

Decision **PROPOSED DECISION OF PRESIDENT JOHN REYNOLDS**
Mailed (3/30/2026)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking
Regarding Broadband Infrastructure
Deployment and to Support Service
Providers in the State of California.

Rulemaking 20-09-001

DECISION CLOSING PROCEEDING R.20-09-001

Summary

This decision closes Rulemaking 20-09-001. The rulemaking has accomplished several milestones since its initiation. Given the age of the docket, we are closing this proceeding with the consideration that a successor proceeding may be opened.

R.20-09-001 is closed.

1. Background

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 to set the strategic direction and changes necessary to expeditiously deploy reliable, fast, and affordable broadband internet access

services that connect all Californians, and to explore short and medium-term actions in order to achieve this goal.¹

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,² also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or American Rescue Plan. In total, this law provided up to \$1.9 trillion in stimulus plan funds, including funds for states to deploy last-mile broadband Internet networks. On July 20, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 156 into law. Among other items, SB 156 created the Federal Funding Account, and directed this Commission to allocate \$2,000,000,000 from this new account to implement a program to connect unserved and underserved communities. As a result, the Assigned Commissioner's Second Scoping Memo and Ruling added developing rules for the Federal Funding Account to the scope of this proceeding.³

This proceeding resolved an array of issues, as set forth in the following decisions:

- a. Decision (D.) 21-10-020, which adopted new post-disaster community engagement and reporting requirements for Investor-Owned Utilities and facilities-based telecommunications service providers in California, as well as eligibility requirements for the Digital Divide Account created in California Public Utilities Code Section 280.5; and

¹ Order Instituting Rulemaking, issued September 18, 2020, at 1.

² Public Law No. 117-2.

³ Assigned Commissioner's Second Scoping Memo and Ruling, issued August 2, 2021.

- b. D.22-04-055, which adopted rules for the Federal Funding Account.⁴

Through both the resolution process as well as ministerial reviews delegated to Commission Staff, the Commission has awarded over \$1.1 billion in Federal Funding Account grants. The Commission also submitted its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in December 2025 for approval. If the NTIA approves California's \$1,575,998,427 Final Proposal, it will allow the Commission to award, among other items, \$1,410,602,060 to build terrestrial broadband infrastructure to 200,545 locations.⁵

2. Issue Before the Commission

The remaining issue before the Commission is whether to close this rulemaking.

3. Discussion

Through the California Advanced Services Fund, the Commission will continue to award infrastructure (including remaining Federal Funding Account funds), adoption and consortia grants, as well as provide technical assistance and other financing. Given the significant investment that will be made during the

⁴ See, D.22-04-055 at 28. The Commission also declined to adopt specific requirements regarding the IOU Fiber Pilots originally proposed by the then-Assigned Commissioner.

⁵ See, Resolution T-17898, *Resolution requesting approval from the Commission to submit the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)*. The Final Proposal builds on the previously approved Initial Proposal, modified in accordance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (RPN), and includes a list of preliminary awards to applicants selected for BEAD grant funding through the BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process. Staff may propose cures to timely address deficiencies NTIA identifies in the Final Proposal, and any revisions made to address NTIA's cure requests will be submitted via resolution to the Commission for ratification, adopted December 18, 2025.

next several years, it is appropriate that the Commission close this proceeding and consider the results and impacts of these initiatives before determining the next steps in ensuring broadband for all Californians.

The proceeding should be closed.

4. Summary of Public Comment

Rule 1.18 allows any member of the public to submit written comment in any Commission proceeding using the “Public Comment” tab of the online Docket Card for that proceeding on the Commission’s website. Rule 1.18(b) requires that relevant written comment submitted in a proceeding be summarized in the final decision issued in that proceeding. The Commission received 465 public comments, mostly focused on topics related to the Federal Funding Account, including comments identifying where members of the public would like funds to be spent. The last public comment was submitted on June 14, 2023. Public comments did not address the closure of this proceeding.

5. Procedural Matters

This decision affirms all rulings made by the Administrative Law Judge and assigned Commissioner in this proceeding. All motions not ruled on are deemed denied.

6. Comments on Proposed Decision

The proposed decision of Commission President John Reynolds in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311 of the Public Utilities Code and comments were allowed under Rule 14.3 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Center for Accessible Technology filed

Opening Comments on April 20, 2026. The California Broadband and Video Association filed Reply Comments on April 27, 2026.

No revisions were made to this decision.

7. Assignment of Proceeding

Commission President John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Thomas J. Glegola is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The Commission has awarded over \$1.1 billion in FFA funding.
2. In December 2025, the Commission submitted its BEAD Final Proposal to the NTIA, which includes, among other items, \$1,410,602,060 to build terrestrial broadband infrastructure to 200,545 locations.
3. The Commission continues to make awards and other financial assistance through the CASF Program.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission should assess progress in its FFA, BEAD and CASF investments before determining next steps in ensuring broadband for all Californians.
2. The Commission should close the proceeding.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Rulemaking 20-09-001 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated June ___, 2026, at Sacramento, California