

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17875
January 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17875: Awards two grants for up to \$17,010,997 from the Last Mile Federal Funding Account to provide service to 802 unserved locations in Sonoma County.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution recommends approval of two Last Mile Federal Funding Account grants in the amount of up to \$17,010,997.

This Resolution is part of the twelfth package 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 projects in this Resolution propose to make investments bringing the social, economic, civic, and public safety benefits of high-speed broadband to 802 unserved locations and an estimated unserved population of 1,425 in Sonoma County. An estimated total population of 2,138 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 a grant award for two entities as coapplicants: WiConduit and GigabitNow.

WiConduit is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working on broadband access and digital equity. It is a coapplicant with GigabitNow, an independent telecommunication company offering service in California.

Staff recommends the following grant applications for Commission approval as shown

in Table 1 below. Maps and summaries associated with the projects 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
Sonoma						
WiConduit and GigabitNow	Forestville Connect	295	403	619	1,296	\$7,776,979
WiConduit and GigabitNow	Sonoma Coast Connect	507	636	806	842	\$9,234,018
Grand Total		802	1,039	1,425	2,138	\$17,010,997

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:

¹ Statute 2021, Chapters 84 and 112.

- 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 down and 20 megabits per second up (50/20 Mbps).
- 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

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> .

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.

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

Sonoma County Summary

The allocation for projects in Sonoma County in D. 22-04-005 is \$19,233,509. This Resolution recommends awarding two grants to WiConduit and GigabitNow for projects in Sonoma County. The recommended grant amount for the projects in Sonoma County is \$17,010,997, which leaves a remainder of \$2,222,512 of the allocation for Sonoma County.

Sonoma County Awards

1. WiConduit and GigabitNow, Forestville Connect

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 WiConduit and GigabitNow's application for a grant of up to \$7,776,979 for the Forestville Connect project.

The Forestville Connect project proposes to serve an estimated 295 unserved locations, based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing and subsequent revisions. There are approximately 403 unserved units in the project area. An estimated unserved population of 619 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 1,296 will benefit from these investments in the community of Forestville. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1,000/1,000 Mbps service to consumers.

WiConduit and GigabitNow will deploy approximately 35 miles of last-mile fiber and 13 miles of open-access middle-mile fiber and/or backhaul fiber, and to connect to the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. The network infrastructure will be 100 percent underground.

WiConduit submitted a letter to the Commission to amend its application to include GigabitNow as a co-applicant and submitted a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the agreement between WiConduit and GigabitNow. WiConduit will be the grant administrator and the owner of the project infrastructure. GigabitNow will build, manage, operate, and maintain the open-access fiber network. Both organizations will work together to select contractors, coordinate with the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, develop an Indefeasible Right of Use agreement, and onboard Internet Service Providers (ISP) to provide service on the open-access network. As the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) holder, GigabitNow will assume full financial liability for the project.

The Forestville Connect project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; one percent of the unserved locations are located in low-income areas. WiConduit and GigabitNow have committed themselves and any future ISP partners to provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and have committed themselves and their partners to maintaining their prices for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$7,776,979, of which the Federal Funding Account will fund approximately 100 percent of costs. The total grant funding requested was amended from \$6,866,026 to \$7,776,979 for project contingencies, equipment upgrades, backup power, and taxes.

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

This application received one objection and WiConduit and GigabitNow responded to the objection. The objection demonstrated service to 618 locations. Analysis determined 131 of the locations are in the project area, but that not all of them were among the locations that WiConduit and GigabitNow proposed. WiConduit and GigabitNow stated an interest in serving only unserved locations. The application was modified to remove contested locations from the project leaving 295 unserved locations.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Sonoma County.⁸ Forestville Connect 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 and this data, the number of unserved locations was reduced from 323 to 295, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is the amended \$7,776,979. 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, California State Senator Mike McGuire, County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors, the Hollydale Community Club, and the Hollydale Canyon Terrace Firesafe Council.

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 that WiConduit and GigabitNow 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 Regulation (C.C.R.) § 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land). Thus, the Forestville Connect project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

WiConduit and GigabitNow, and the Forestville Connect project, comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve WiConduit and GigabitNow's application for a grant of up to \$7,776,979 for the Forestville Connect project.

2. WiConduit and GigabitNow, Sonoma Coast Connect

⁸ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited September 6, 2024).

Staff recommends the Commission approve WiConduit and GigabitNow's application for a grant of up to \$9,234,018 for the Sonoma Coast Connect project. The total grant funding requested was amended from \$7,819,260 to \$9,234,018 for project contingencies, equipment upgrades, backup power, and taxes.

The Sonoma Coast Connect project proposes to serve an estimated 507 unserved locations based on a March 2024 supplemental application filing. There are approximately 636 unserved units in the project area. An estimated unserved population of 806 would be offered service. An estimated total population of 842 will benefit from these investments in the communities of Timber Cove, Walsh Landing, Fort Ross, Jenner, and Seaview. The last-mile fiber project will provide up to 1,000/1,000 Mbps service to consumers.

WiConduit and GigabitNow will deploy approximately 40 miles of last-mile fiber and 23 miles of middle mile fiber. The network infrastructure will be 100 percent underground.

WiConduit submitted a letter to the Commission to amend its application to include GigabitNow as its applicant and submitted a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the agreement between WiConduit and GigabitNow. WiConduit will be the grant administrator and the owner of the project infrastructure. GigabitNow will build, manage, operate, and maintain the open-access fiber network. Both organizations will work together to select contractors, coordinate with the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, develop an Indefeasible Right of Use agreement, and onboard Internet Service Providers (ISP) to provide service on the open-access network. As the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) holder, GigabitNow will assume full financial liability for the project.

The Sonoma Coast Connect project will benefit disadvantaged or Environmental and Social Justice communities; 38 percent of the unserved locations are located in low-income areas. WiConduit and GigabitNow have committed themselves and any future ISP partners to each provide a low-cost plan that meets the requirements in D. 22-04-055, Section 3, and have committed themselves and their partners to maintaining their prices for at least ten years.

The proposed project will cost an estimated \$9,234,018, 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 received no objections.

No Federal Funding Account Public Map comments were submitted in Sonoma County.⁹ Sonoma Coast Connect 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 was increased from 480 to 507, the project area is unchanged, and the total grant amount is the amended \$9,234,018. 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, California State Senator Mike McGuire, County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors, Rural County Representatives of California, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, Timber Cove Homes Association, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, Fort Ross Elementary School District, Gary Farrell Vineyards and Winery, Timber Cove Fire Protection District, Timber Cove County Water District, and approximately 81 residents.

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 that WiConduit and GigabitNow provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 C.C.R. § 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land). Thus, the Sonoma Coast Connect project is categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

WiConduit and GigabitNow, and the Sonoma Coast Connect project, comply with all requirements for approval in D. 22-04-055. The Communications Division recommends that the Commission approve WiConduit and GigabitNow's application for a grant of up to \$9,234,018 for the Sonoma Coast Connect project.

COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1), a Notice of Availability of this draft resolution was e-mailed on December 26, 2024, informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List of the availability of the draft of

⁹ See Federal Funding Account Public Map, <https://federalaccountmap.vetro.io/> (visited December 4, 2024).

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

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. This timeline updates and supersedes the timeline in D.22-04-055 Appendix A section 8 on reimbursable expenses.

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 100/100 Mbps, with no 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.

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

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.

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. WiConduit and GigabitNow submitted applications for the Forestville Connect project on September 22, 2024, and the Sonoma Coast Connect project on September 27, 2023. WiConduit and GigabitNow submitted a joint letter to amend these applications to apply as coapplicants on November 8, 2024.
5. 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.
6. The Commission has determined that WiConduit and GigabitNow's Forestville Connect and Sonoma Coast Connect projects are 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 15302 regarding replacement or reconstruction, and 14 C.C.R. Section 15303 regarding new construction or conversion of small structures
7. Communications Division staff analyzed the application for compliance with Commission and Federal rules, reviewed local feedback, and conducted fiscal and technical analysis.
8. The applications listed above met minimum eligibility requirements provided in Decision 22-04-055.
9. 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.
10. Draft Resolution T-17875 was emailed to the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List on December 26, 2024, in compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission shall award up to \$7,776,979 in Federal Funding Account funds to WiConduit and GigabitNow in order to complete the Forestville Connect 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 \$9,234,018 in Federal Funding Account funds to WiConduit and GigabitNow in order to complete the Sonoma Coast Connect 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. To ensure compliance with all program rules and guidelines, the Commission will not release funds to any 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.
4. 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.
5. For the projects not determined to be categorically exempt, the Commission cannot release funds for construction activities until California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is complete. Awardees must comply with the requirements set forth in the CEQA Section of the Resolution. Awardees must provide their Proponent's Environmental Assessment for each project prior to the first payment.
6. Awardees shall comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions set forth in this resolution.
7. When a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program is identified by the Commission, all awardees shall participate in that program.
8. 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 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.

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Upon approval of the resolution, the effective date of each award and encumbrance of funds is the date of approved resolution. Awardees seeking to modify their effective date must submit a letter to the Communications Division Director and provide justification for the request. Modifications to the effective date may be approved 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

WiConduit and GigabitNow California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Requirements

The following WiConduit and GigabitNow projects are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Forestville Connect
- Sonoma Coast Connect

For the Forestville Connect project, WiConduit and GigabitNow provided the Commission with its project plans to install new underground fiber within existing rights-of-way in Forestville in unincorporated Sonoma County, a census-designated place. The Forestville Connect project will involve the installation of approximately 35 miles of underground fiber to be located along Canyon Road, Terrace Drive, Woodside Drive, Summerhome Park Road, Old River Road, Martinelli Road, CA-116, Giovanetti Road, Green Valley Road, and Odd Fellows Park Road.

For the Sonoma Coast Connect Broadband Project located within west Sonoma County and reaching from Jenner to Kruse Rhododendron State Park, WiConduit and GigabitNow provided the Commission with project plans to construct 40 miles of underground fiber network in the County and state Right of Way. Fiber and conduit will be installed using either directional bore, micro trenching, or vibratory plow, and will occur at edges of paved roadways, or roadway shoulder in previously disturbed areas.

Based on information that WiConduit and GigabitNow provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the Forestville Connect project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulation (C.C.R.) § 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land), and that the Sonoma Coast Connect 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 Forestville Connect project and the Sonoma Coast Connect broadband project are categorically exempt from CEQA review and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

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**APPENDIX B
Forestville Connect
Key Information**

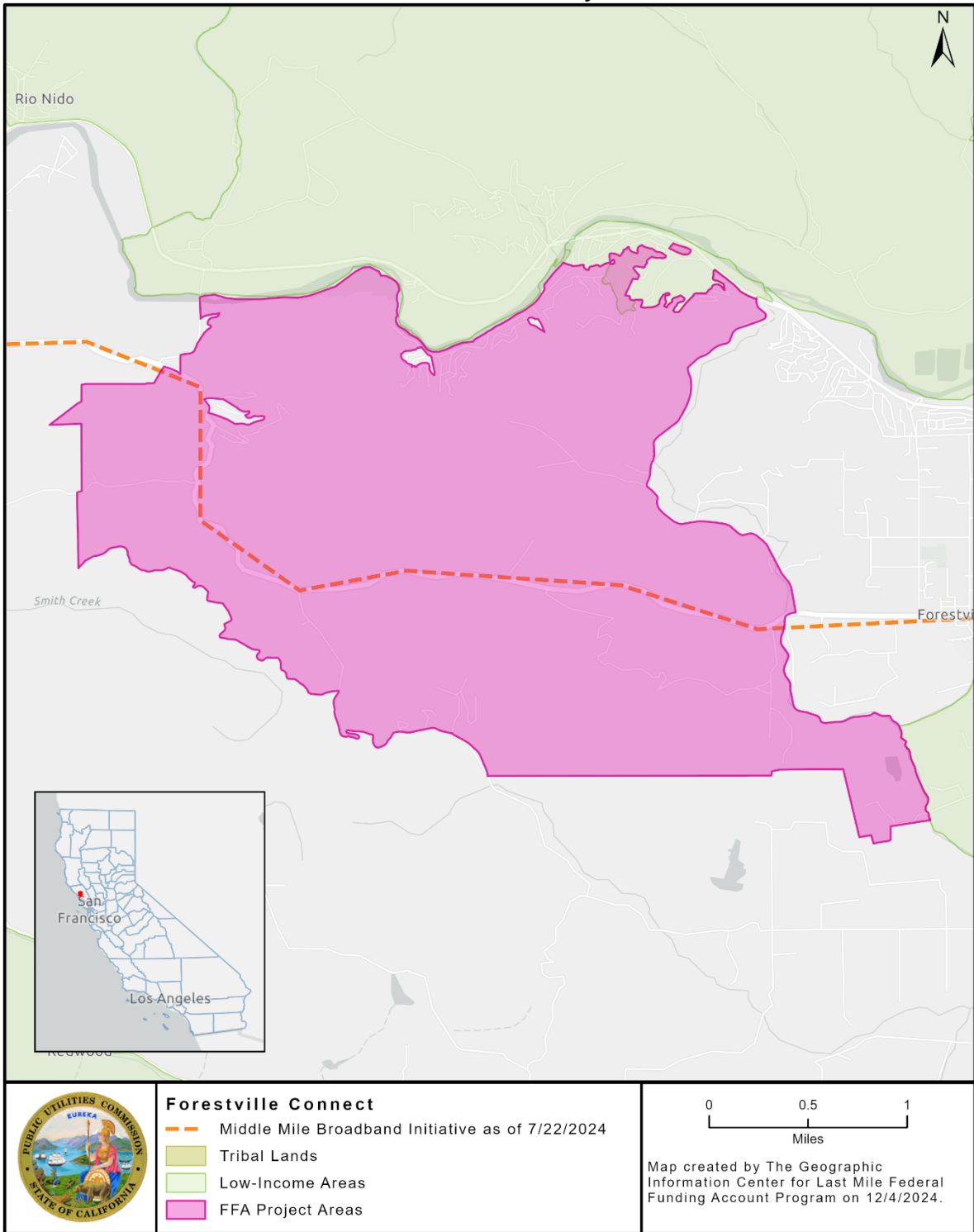
Project Name	Forestville Connect
Applicant Name	WiConduit and GigabitNow
Community Names	Forestville, Sonoma County
County	Sonoma County
County Allocation	\$19,233,509
Project Size (in square miles)	14
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$49.99 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$14.99 for 25/25 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40/month for 50/20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	1 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$76,528
Area Households	626
Area Population	1,296
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	1,129
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	1,518
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	295
Unserved locations in the project area	295
Unserved units in the project area	403
Estimated unserved population in the project area	619

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Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	63
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	171
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	13.3 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$122,270
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$7,654,709
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$7,776,979
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$7,776,979
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$18,994
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$5,043

Map of Forestville Connect WiConduit and GigabitNow- Forestville Connect- Sonoma County



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APPENDIX C
Sonoma Coast Connect
Key Information

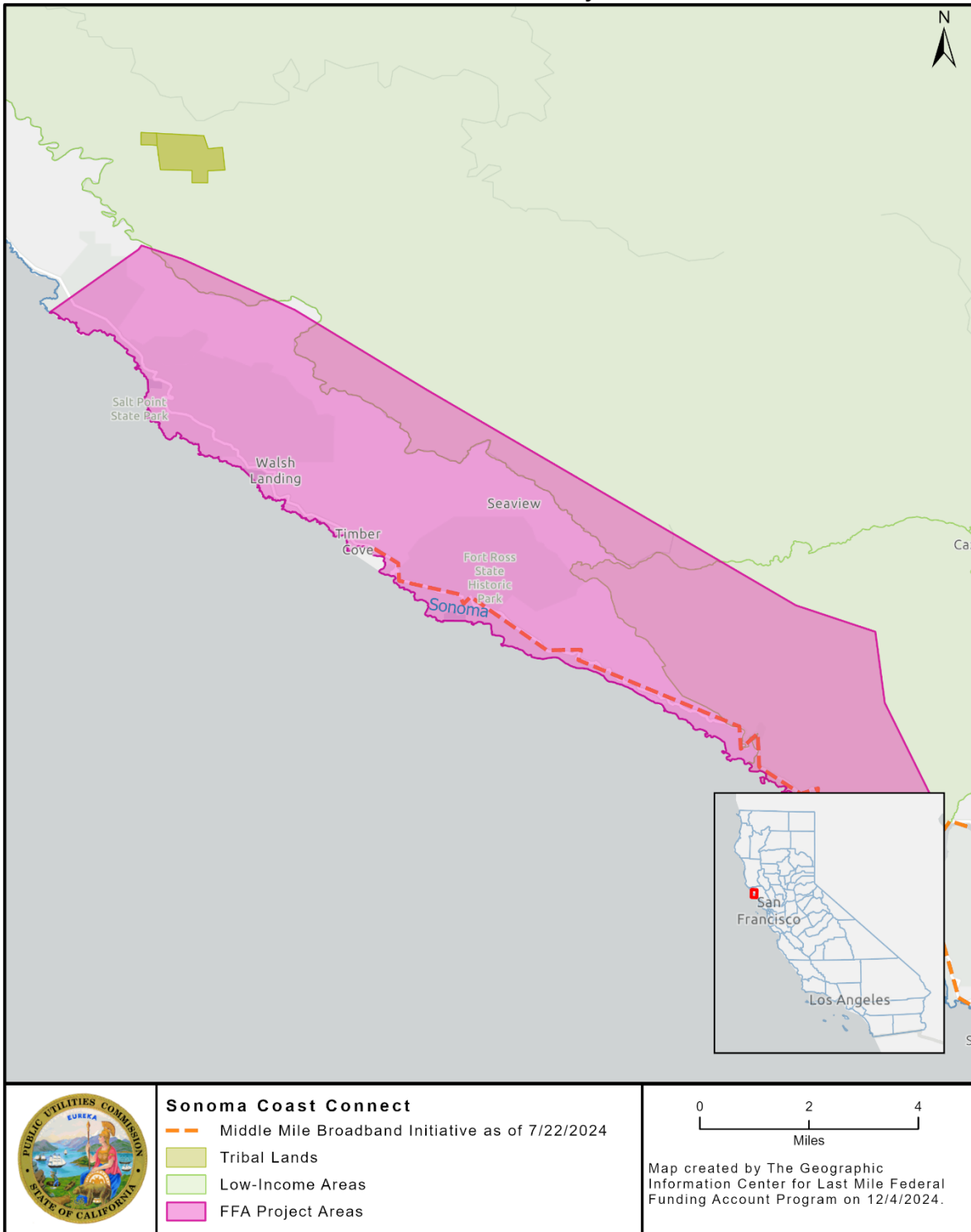
Project Name	Sonoma Coast Connect
Applicant Name	WiConduit and GigabitNow
Community Names	Timber Cove, Walsh Landing, Fort Ross, Jenner, Seaview
County	Sonoma
County Allocation	\$19,233,509
Project Size (in square miles)	86
Maximum Download/Upload speed	1,000/1,000 Mbps
Lowest cost plan (non-income qualified)	\$49.99 for 100/100 Mbps
Low-income plan	\$14.99 for 25/25 Mbps
Low-cost plan	\$40 for 50/20 Mbps minimum
LifeLine Participation	Yes
Percent Disadvantaged Communities	0 percent
Percent Low-Income Areas	38 percent
Median Household Income (weighted)	\$79,583
Area Households	367
Area Population	842
Estimated locations within 1000 feet of the project area (location passings)	561
Estimated units within 1000 feet of the project area (unit passings)	699
Unserved locations proposed to be served by the project	480
Unserved locations in the project area	507
Unserved units in the project area	636
Estimated unserved population in the project area	806
Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations in the project area	121

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Estimated unserved Multiple Dwelling Unit (MDU) location units in the project area	250
Community Anchor Institutions benefitting from the project	10
Public safety locations benefitting from the project	8
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	22.73 miles
Grant costs for middle-mile, backhaul, and connection to Middle Mile Broadband Initiative in project	\$122,270
Grant costs for last-mile delivery	\$9,111,748
Deployment Schedule	18 Months
Total Project Cost	\$9,234,018
Amount of FFA grant funds requested	\$9,234,018
Applicant funded	\$0
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unserved unit in the project area	\$14,327
Grant (excluding middle mile) per unit passing	\$13,035

Map of Sonoma Coast Connect WiConduit and GigabitNow- Sonoma Coast Connect- Sonoma County



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**APPENDIX D
WiConduit and GigabitNow Service Plans**

As a condition of the grant awards in this Resolution, WiConduit and GigabitNow are obligated to offer service to customers in the project areas of the listed projects at no less than the speeds in the Table below, no more than 100 milliseconds of latency, and no more than the prices¹³ in the Table below, including installation, for at least five years following project completion.

- Forestville Connect
- Sonoma Coast Connect

Plan	Speed	Price in 2024 Dollars	Notes
Plan A (Residential)	100/100 Mbps	\$49.99/month	-
Plan B (Residential)	500/500 Mbps	\$74.99/month	-
Plan C (Residential)	1000/1000 Mbps	\$99.99/month	-
Plan D (Low- income)	25/25 Mbps	\$14.99/month	-
Plan E (Business)	500/500 Mbps	\$149.99/month	-
Plan F (Business)	1000/1000 Mbps	\$199.99/month	-
Residential Voice	-	\$29.99/month	Unlimited Calls
Small Business Voice	-	\$34.99/month	-

As a condition of the grant awards in this Resolution, WiConduit and GigabitNow have committed to provide LifeLine-discounted voice service in the project areas listed.

¹³ Prices may increase at no more than the rate of inflation, defined by the Consumer Price Index.

APPENDIX E
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: _____