removed some of the applicant-specific language regarding participation in federal Lifeline and the California LifeLine Program, to align this Resolution with the language in other Federal Funding Account Resolutions. The Ordering Paragraphs still require all applicants who committed to provide Lifeline service to do so for at least five years in their Federal Funding Account project areas. This revision should not be interpreted as a response to either AT&T's comments or The Utility Reform Network's reply comments regarding federal Lifeline and the California LifeLine Program.

AT&T's comments included an understanding that Federal Funding Account applicants could participate in the state or federal Lifeline programs. As a practical matter, applicants will be expected to participate in the Lifeline programs in which an applicant is participating at the time of the application.

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 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.¹⁰

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.¹¹

G. Prevailing Wage: Section 1720 of the California Labor Code requires Federal Funding Account projects be subject to prevailing wage requirements.¹² 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.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ D. 22-04-055, Appendix A, Section 14.

¹² 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 Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation submitted an application for the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project on September 29, 2023.
5. The Karuk Tribe submitted an application for the Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home project on September 29, 2023.
6. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation submitted an application for the YTEL FTTH Project on September 28, 2023.
7. Vero Fiber Networks submitted an application for the Arcata Bay project on September 29, 2023.
8. AT&T submitted applications for the Humboldt – 1 and Humboldt – 1B projects on September 28, 2023.
9. Siskiyou Telephone Company submitted an application for the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project on September 29, 2023.
10. Applicants responded to a supplemental data request due March 12, 2024, including information on project route miles, poles, unserved locations, middle-mile connectivity, and other updated project specific information.
11. The Commission has determined that the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review, under 14

California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 C.C.R. Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction).

12. The Commission has determined that the Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home Project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review.
13. The Commission has determined that the YTEL FTTH Project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review.
14. The Commission has determined that the Arcata Bay project is not categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review.
15. The Commission has determined that the Humboldt – 1B project is not categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act review.
16. The Commission has determined that the Humboldt – 1 project is not categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act review.
17. Communications Division staff analyzed the applications for compliance with Commission and Federal rules, reviewed local feedback, and conducted fiscal and technical analysis.
18. All applications listed above met minimum eligibility requirements provided in Decision 22-04-055.
19. 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.
20. Draft Resolution T-17846 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 \$4,799,149 in Federal Funding Account funds to Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation in order to complete the Tolowa FFA 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 \$27,445,463 in Federal Funding Account funds to the Karuk Tribe in order to complete the Karuk Tribe 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.
3. The Commission shall award up to \$19,602,036 in Federal Funding Account funds to the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation in order to complete the YTEL FTTH Project, as described in the appendices. This is a multicounty project in both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The project will draw \$14,111,494 from Humboldt's allocation and \$5,490,542 from Del Norte County's allocation. 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 \$4,396,296 in Federal Funding Account funds to Vero Fiber Networks in order to complete the Arcata Bay 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 \$775,000 in Federal Funding Account funds to AT&T in order to complete the Humboldt - 1B 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 \$531,021 in Federal Funding Account funds to AT&T in order to complete the Humboldt - 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.
7. The Commission shall award up to \$11,730,137 in Federal Funding Account funds to Siskiyou Telephone Company in order to complete the Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile 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. To ensure compliance with all program rules and guidelines, the Commission will not release funds to an applicant 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Awardee(s) shall comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions set forth in this resolution.
12. When a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program is identified by the Commission, all awardees shall participate in that program.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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 September 26, 2024, the following Commissioners voting favorable thereon:

/s/ RACHEL
PETERSON
Rachel Peterson
Executive Director

ALICE REYNOLDS
President
DARCIE HOUCK
JOHN REYNOLDS
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
Commissioners

APPENDIX A
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation California Environmental Quality Act Compliance
Requirements

The following Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Tolowa FFA Broadband Project

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation provided the Commission with its project plans to install new underground fiber and aerial fiber on existing utility poles within existing rights-of-way. The Tolowa FFA Broadband Project will involve the installation of approximately ten miles of fiber along U.S. Highway 101 from the Oregon Border, south to the Smith River bridge crossing (Dr. Fine Bridge) in Del Norte County. The aerial portion of the project would be installed on existing poles and comply with General Order 95.

Based on the information that the Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulation (C.C.R.) § 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 14 C.C.R. § 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction). Thus, the Tolowa FFA Broadband Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

APPENDIX B

Karuk Tribe California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

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

- Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home 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 Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home Project 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, Karuk Tribe 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 Karuk Tribe 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 Karuk Tribe's listed application is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, as acknowledged in its application. The Karuk Tribe should make every effort to ensure that the Commission's CEQA Unit is aware of and included in the NEPA process. Karuk Tribe 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 Karuk Tribe 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

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following Yurok Telecommunications Corporation project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- YTEL FTTH 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 YTEL FTTH Project 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, Yurok Telecommunications Corporation 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.).

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation 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.

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

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation 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
Vero Fiber Networks California Environmental Quality Act Compliance
Requirements

The following Vero Fiber Networks project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Arcata Bay

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 Vero Fiber Networks 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, Vero Fiber Networks 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).

Vero Fiber Networks 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.

Vero Fiber Networks 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 E

AT&T California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following AT&T projects are subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Humboldt – 1B
- Humboldt - 1

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 AT&T 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, AT&T 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).

AT&T 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.

AT&T 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

Siskiyou Telephone Company California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

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

- Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project

For the proposed Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project, the CPUC has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project is located in Siskiyou County. The approximately 65 miles of new fiber will be placed in existing conduit or in new conduit to be installed along existing roadways using directional boring.

Based on the information that Siskiyou Telephone Company 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 Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the CPUC may authorize funds for the construction activities.

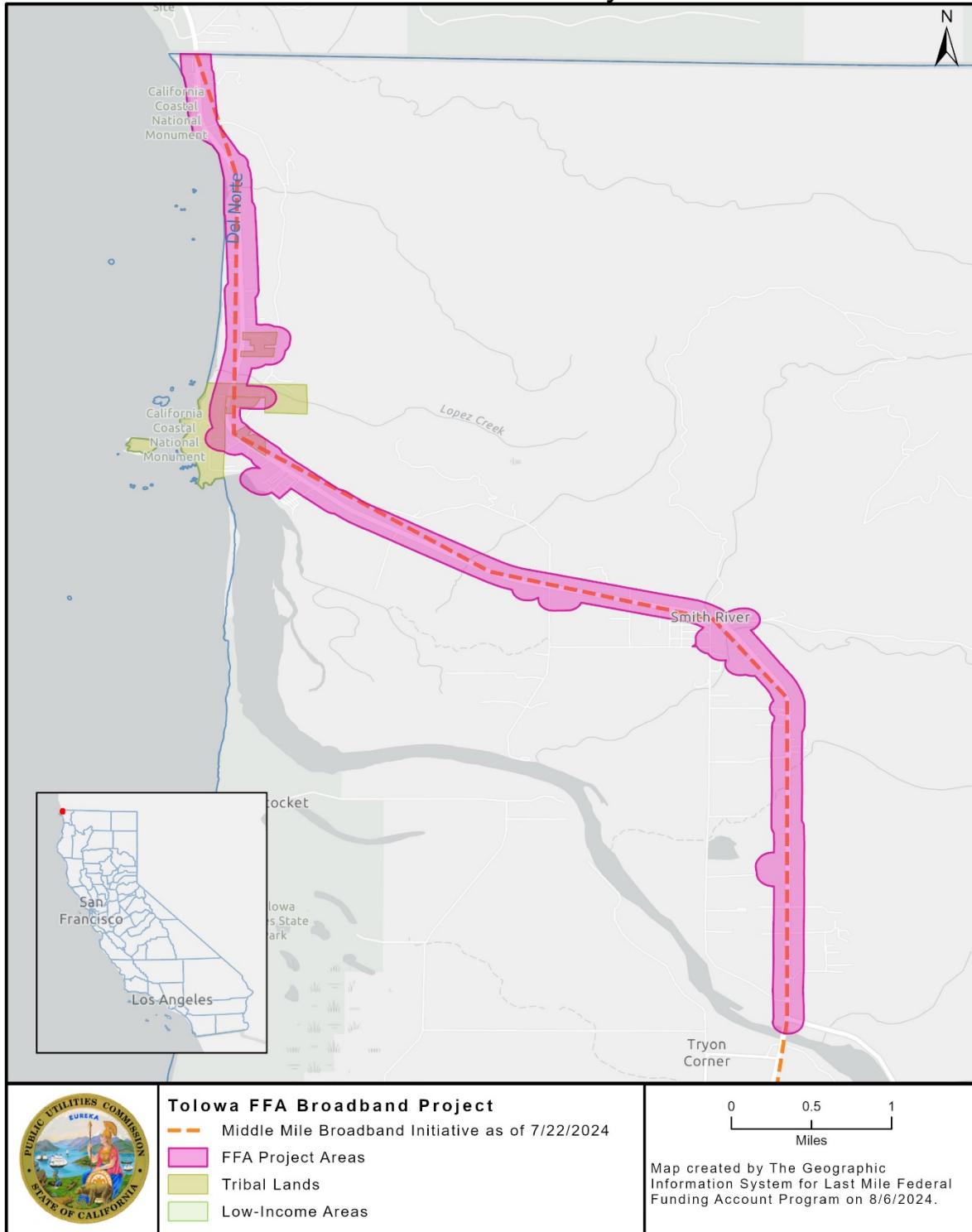
APPENDIX G
Tolowa FFA Broadband Project
Key Information

Project Name	Tolowa FFA Broadband Project
Applicant Name	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Community Names	Smith River
County	Del Norte
County Allocation	\$10,289,691
Project Size (in square miles)	4
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10000 Mbps/ 10000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	63 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$85,813
Area Households	524
Area Population	1206
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	794
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	950
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	320
Unserved locations in the project area	320
Unserved units in the project area	320
Estimated unserved population in the project area	286
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	14

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	43
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	6
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	10 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$2,795,916
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$2,003,233
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$5,199,149
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$4,799,149
Applicant funded	\$400,000
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$6,260
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$2,109

Map of Tolowa FFA Broadband Project

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation- Tolowa FFA Broadband Project- Del Norte County

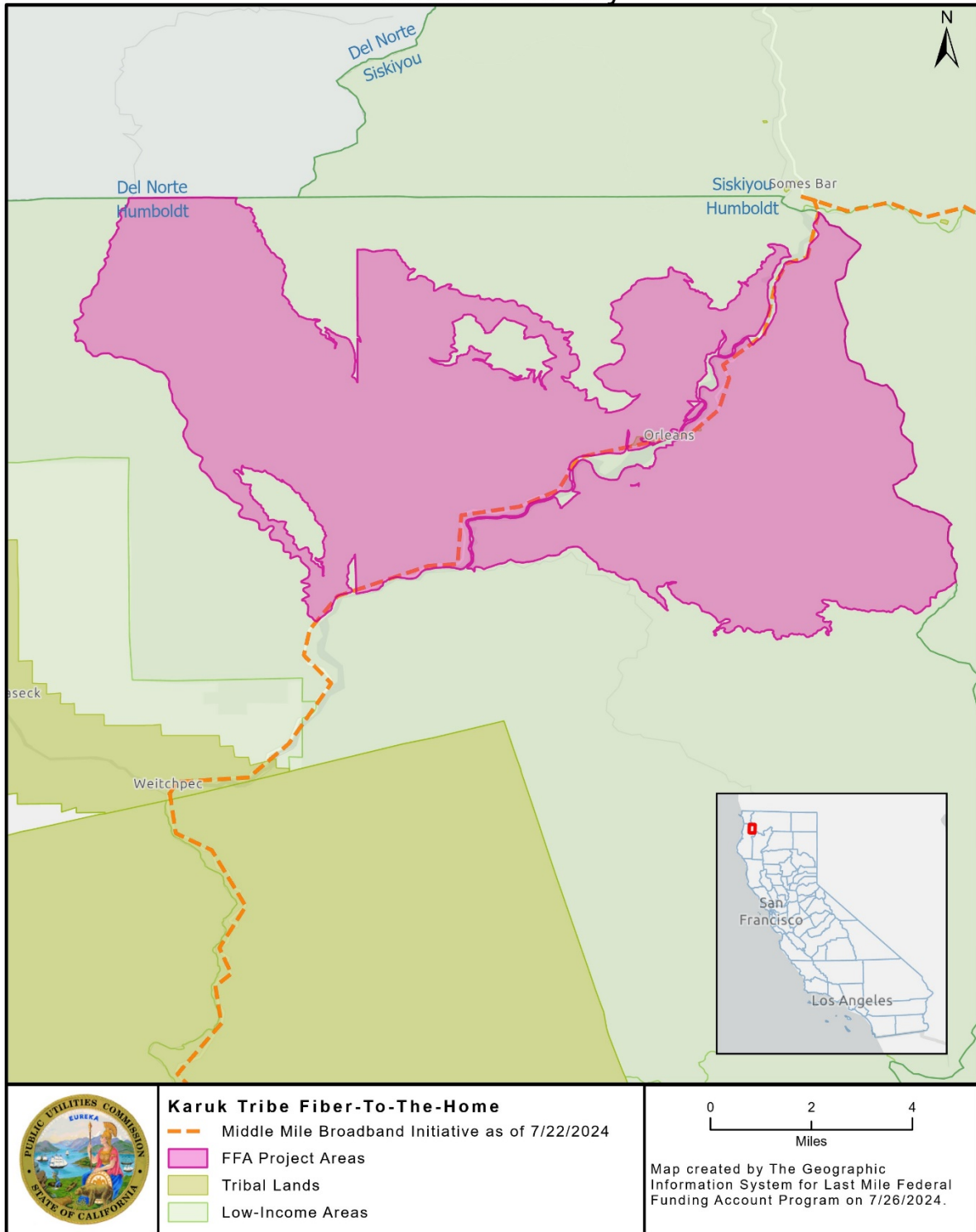


APPENDIX H
Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home
Key Information

Project Name	Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home
Applicant Name	Karuk Tribe
Community Names	Orleans, CA
County	Humboldt County
County Allocation	\$59,539,101
Project Size (in square miles)	152
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1000 Mbps/ 1000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	3 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$51,552
Area Households	300
Area Population	767
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	242
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	435
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	227
Unserved locations in the project area	211
Unserved units in the project area	383
Estimated unserved population in the project area	735
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	84

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	256
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	6
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	16 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$777,717
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$26,667,746
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$53,015,547
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$27,445,463
Applicant funded	\$25,570,084
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$69,629
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$61,305

Map of Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home Karuk Tribe- Karuk Tribe Fiber-To-The-Home- Humboldt County



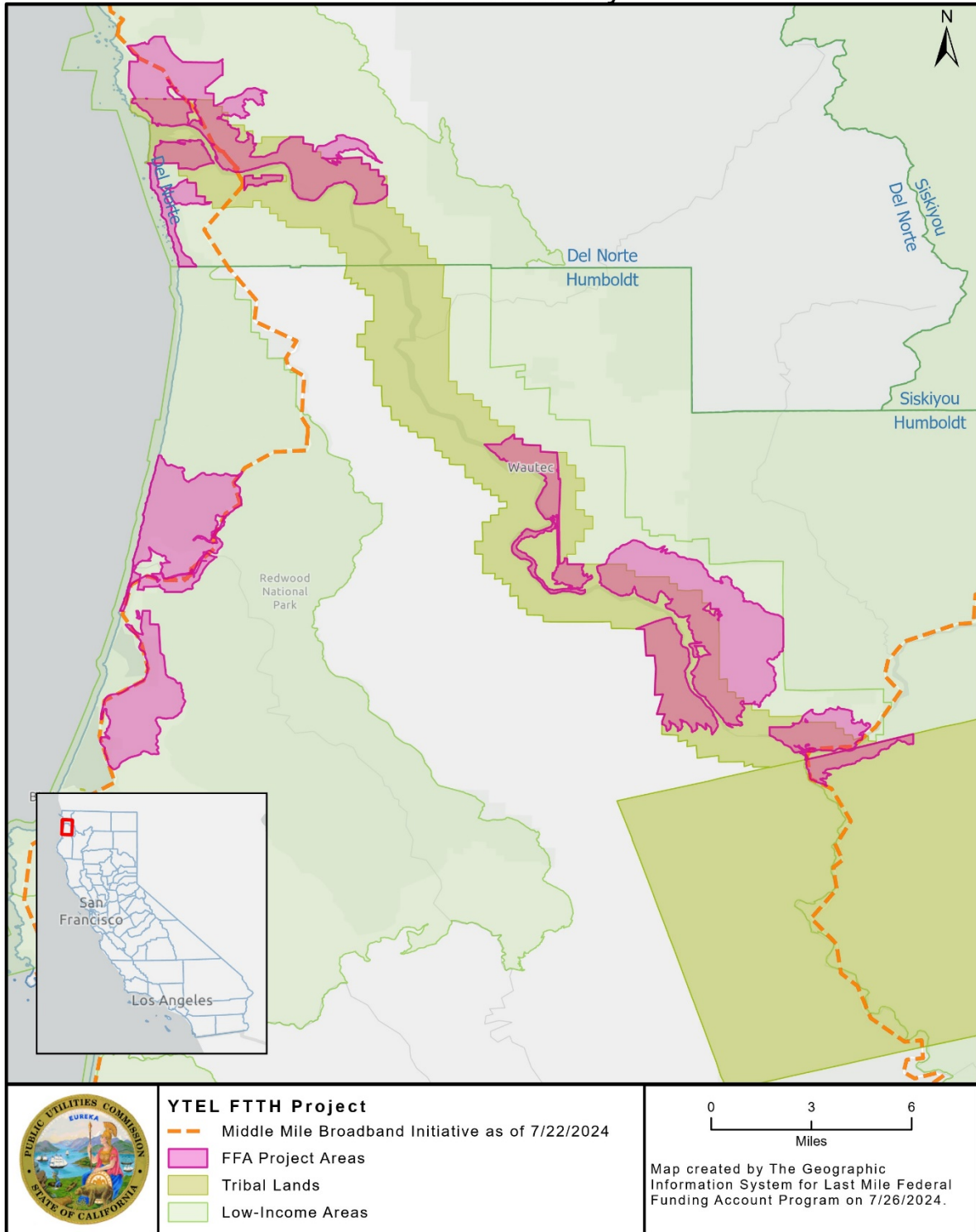
APPENDIX I
YTEL FTTH Project
Key Information

Project Name	YTEL FTTH Project
Applicant Name	Yurok Telecommunications Corporation
Community Names	Orick to Big lagoon
County	Del Norte and Humboldt
County Allocation	Humboldt: \$59,539,100.63; Del Norte: \$10,289,691.17
Project Size (in square miles)	120
Maximum Download/Upload speed	10000 Mbps/ 10000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	53 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$35,781
Area Households	965
Area Population	2491
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	1026
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1332
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	1,174
Unserved locations in the project area	925
Unserved units in the project area	1193
Estimated unserved population in the project area	2299
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	157
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	425

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	22
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	15
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	32 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$5,441,140
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$14,160,896
Deployment Schedule	24 Months
Total Project Cost	\$19,602,036
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$19,602,036
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$11,870
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$10,631

Map of YTEL FTTH Project

Yurok Telecom Corporation- YTEL FTTH Project- Humboldt County



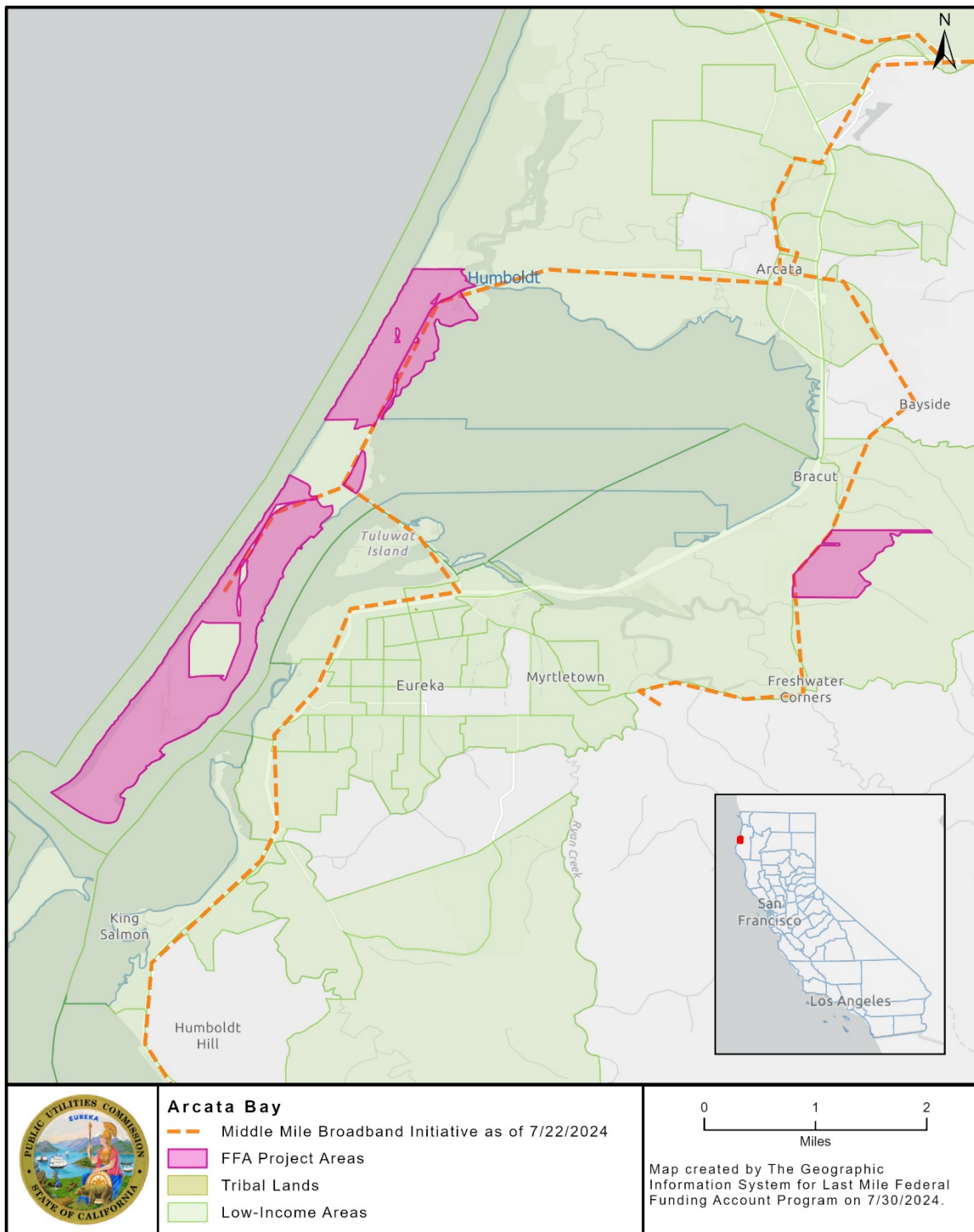
APPENDIX J
Arcata Bay
Key Information

Project Name	Arcata Bay
Applicant Name	Vero Fiber Networks LLC
Community Names	Indianola, Fairhaven, Manila
County	Humboldt
County Allocation	\$59,539,101
Project Size (in square miles)	9
Maximum Download/Upload speed	24 Mbps/ 2 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40 for 40 Mbps/ 20 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$40 for 50 Mbps/ 20 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50 Mbps/ 20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	No
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$48,209
Area Households	815
Area Population	1921
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	867
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1092
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	244
Unserved locations in the project area	226
Unserved units in the project area	274
Estimated unserved population in the project area	629
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	37
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	85

Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	9
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	14 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$4,396,296
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$6,280,422
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$4,396,296
Applicant funded	\$1,884,126
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$16,045
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$4,026

Map of Arcata Bay

Vero Fiber Networks - Arcata Bay- Humboldt County



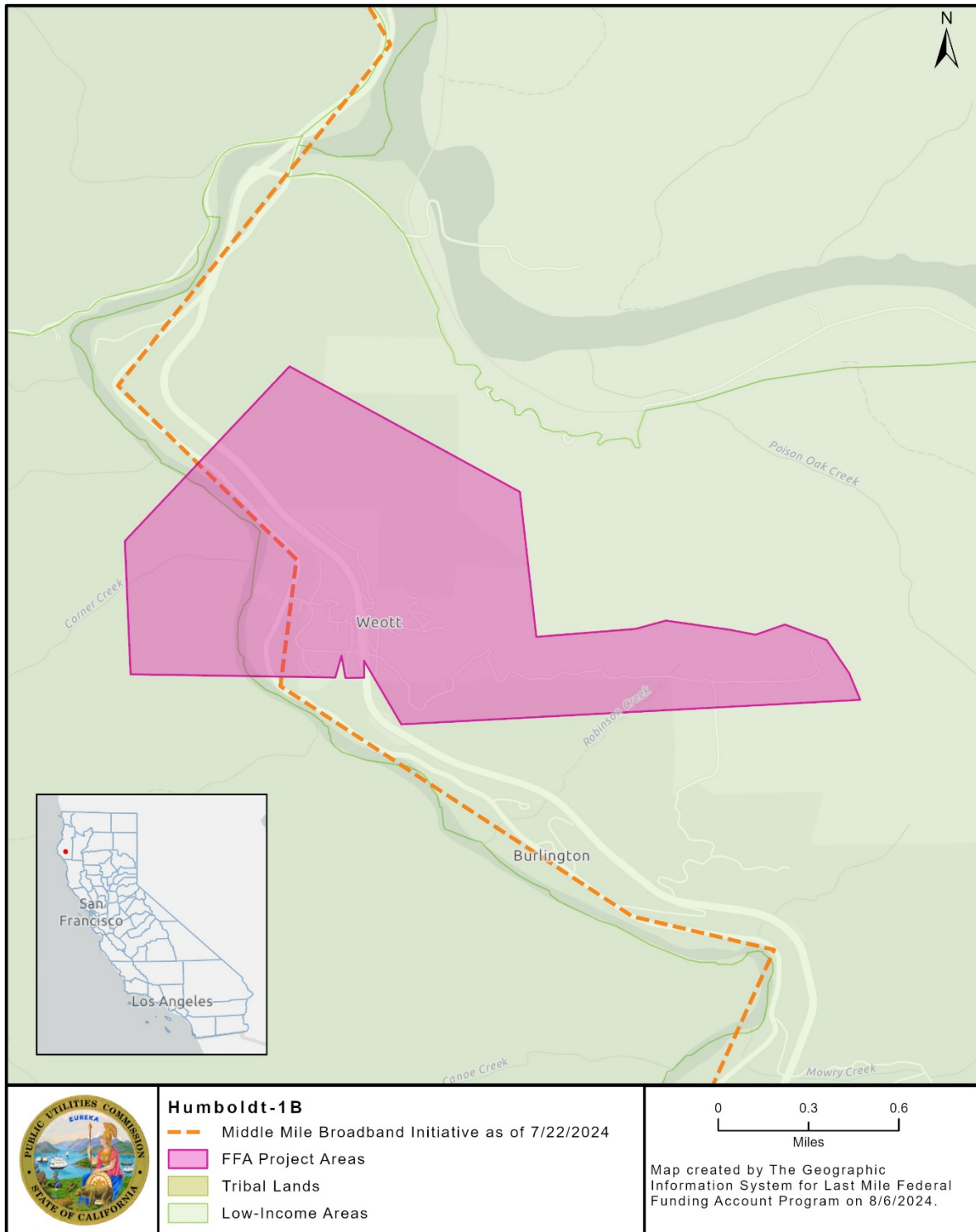
**APPENDIX K
Humboldt – 1B
Key Information**

Project Name	Humboldt - 1B
Applicant Name	AT&T Services, Inc. on behalf of its affiliate Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T California
Community Names	Humboldt County
County	Humboldt County
County Allocation	\$59,539,101
Project Size (in square miles)	2
Maximum Download/Upload speed	5000 Mbps/ 5000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$30 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$30 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan	No
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	100 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$51,610
Area Households	155
Area Population	317
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	148
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	195
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	138
Unserved locations in the project area	138
Unserved units in the project area	179
Estimated unserved population in the project area	301
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	35

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	76
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	5
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	3
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	\$775,000
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$1,271,978
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$775,000
Applicant funded	\$496,978
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$4,330
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$3,974

Map of Humboldt – 1B

AT&T- Humboldt-1B- Humboldt County



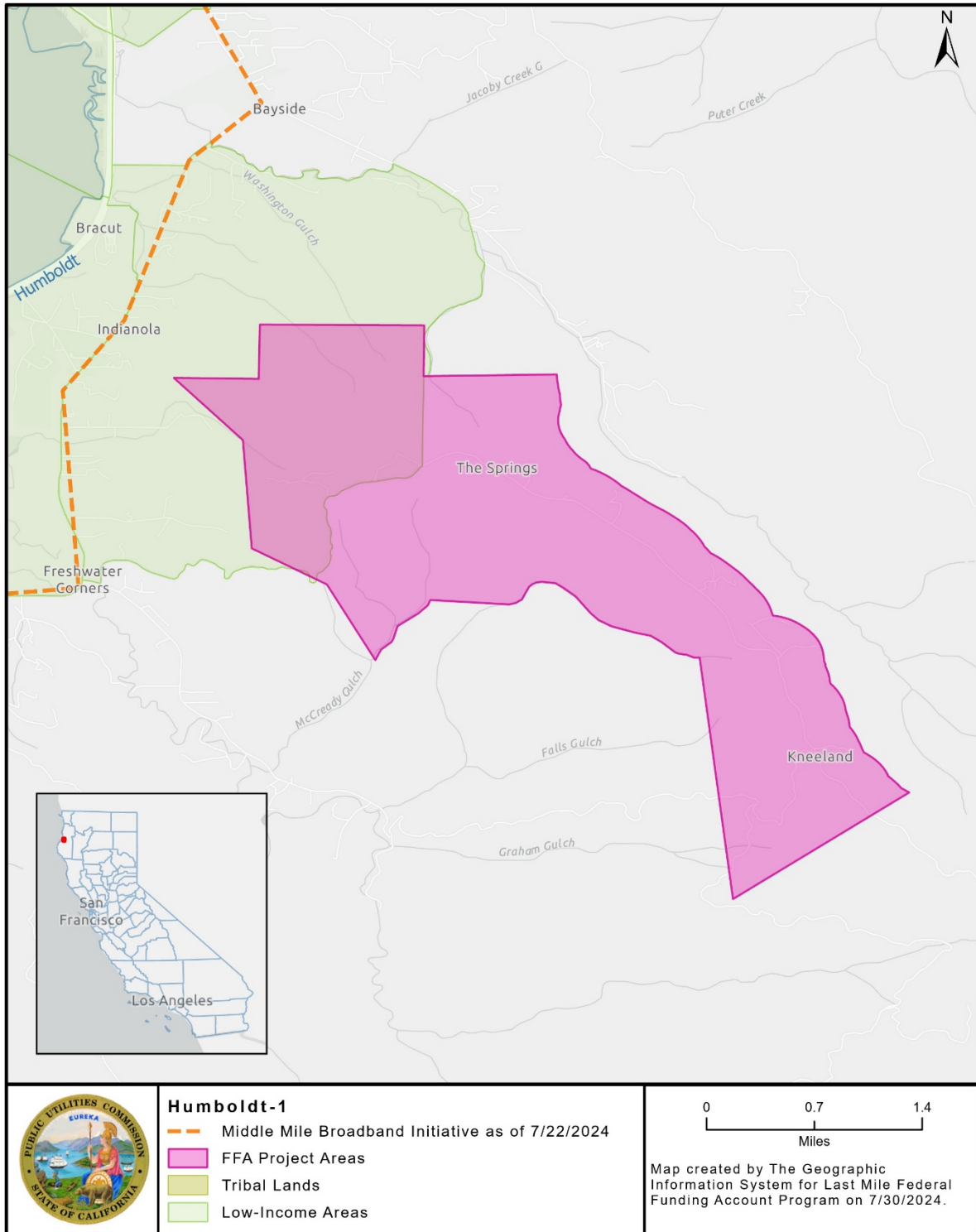
APPENDIX L
Humboldt - 1
Key Information

Project Name	Humboldt - 1
Applicant Name	AT&T Services, Inc. on behalf of its affiliate Pacific Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T California
Community Names	Humboldt County
County	Humboldt County
County Allocation	\$59,539,101
Project Size (in square miles)	7
Maximum Download/Upload speed	5000 Mbps/ 5000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$30 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$30 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-cost plan	No
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	14 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$46,806
Area Households	249
Area Population	570
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	232
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	332
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	204
Unserved locations in the project area	204
Unserved units in the project area	292
Estimated unserved population in the project area	611
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	52

Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	140
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	3
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	3
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	\$531,021
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$1,062,042
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$531,021
Applicant funded	\$531,021
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$1,819
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$1,599

Map of Humboldt - 1

AT&T- Humboldt-1- Humboldt County



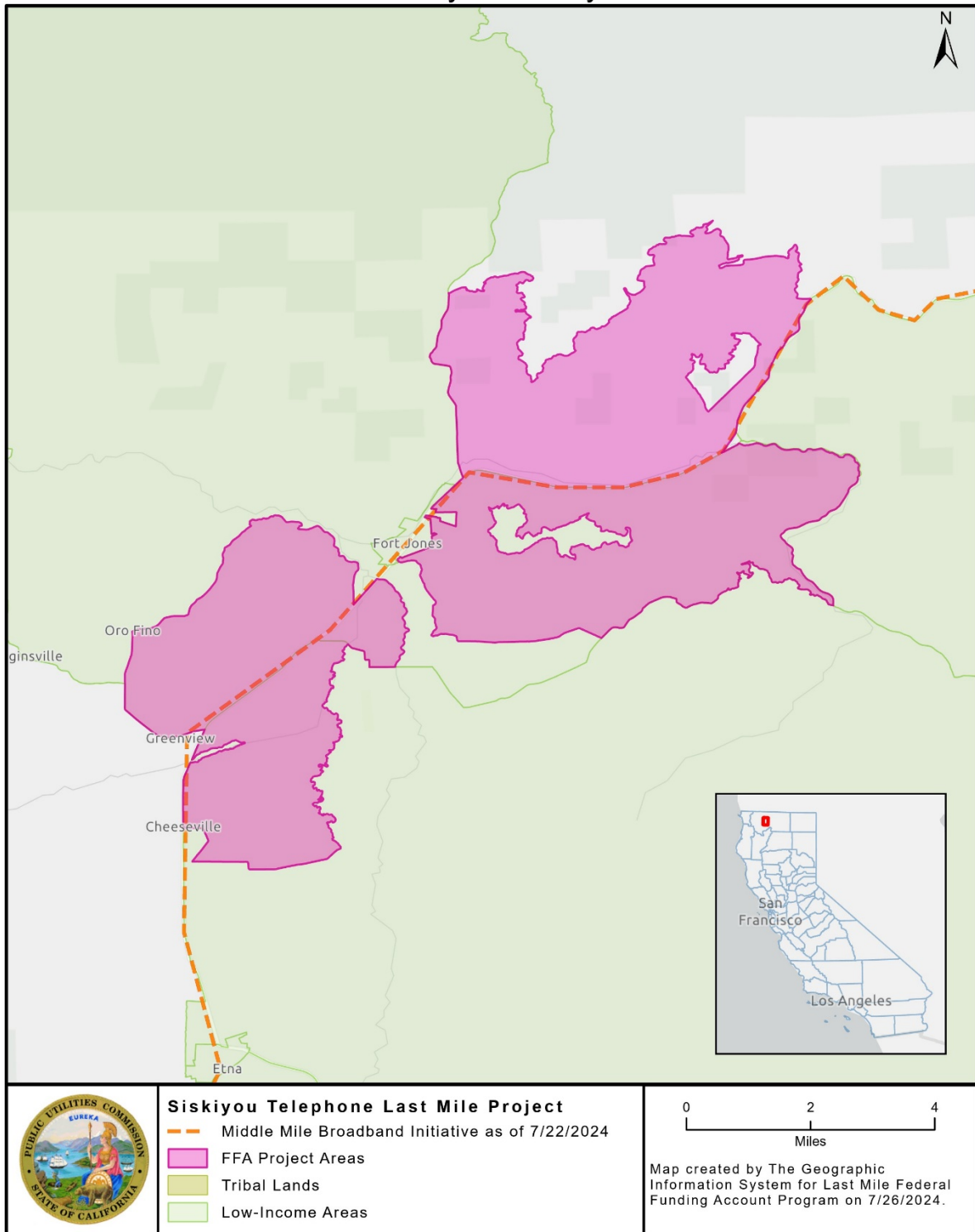
APPENDIX M
Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project
Key Information

Project Name	Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project
Applicant Name	Siskiyou Telephone Company
Community Names	Unserved locations along Route 3 surrounding Fort Jones and Greenview in Siskiyou County.
County	Siskiyou County
County Allocation	\$45,789,155
Project Size (in square miles)	87
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1000/1000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
Low-income plan	With ACP: \$15 for 250/250 Mbps, without ACP: \$49.95 for 250/250 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	72 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$61,636
Area Households	295
Area Population	624
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	516
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	626
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	305
Unserved locations in the project area	223
Unserved units in the project area	287
Estimated unserved population in the project area	532
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	46
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	110

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	1 mile
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	-
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$11,730,137
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$13,028,668
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$11,730,137
Applicant funded	\$1,298,531
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$40,872
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$18,738

Map of Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project

Siskiyou Telephone Company- Siskiyou Telephone Last Mile Project- Siskiyou County



APPENDIX N
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.

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: _____