

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

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# **CPUC Awards \$9 Million in Final Round of Broadband Grants, Expanding High-Speed Internet Access in Total to 52 California Counties**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 20, 2025 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved \$9 million in broadband infrastructure grants for five projects in Tuolumne County, marking a major milestone in the state's historic \$2 billion <a href="Last Mile Federal Funding Account grant program">Last Mile Federal Funding Account grant program</a>. These investments bring broadband access to underserved and unserved communities across California, reinforcing the state's commitment to <a href="Broadband for All">Broadband for All</a>.

The Last Mile Federal Funding Account seeks to close the digital divide by expanding investment in broadband infrastructure, increasing affordability, and enhancing access for all with the prioritization of disadvantaged and low-income communities. Today's grants will provide access and improve service to approximately 3,300 households and businesses in Tuolumne County.

"We are making extraordinary progress towards achieving our state's Broadband for All objectives as we work to connect all Californians to fast, reliable, and affordable broadband infrastructure," said CPUC President Alice Reynolds.

### **Broadband Expansion by the Numbers**

With today's action the CPUC has now awarded over \$1 billion in broadband grants for projects spanning 52 counties across California. An additional \$550 million is set to be allocated to the Last Mile program in the 2027–2028 state budget.

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Key achievements to date:

• 113 broadband projects funded statewide.

- 2 million Californians benefiting from improved connectivity.
- 73 projects primarily serving disadvantaged areas.
- 7,000 miles of fiber under deployment in these projects.

# **About These Programs**

Established under Senate Bill 156 (2021), the CPUC's Last Mile Federal Funding Account is fueling economic growth across rural, tribal, and urban communities statewide. Today's approval is part of a process to award last mile broadband grants to projects in every region in the state to established internet service providers, small providers, local governments, tribes, and special districts.

## **More Information**

- Proposal approved for Last Mile Federal Funding Account grants in Tuolumne County
- Full <u>list</u> of Federal Funding Awards
- CPUC Broadband Federal Funding Account Awards Map

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## **About the California Public Utilities Commission**

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. Visit <a href="www.cpuc.ca.gov">www.cpuc.ca.gov</a> for more information.

