

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

RESOLUTION T-17919
June 11, 2026
Item 54

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution T-17919: California Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account December 2025 application round grant approvals.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- This Resolution approves up to \$3,400,000.00 in funding from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account (Consortia Account) for six (6) projects. These projects will facilitate the deployment of broadband services by assisting CASF infrastructure grant applicants in the project development or grant application process, or assisting broadband deployment projects related to programs created under Senate Bill (SB) 156 and Assembly Bill (AB) 164.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- The CASF Consortia Account supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure essential for the operation and management of critical infrastructure and public safety and emergency response networks.

ESTIMATED COST:

- \$3,400,000.00 from the CASF Consortia Account.¹ For fiscal year 2025-26, the Commission issued Resolution T-17884 which set an

¹ CASF's accounts are funded through a surcharge whereby revenues are deposited to CASF Fund 3141 with the State's Treasury. The surcharge mechanism is a flat rate for each active access line that telephone corporations service in California, levied at the surcharge rate of \$0.90. The flat surcharge is divided among the six Universal Service Programs, of which CASF receives a 28.50% share. Pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 270, subd. (b), money in the funds may only be expended upon appropriation in the Annual Budget Act or upon supplemental appropriation.

appropriation amount of \$9.818 million for the Consortia Account. These appropriations were adopted in the California Budget Act for the respective fiscal year.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves grant funding in the amount of up to \$3,400,000.00 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account (Consortia Account) for the grant applications of Broadband Consortium of Pacific Coast (BCPC), East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC), E = mc² Silicon Valley Consortium (EMCSV), Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC), Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC), and Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League Consortium (LA DEAL). These six projects will facilitate the deployment of broadband services by assisting CASF infrastructure grant applicants in the project development or grant application process or assisting broadband deployment projects related to programs created under Senate Bill (SB) 156 and Assembly Bill (AB) 164.

Table 1 lists the six recommended Consortia Account projects.

Table 1 – Projects Addressed in Resolution T-17919						
	Applicant	Project Name	Counties Served	Requested Amounts	CASF Approved Amount	# Years
1	Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast	Broadband as the Fourth Utility	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3
2	East Bay Broadband Consortium	Connecting the East Bay for Good	Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3
3	E = mc ²	E = mc ² Silicon Valley Consortium	San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	2
4	Gold Country Broadband Consortium	Gold Country Broadband Consortium	El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3
5	Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium	Connected Eastern Sierra Project	Inyo, Mono	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3
6	LA DEAL	Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League	Los Angeles	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	3

BACKGROUND

On October 15, 2017, Governor Brown signed AB 1665 (Garcia, Chapter 851, Statutes of 2017) into law,² which among other things, established a continuation of the Consortia Account with an additional \$10 million in available funds.³

On May 19, 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) adopted Decision (D.) 22-05-029, modifying the CASF program per SB 156 and AB 164 and implementing programmatic changes to the Consortia Account, including expansion of allowable Consortia activities, increasing annual maximum funding cap, and clarifying Consortia regional boundary requirements. D.22-05-029 also allocated an additional \$10.71 million in available funding for fiscal year 2022-23.

On November 20, 2025, the Commission adopted D.25-11-003, which modified program rules for the Consortia Account, among others. These changes include authorizing applications to form Tribal Consortia from Regional Tribal Consortia in Northern, Central, and Southern California, expanding the scope of reimbursable work to include work related to the federal Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and future broadband deployment programs, and streamlining administrative burdens.⁴

Pursuant to the CASF rules adopted in D.25-11-003, Consortia activities that achieve the following objectives may be eligible for funding:

- Objective 1: Collaborating with the Commission and other state agencies to engage regional Consortia, local officials, internet service providers (ISPs), stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal.
- Objective 2: Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects or potential broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, where providers can expand and improve their infrastructure and service offerings to achieve the goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment in each consortia region.
- Objective 3: Assisting potential CASF infrastructure applicants or potential applicants in the project development or grant application process, for broadband deployment projects related to the new programs created under SB

² AB 1665 is codified at Public Utilities Code, § 281.

³ AB 1665 supplements \$15 million already authorized for the Consortia Grants with an additional \$10 million.

⁴ D.25-11-003, Appendix C, p. 3.

156 and AB 164 or other state and federal programs deploying broadband in California, including BEAD.

- Objective 4: Conducting activities that will lead to, or that can be reasonably expected to lead to, CASF infrastructure projects or broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, or other state and federal programs deploying broadband in California, including BEAD, including but not limited to the following examples of allowable activities:
 - Supporting project permitting activities.
 - Engaging local government officials and communities to better understand and explain regional broadband needs and solutions and providing technical assistance to such entities.
 - Conducting an inventory of public assets (e.g. rights-of-ways, publicly owned towers, public utility poles, equipment housing, publicly owned property) and aggregate demand, including speed tests and the identification and updates of priority areas.
- Objective 5: Assisting the Commission in publicizing requests for wireline testing volunteers in areas, as needed.
- Objective 6: Assisting the Commission in promoting broadband deployment in California, related to CASF Infrastructure Projects, the Federal Funding Account, Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve, and Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, or other state and federal programs deploying broadband in California, including BEAD.

The most recent four rounds of solicitation for Consortia grant applications were on March 29, 2019, April 23, 2020, December 18, 2020, and June 1, 2022.⁵ Subsequently, the Commission approved a total of twenty-eight Consortia grants in the following Resolutions: Resolution T-17669 (9 grants) on October 24, 2019, Resolution T-17708 (2 grants) on October 22, 2020, Resolution T-17726 (1 grant) on April 15, 2021, Resolution T-17738 (1 project) on August 19, 2021, and Resolution T-17778 (15 grants) on January 12, 2023. The four active Consortia grants from Resolution T-17778 that are eligible for this application cycle are expected to end by June 2026.⁶ Consortia grants awarded in this Resolution are expected to start in July 1, 2026.

⁵ The four rounds stated are applicable to each consortium in this resolution that have either ended or will sunset by June 2026. There were other rounds of solicitation for Consortia grant applications prior to 2019.

⁶ The four active Consortia grants from Resolution T-17778 that are eligible for this application cycle are the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC), Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC), Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC), and Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League Consortium

On December 10, 2025, following adoption of D.25-11-003, the Commission opened a new application cycle for Consortia grant applications. Prospective applicants were invited to submit applications by February 20, 2026.

DISCUSSION

a. Applicant Requests and Notice

Eight applicants, including BCPC, EBBC, EMCSVC, GCBC, IMBC, LA DEAL (Grantees), Golden Gate Broadband Consortium (GGBC) and Silicon Valley Broadband Consortium (SVBC) submitted applications for CASF Consortia grant funding by the deadline of February 20, 2026.

GGBC, EMCSVC, and SVBC applied for overlapping regions. Consistent with D.25-11-003, Staff evaluated all applications under the program scoring criteria and determined that only applications receiving at least 70 points would be considered for funding, and that where multiple Consortia apply for the same region, only the highest-scoring application would be considered for an award.⁷ Of the three overlapping applications, EMCSVC and SVBC met the minimum scoring threshold, while GGBC did not.⁸ Staff comparatively evaluated EMCSVC and SVBC and recommends that EMCSVC should be approved because it received the higher score based on the fact that EMCSVC represents all three counties in the proposed region, submitted more endorsements, and includes direct broadband infrastructure deployment experience among its members. SVBC demonstrated strong telecommunications policy and public-sector information technology experience, but more limited direct broadband infrastructure deployment experience.

(LA-DEAL). Current program records list the project end dates for GCBC, IMBC, and LA-DEAL as January 31, 2026, and for BCPC as June 30, 2026.

⁷ D.25-11-003, Appendix C, p. 14 “Where multiple Consortia apply for the same region only the applicant in a region who has the highest score will be considered for an award.”

⁸ GGBC’s application did not meet the minimum scoring requirement of 70 points. After deficiency responses, GGBC’s score increased, but remained below the 70-point threshold required for funding consideration.

On March 23, 2026, Communications Division (CD) staff (Staff) posted the applications received on the Commission’s CASF Consortia Account webpage.⁹

b. Application Review and Evaluation

Staff reviewed all applications according to the guidelines, requirements, and evaluation criteria adopted in D.25-11-003, as follows:

- (1) Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements;
- (2) Regional Consortium / Members’ Experience;
- (3) Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan; and
- (4) Budget.

Applications from previously funded regional Consortia were also considered in the context of past performance in implementing their Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan. Applications that meet a minimum score of 70 points (out of a possible 100 points) were considered for funding. Where multiple Consortia apply for the same region, only the applicant in a region who has the highest score will be considered for an award.¹⁰

Detailed Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan for each proposed Consortium awardee will be available at the CASF Consortia Account webpage after issuance of the resolution.¹¹

Staff’s review and evaluation of applications are summarized below.

1. Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC)

Applicant

BCPC is a regional collaborative organization conducted by the Economic Development Collaborative, comprised of government, economic development, education, health, business, and other not-for-profit organizations collaborating to facilitate measures that aim to achieve the deployment of broadband. Formed in 2014, the BCPC represents the Pacific Coast Tri-County Area of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

⁹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/casf-adoption-and-access/consortia/main-consortia-page/2025-updates/december-2025-consortia-grant-applications.pdf>

¹⁰ D.25-11-003, Appendix C, p.14.

¹¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-consortia-account>.

BCPC received approval for four Consortia Account grants: \$300,000 in June 2014 (Resolution T-17445), \$251,500 in January 2017 (Resolution T-17550), \$450,000 in October 2019 (Resolution T-17669) and \$600,000 in January 2023 (Resolution T-17778). Funding granted to BCPC in Resolution T-17778 will conclude on June 30, 2026.

Past CASF Project Performance

This summary of past CASF project performance is based on applicant-provided materials and staff program records, and should not be understood as independent verification of every statement summarized below.

BCPC reported that over the previous three years, the consortium's work included early engagement with community organizations to leverage established relationships and trust, particularly within socioeconomically disadvantaged communities to support data collection and to elevate community needs as a core pillar of broadband deployment planning. BCPC reported serving as a regional convener, collector, and coordinator of conversations in the following strategic areas:

- Tracking statewide initiatives and conveying progress to key stakeholders.
- Planning regional middle mile networks to supplement state deployment.
- Drafting and promoting policy for regional and local levels to accelerate deployment.
- Developing proposals for priority projects and encouraging pathways toward quick wins as outcomes.
- Mapping fiber assets and community networks to interconnect anchors for resiliency.
- Creating a mechanism to support public oversight of potential regional networks.
- Developing recommendations for "shovel ready" projects for technical assistance, and the build out of the middle and last mile.
- Engaging with digital inclusion advocates through coalitions to continue to inform their efforts with technical insight and ground-truth data on broadband availability and costs.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

BCPC representation includes multiple sectors across the tri-county region from local governments; business entities, and various regional and community-based organizations. The governing board structure has a steering committee and an advisory board. BCPC received a total of 29 endorsements from various organizations such as city governments, internet service providers (ISP), elected representatives, and schools among others.

Regional Consortium Members' Experience

BCPC's members have direct and ongoing experience with broadband deployment efforts. As government officials, educators, business owners and developers, they have direct experience working with their regional communities.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

BCPC proposes to continue with a three-year project program plan. The proposed work aligns with the stated goals of the Consortia Account, including engaging regional stakeholders around priority areas and deployment strategies, identifying potential infrastructure projects and assisting infrastructure applicants in project development and the grant application processes including state and federal broadband programs. BCPC plans on conducting activities supporting needed infrastructure projects such as permitting, inventories of public assets, and data updates. BCPC emphasizes that its approach relies on localized county coordination, the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, including the Regional Collaboration Portal (RCP), and structured stakeholder engagement to inform deployment planning and accelerate progress in priority areas.

BCPC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.¹²

Budget

BCPC requests \$600,000 for a three-year grant.¹³ Of its total budget, BCPC allocates approximately 24.6% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 44.7% to assist in developing CASF infrastructure applications (Objectives 2, 3, and 4), 6.2% to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 17.0% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6), and 7.5% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. BCPC's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

2. East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC)

¹² In D.25-11-003, the Commission established that Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan should include specific work activities, verifiable work deliverables, quantitative performance measures, the method for performance tracking and measuring, and responsible party(ies), with acceptable timelines for completion.

¹³ The requested number of funding years is at the historical average level and within the range of funding years awarded in the past for the Consortia Account.

Applicant

EBBC represents Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano counties. EBBC proposes to implement the project, “Connecting the East Bay for Good,” with the Oakland Fund for Public Innovation serving as fiscal agent. EBBC proposes a seven-member Governing Board with representation from county and city government, public education, public libraries, and nonprofit technology and digital inclusion organizations. The East Bay region has lacked representation as a Regional Broadband Consortium since 2019.

Past CASF Project Performance

EBBC is a first-time applicant to the CASF Consortia Account and therefore does not report prior CASF Consortia grant performance. However, the application shows that EBBC’s leadership and partner organizations have conducted related broadband and digital equity work in the region, particularly through Oakland Undivided and Solano Connected.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

EBBC’s representation includes the Alameda County Office of Education, City of Fairfield, City of Oakland, Contra Costa County Library, Kapor Foundation, Solano County Department of Information Technology, and Tech Exchange. The consortium’s Governing Board is intended to provide broad geographic and sectoral representation across the three-county region and includes expertise from local government, education, libraries, digital inclusion, and community-based organizations. EBBC received support from more than 30 organizations and individuals, including endorsement letters from Assembly member Mia Bonta, Assembly member Buffy Wicks, Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam, and Oakland City Councilmember At-Large Rowena Brown, as well as support from cities, nonprofits, and other regional stakeholders across the region.¹⁴

Regional Consortium Members’ Experience

EBBC accomplishments include regional convening and digital equity advocacy, broadband mapping and performance analysis, BEAD map challenges, internal wiring studies in low-income multi-dwelling units (MDU), technical assistance tied to middle-mile and last-mile opportunities, and support for Oakland broadband investment efforts. EBBC’s members have experience in broadband planning, municipal

¹⁴ CD received a letter on February 27, 2026, opposing the inclusion of Solano County in EBBC’s proposed Consortia region. The Consortia Account Guidelines in D.25-11-003 do not provide for a formal opposition process. CD acknowledges the opposition letter submitted by Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce.

information technology, education connectivity, library-based access, digital inclusion, community engagement, and regional infrastructure coordination.

Board members include municipal and county technology leaders with experience in broadband, public safety communications, GIS, permitting systems, public fiber assets, and public Wi-Fi initiatives, as well as leaders from education, libraries, and nonprofit technology organizations. EBBC proposes to staff the consortium through a full-time Director and full-time Deputy Director. Senior staff have experience in broadband policy, infrastructure planning, mapping, grant development, BEAD challenges, performance studies, MDU infrastructure analysis, and CASF as well as FFA related project support.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

EBBC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan focus on infrastructure oriented regional coordination and project advancement activities across all six current Consortia objectives. EBBC proposes to compile county level broadband summaries; refine priority deployment areas; engage local governments, providers, anchor institutions, and stakeholders; identify and screen potential deployment opportunities; provide advisory support to potential applicants; conduct pre-development, feasibility, barrier identification, and deployment readiness activities; publicize wireline testing volunteer requests if requested by the Commission; and participate in statewide coordination and information-sharing.

The application includes measurable annual performance targets, including completion or update of three county-level broadband summaries, at least six regional coordination or engagement activities, identification or update of at least five potential deployment opportunities annually, advancement of at least three opportunities to preliminary feasibility or funding-alignment stage annually, at least three advisory engagements during reporting periods, assistance with at least one project grant application, advancement of at least three project concepts to pre-development stage annually, and at least two feasibility, barrier-identification, or deployment-readiness analyses annually.

EBBC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

Budget

EBBC requests \$600,000 for a three-year grant. Of its total budget, EBBC allocates approximately 8.5% to start-up costs¹⁵, 27.4% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 52.3% to identify, support, and advance broadband infrastructure opportunities (Objectives 2, 3, and 4), 1.7% to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 2.5% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6), and 7.6% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. EBBC's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

EBBC's start-up budget (8.5%) provides funding for initial launch activities, including Regional Broadband Analysis and Priority Area Development, Stakeholder Engagement and Regional Technical Assistance, and Deployment Opportunity Identification and Feasibility Screening.

3. E = mc² Silicon Valley Consortium (EMCSVC)

Applicant

EMCSVC represents San Francisco (SF), San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. ASIAN, Inc. is the applicant and proposed fiscal agent. The Consortium is led by ASIAN, Inc. in partnership with SF Tech Council and DigitalLift, and proposes a two-year regional broadband consortium project focused on supporting broadband infrastructure planning and deployment in low income and underserved communities across the three-county region.

Past CASF Project Performance

EMCSVC is a first-time applicant to the CASF Consortia Account and therefore does not have prior CASF Consortia grant performance. However, ASIAN, Inc. and its partners have relevant prior Commission and broadband-related experience.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

As stated in its application, EMCSVC's governing structure includes five voting members, with two representatives from ASIAN, Inc., two representatives from SF Tech Council, and one representative from DigitalLift, as well as non-voting advisory members that may include regional ISPs, state broadband representatives, workforce

¹⁵ Under D.25-11-003, a first-time Consortia grantee may request an initial start-up cost budget, up to 25 percent of the entire grant, for identified start-up activities in the Work Plan with an expected timeframe and deliverables. Start-up costs can include administrative expenses, as well as activities needed to launch the approved consortium work plan. Start-up costs must be supported by a Start-up Report with itemized accounting and detailed documentation.

agencies, educational institutions, and philanthropic partners. The application states that the governance model is intended to provide equitable regional representation, transparency, accountability, and fiscal oversight.

EMCSVC received 12 endorsements from organizations and stakeholders including Daly City Partnership, Dev/Mission, EAH Housing, Greenlining Institute, IW Group Inc., Monkeybrains, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD), Rise Economy, Santa Clara County Digital Inclusion Workgroup, Senior Coastsiders, DigitalLift, and former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and CPUC Commissioner Rachelle Chong.

Regional Consortium Members' Experience

EMCSVC's members have experience in broadband project implementation, community engagement, mapping, technical assistance, and cross-sector coordination. ASIAN, Inc., founded in 1971, states they have experience as a community convener, direct service provider, affordable housing operator, and as a Commission grant manager. SF Tech Council contributes multi-agency coalition building, digital inclusion planning, mapping, and grant application facilitation, including work related to a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Digital Equity Act application and San Francisco digital equity planning. DigitalLift states they have experience in community engagement, capacity building, needs assessments, and asset mapping for underserved communities. The proposed Governing Board and advisory structure also include leaders with experience in program management, communications, grant administration, digital equity, and ISP operations, including Monkeybrains founder as a non-voting advisory member.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

EMCSVC proposes an infrastructure focused work plan that includes convening a regional broadband infrastructure task force, developing localized "Dig Once" coordination strategies, conducting multilingual outreach and listening sessions in priority geographies, collecting qualitative and quantitative data to identify infrastructure gaps, completing a vertical asset and multi-dwelling unit inventory, analyzing Commission maps against ground-truth data, facilitating partnerships between ISPs and housing authorities, assisting with CASF Infrastructure and Federal Funding Account applications, supporting permitting and broadband planning efforts, conducting GIS mapping, publicizing and supporting wireline testing and speed-test campaigns, and promoting Commission and related broadband deployment programs. The work plan is aligned with CASF Consortia objectives and includes measurable deliverables such as reports, spreadsheets, memorandum of understandings, GIS maps, training materials, validated test datasets, and outreach and briefing activities.

EMCSVC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

Budget

EMCSVC requests \$400,000 for a two-year grant. EMCSVC allocates approximately 7.9% to start-up costs, 18.7% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 51.4% to assist in developing CASF infrastructure applications (Objectives 2, 3, and 4), 11.1% to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 8.4% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6), and 2.5% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. EMCSVC's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

EMCSVC's start-up budget (7.9%) provides funding for initial personnel, project supplies, and indirect/administrative expenses necessary to launch implementation of the Work Plan.

4. Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC)

Applicant

GCBC represents Sierra, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties. GCBC received approval for four Consortia Account grants: \$450,000 in February 2012 (Resolution T-17355), \$300,000 in November 2016 (Resolution T-17538), \$423,010 in October 2019 (Resolution T-17669), and \$565,582 in January 2023 (Resolution T-17778). Funding granted to GCBC in Resolution T-17778 concluded on January 30, 2026.

Past CASF Project Performance

This summary of past CASF project performance is based on applicant-provided materials and staff program records, and should not be understood as independent verification of every statement summarized below.

GCBC's reported past project activities include conducting resident engagement, including speed tests and direct outreach, partnering with ISPs on current and future infrastructure projects, coordinating with local governments to improve policies and processes supporting deployment, and maintaining regional stakeholder engagement to keep projects moving forward. Attention was given specifically to assisting unserved neighborhoods, CASF project transition, and maintaining progress.

GCBC collaborated with County Information Technology (IT) departments to promote and track survey data, speed test results, and reliability metrics. They also held regular meetings with ISPs and local jurisdictions to identify service issues, address mapping inaccuracies, and explore funding opportunities to facilitate private/public broadband investment in priority areas. Furthermore, GCBC analyzed quarterly GeoTel data extracts to map public and private broadband assets, including cellular towers, fiber-lit buildings, government facilities, anchor institutions, and other key infrastructure.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

GCBC representation includes member organizations from local cities and counties, and local ISPs who work on issues of regional importance. Elected officials, public agency staff, as well as local ISPs, act as the current Consortium oversight committee. GCBC received a total of four endorsements from the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), County of Nevada, Tahoe Prosperity Center, and Oasis Broadband. Endorsements state the consortium played a critical role identifying gaps and supporting investment across underserved communities.

Regional Consortium Members' Experience

GCBC's members have experience working with residents and local stakeholders to validate service gaps and elevate community-backed priority areas, and experience coordinating with ISPs and local jurisdictions to advance broadband infrastructure concepts toward implementation. GCBC also includes experience assisting infrastructure grant applicants through project development support and building a pipeline of grant ready projects.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

GCBC proposes to continue assisting with broadband infrastructure project development and grant readiness by improving data accuracy, strengthening regional coordination, and advancing infrastructure projects toward funding readiness in El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Sierra counties. GCBC will focus on data and mapping collaborations with the Commission; assist ISPs with infrastructure grant applicants; assist the Commission wireline testing; and maintain a regional stakeholder list to implement innovative broadband solutions. GCBC also plans to incorporate the services of a consulting group to expand technical capacity with areas such as mapping, data analysis, and gap assessments.

GCBC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

Budget

GCBC requests \$600,000 for a three-year grant. Of its total budget, GCBC allocates approximately 20.7% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 73% to assist in developing CASF infrastructure applications (Objectives 2, 3, and 4), 1.1% to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 2.7% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6) and 2.5% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. GCBC's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

5. Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC)

Applicant

IMBC represents Inyo and Mono counties. IMBC received approval for two Consortia Account grants: \$105,216 in October 2016 (Resolution T-17537), and \$600,000 in January 2023 (Resolution T-17778). Funding granted to IMBC in Resolution T-17778 concluded on January 30, 2026.

Past CASF Project Performance

This summary of past CASF project performance is based on applicant-provided materials and staff program records, and should not be understood as independent verification of every statement summarized below.

IMBC's reported past project activities include mapping and documenting agency priorities, refining them with public input and data analysis, while communicating broadband updates via press releases, meetings, and newsletters. IMBC coordinated with regional ISPs, managed Digital 395 middle-mile network activities, and updated the Broadband Access Tool. IMBC coordinated the development and submission of nine Federal Funding Account (FFA) Round 2 grant applications for projects in Inyo County and one CASF Infrastructure Grant Account application for Darwin in Inyo County. IMBC collaborated with local agencies, maintained a GIS map of broadband assets, and drafted a broadband strategic plan for Mono County. IMBC encouraged and analyzed speed tests, developing a tool for regional analysis using external speed test servers.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

IMBC representation includes two officials each from Inyo County, Mono County, the City of Bishop, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. IMBC received four endorsements from local governments.

Regional Consortium Members' Experience

IMBC and its members have experience with community groups and have demonstrated success in helping to achieve broadband deployment in the region. They have also had success in building regional, collaborative broadband-related efforts. Most board members also served during the 2023-2026 IMBC cycle, giving them familiarity with the regional broadband implementation issues.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

IMBC proposes a six-objective work plan aligned with SB 156 and AB 164. The work plan includes mapping and documenting priority areas, public engagement and outreach, maintaining a project management system, coordinating with ISPs and middle-mile access opportunities, supporting project development and grant applications, maintaining public-asset inventories and regional broadband strategies, conducting recurring speed-test activities, and carrying out a focus on Commission program outreach and a regional project opportunity pipeline. The proposed work plan is tailored to regional needs, supported by measurable deliverables and performance tracking through project management software, and structured to build on prior consortia work. IMBC's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

Budget

IMBC requests \$600,000 for a three-year grant. Of its total budget, IMBC allocates approximately 18.5% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 43% to assist in developing CASF infrastructure applications (Objectives 2, 3, and 4), 13% to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 18% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6), and 7.5% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. IMBC's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

6. Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League Consortium (LA DEAL)

Applicant

The LA DEAL Consortium represents Los Angeles County, consisting of the following five subregions: San Fernando Valley/Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley, San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, Gateway Cities, and Central/West Los Angeles. LA DEAL received approval for a \$300,000 Consortia Account grant in August 2021 (Resolution T-17738) as well as \$600,000 in January 2023 (Resolution T-17778). Funding granted to LA DEAL in Resolution T-17778 concluded on January 30, 2026.

Past CASF Project Performance

This summary of past CASF project performance is based on applicant-provided materials and staff program records, and should not be understood as independent verification of every statement summarized below.

LA DEAL reported that it has convened a cross-sector coalition of more than 300 stakeholders and helped create multiple broadband project pipelines. LA DEAL supported LATA grants across Los Angeles County; developed a Digital Distress Heat Map and data dashboard to help guide broadband investment decisions; coordinated with the State on middle-mile planning; facilitated municipal broadband permitting best-practice trainings; supported the launch of the Destination Crenshaw Wi-Fi Network; and assisted development of a CASF Broadband Infrastructure grant application for Antelope Acres that would connect approximately 1,000 residents with fiber-to-the-home service.

Application materials further state that LA DEAL has engaged more than 50 cross-sector stakeholders in broadband projects, identified 15 potential future infrastructure projects, helped secure four FFA grants for community partners, and supported 12 LATA grant applications.

Regional Consortium Representation and Endorsements

LA DEAL's representation includes local and regional government, councils of governments, county and city agencies, K-12 education, community-based organizations, workforce and economic development partners, and Internet service providers. The Stewardship Committee includes UNITE-LA, California Community Foundation, the County of Los Angeles Internal Services Department, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting, South Bay Cities Council of Governments, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the Community Coalition of Antelope Valley. LA DEAL also convenes ISP quarterly gatherings with providers including AT&T, Cox, Charter, Sonic, T-Mobile, and Verizon.

The LA DEAL Consortium received forty-one endorsement support letters from: local governments, public agencies, educational institutions, nonprofits, community organizations, and broadband stakeholders.

Regional Consortium Members' Experience

The LA DEAL Consortium's members have direct experience with broadband planning, public-private partnerships, digital equity, GIS and mapping, education connectivity,

and infrastructure deployment. UNITE-LA has over 28 years of experience convening cross-sector partnerships and serving as an intermediary among business, education, government, and community organizations. The County's Internal Services Department is leading a community broadband project intended to serve more than 200,000 Angelenos. The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting is leveraging public assets for broadband deployment, including the 110 Middle-Mile Project and community Wi-Fi projects. Gateway Cities Council of Governments is advancing a \$104 million, 125-mile open-access fiber network in Southeast Los Angeles County. South Bay Cities Council of Governments operates a regional middle-mile fiber ring with more than 40 active circuits. In November 2022, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments secured \$496,960 in LATA funding to conduct a region-wide broadband needs assessment and develop a Regional Broadband Master Plan, identifying infrastructure priorities, investment strategies, and partnerships to expand broadband access across the San Gabriel Valley. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) have experience in school connectivity and digital equity programs. The Community Coalition of Antelope Valley has designed fiber projects, completed a LATA broadband plan and supported a CASF infrastructure grant application in the Antelope Valley.

Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

LA DEAL's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan focuses on key goals such as activating community stakeholders, ensuring equitable deployment of broadband infrastructure, and promoting collaborative investment. The work plan includes regular coordination with the California Department of Technology (CDT) and the Commission, Stewardship Committee meetings, quarterly ISP convenings, newsletters, mapping and dashboard updates, identification of priority areas and prospective projects, workshops on CASF and other infrastructure funding opportunities, project permitting support, public asset and GIS mapping, assistance with wireline testing when needed, and outreach to promote deployment programs including CASF, FFA, Public Housing Account, LATA, Middle-Mile, and BEAD-related infrastructure opportunities. The performance measures include output such as meeting agendas, newsletters, spreadsheets of priority areas and prospective projects, workshop materials, GIS maps, outreach artifacts, and project and grant assistance. LA DEAL's Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan are directly related to SB 156 and AB 164 goals and objectives, and consistent with program requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

Budget

LA DEAL requests \$600,000 for a three-year grant. Of its total budget, LA DEAL allocates approximately 20.5% to conduct marketing/outreach and develop strategies (Objective 1), 52.7% to assist in developing CASF infrastructure applications (Objectives

2, 3, and 4), less than 1% (0.1%) to assist in publicizing wireline testing requests (Objective 5), 19.3% to assist in promoting broadband deployment in California (Objective 6), and 7.4% for conducting and submitting the annual audit reports. LA DEAL's budget is cost-effective and consistent with budget requirements defined in D.25-11-003.

c. Compliance Requirements

Grantees are required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of CASF funds as specified in D.25-11-003 and this Resolution. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the items listed below, with details provided in Appendix A.¹⁶

- i. Execution and Performance*
- ii. Public Workshop Requirement*
- iii. Fiscal Agent*
- iv. Distinguishing CASF from other Financial Resources*
- v. Annual Audit*
- vi. Reporting*
- vii. Payments*
- viii. Oversight of Consortia Activities*
- ix. Use of CASF Funds*

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its mailing and publication on the Commission's website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day review period and 20-day comment period may be reduced or waived upon the stipulation of all parties in the proceeding.

The 30-day review and 20-day comment period for the draft of this resolution was neither waived nor reduced. Accordingly, this draft resolution was mailed to parties for

¹⁶ D.25-11-003, Appendix C limits Consortia funding to specified eligible deployment support activities and requires that each grantee use grant funds solely for the approved project as described in the Commission-approved Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan; payment requests must be supported by verifiable documentation.

comments and will be placed on the Commission's agenda no earlier than 30 days from today.

The Commission received comments from the County of San Mateo on May 20, 2026 and the County of Santa Clara on May 21, 2026.¹⁷

The Commission received no reply comments.

The County of San Mateo and County of Santa Clara recommend that the Commission re-evaluate the scoring of the Silicon Valley Broadband Consortium (SVBC) application. The comments state that SVBC should receive additional consideration for regional representation and endorsements, regional consortium and member experience, Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan, and budget. The comments also state that SVBC's proposed consortium representation includes government participation from San Mateo County and Santa Clara County, and that Joint Venture Silicon Valley has additional wireless and broadband-related project experience.¹⁸

Staff evaluated SVBC's application according to the guidelines, requirements, and evaluation criteria adopted in D.25-11-003. Consistent with D.25-11-003, SVBC received a numerical score for its local government participation, endorsement letters, telecommunications policy expertise, public-sector information technology leadership, and detailed work plan. Staff also evaluated the application materials submitted for EMCSVC under the same scoring criteria.¹⁹ Based on the submitted materials, EMCSVC received a higher final score and therefore is the recommended awardee for the overlapping San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County region.

The County of San Mateo's and Santa Clara's comments identify additional information not included in the submitted applications regarding Joint Venture Silicon Valley projects.²⁰ Applications are evaluated based on the information contained in the application as submitted consistent with criteria established in the guidelines and requirements specified in D.25-11-003. Therefore, the County of San Mateo's and Santa Clara's comments carry no weight in the scoring of this application. Staff considered the County of San Mateo's and Santa Clara's comments and finds no basis to modify its recommendation.

¹⁷ On May 21, 2026, the County of Santa Clara sent comments to staff after a good faith attempt at submitting to the CASF Distribution List before the deadline.

¹⁸ The County of San Mateo comments, at 3 ; The County of Santa Clara comments, at 2

¹⁹ D.25-11-003, Appendix C, p. 14.

²⁰ The County of San Mateo comments, at 6 ; The County of Santa Clara comments, at 5

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. In July 2021, Governor Newsom signed legislation, SB 156 and AB 164, that affected program administration of the CASF through the creation of new CASF subaccounts and through increase or extension of total program funding.
2. Eight prospective applicants submitted applications for Consortia Account grant funding by the February 20, 2026, deadline. Staff posted each applicant's name, contact information, and coverage area by county on the Commission Consortia Account webpage on March 23, 2026.
3. Staff reviewed each application according to the guidelines, requirements, and evaluation criteria adopted in D.25-11-003, which include regional consortium representation and endorsements, regional consortium members' experience, Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan, and budget. Staff also evaluated the applications based on the merits of each proposal, including achievements, fiscal responsibility, and cost-effectiveness.
4. Based on the review, Staff determined that seven of the eight applications met eligibility requirements. Staff further determined that out of the seven applications, six proposed projects qualify for funding under D.25-11-003.
5. One of the eight applications did not achieve the minimum score of 70 points required under D.25-11-003 to be considered for funding. In addition, where multiple consortia apply for the same region, only the highest-scoring application may be considered for an award.
6. Staff recommends CASF Consortia grant approval of total funding of up to \$3,400,000 for the six Consortia.
7. Grantees must comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of CASF funds as specified in D.25-11-003 and this Resolution, including, but not limited to, only billing for activities related to those in the approved Work Plans.
8. Grantees are required to expressly exclude any costs for activities or programs from the proposed consortium budget that are separately funded from any other sources in order to ensure that CASF grants do not duplicate funding from any other sources.

9. D.25-11-003 directs CD to consult with regional consortia, stakeholders, local governments, existing facility-based broadband providers and consumers, regarding unserved areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal, through public workshops at least annually no later than April 30 of each year. All consortia receiving CASF grants shall attend at least one of the annual public workshops to be conducted by CD. The maximum reimbursement allowable is \$2,000 per person for up to five delegates for each workshop, for a total of up to \$10,000 per consortium. Reimbursement is only allowed for delegates attending the workshop in-person.
10. In compliance with Public Utilities Code section 311, subdivision (g), a notice letter was emailed on May 1, 2026, informing parties on the CASF Distribution List of this draft Resolution, and of the opportunity for comment, at the Commission's website <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>. The letter also informed parties that the final confirmed Resolution adopted by the Commission will be posted and available at the same website.
11. On May 20, 2026, the County of San Mateo submitted comments. On May 21, 2026, the County of Santa Clara sent comments to staff after a good faith attempt at submitting to the CASF Distribution List before the deadline.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Commission shall award the following grant amounts:
 - \$600,000 to the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC)
 - \$600,000 to the East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC)
 - \$400,000 to the E = mc² Silicon Valley Consortium (EMCSVC)
 - \$600,000 to the Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC)
 - \$600,000 to the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC)
 - \$600,000 to the Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League Consortium (LA DEAL)

The total grant award is in the amount of up to \$3,400,000. All awards are based on the descriptions of the projects as described herein.

2. Payments to the CASF grantees shall be in accordance with guidelines adopted in D.25-11-003 and in accordance with the process defined in the "Payments" section of this Resolution.

3. Each grantee must retain at least one Fiscal Agent with lead responsibility and legal authority to represent the Consortium for purposes of sponsoring the application, administering fiscal activities between the Consortium and the Commission, receiving and disbursing Consortium grant funds and ensuring Consortium compliance with the grant.
4. Each Fiscal Agent must affirmatively agree on behalf of the grantee to comply with the Commission's directives and conditions relating to the review, approval, and administration of any Consortia application grants.
5. Prior to commencement of each grantee's projects, the Consortium's Fiscal Agent must provide CD staff with the method chosen to distinguish funding sources and billing practices, to ensure that CASF payments are not duplicated by other sources, and that only CASF-approved activities are billed to the Consortia Account.
6. The disbursement of funds shall be subject to the requirements set forth in D.25-11-003, including the submission of bi-annual progress reports and supporting documentation for payment reimbursement, annual audit reports, CASF annual reports,²¹ and a Completion Report to be submitted before the final payment reimbursement will be made.
7. By receiving a CASF grant from the Commission, grantees agree to comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the grant and thus submit to the jurisdiction of the Commission with regard to disbursement and administration of the grant.
8. Grantees shall complete activities in accordance with and within the performance period set forth in the Commission-approved Work Plans.
9. Grantees must use the grant funding solely for the approved projects/activities as described in the Commission-approved Work Plan and Budget Plan, (or approved revisions to such Plans and budgets).
10. Each Consortia grantee shall make records available to the Commission upon request and shall agree that these records are subject to a financial audit by the

²¹ Pub. Util. Code, § 281 requires each consortium to submit to the Commission an annual report that includes a description of activities completed during the prior year, how each activity promotes the deployment of broadband services, and the cost associated with each activity, as well as the number of project applications assisted.

Commission at any time within five years after the grantee incurred the expense being audited. A Consortia grantee shall provide access to the Commission upon 24-hour notice to evaluate work completed or being performed pursuant to the grant.

11. Grantees shall comply with all guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the CASF grant award as specified in D.25-11-003 and this Resolution.
12. If the Consortia grantee fails to perform in good faith or fails to complete the project in accordance with the expectations set forth in its Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan, as affirmed in the affidavit, the Commission may withhold subsequent grant disbursement, suspend, reduce, or terminate the Consortia grant, as warranted.
13. The commencement of the grant will be on July 1, 2026, subject to the execution of the consent form.
14. Any existing Consortia grantee awarded funding must complete all outstanding deliverable requirements of its current consortia grant before start of new grant term.
15. Any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the grant (e.g., changes to Work Plan, budget or designated Fiscal Agent, etc.) must be communicated in writing to CD Director at least 30 days before the anticipated change, and may be subject to approval by either the CD Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective.
16. Grantees must each complete and execute the consent form (to be sent to the grantee after this Resolution is adopted) agreeing to the conditions set forth in this Resolution and email it to [CASF Consortia Grant Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:CASF_Consortia_Grant_Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov) within 30 calendar days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution. Failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the adoption date of this Resolution may deem the grant null and void.

This Resolution is effective today.

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on June 11, 2026; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated June 11, 2026, at Sacramento, California

APPENDIX A

For full version, see here: [*Appendix C of Decision 25-11-003*](#)

i. Execution and Performance

The expected start date is July 1, 2026. The start of the Consortia grant will begin upon grant approval, once the Consent Form and Grant Disbursement Schedule are signed and received by CASF staff. Grantees must update their Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan to align with the grant approval start dates when submitting the Consent Form accepting the grant award.

The Commission's grant of any award is subject to satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the decision adopting this proposal, and any additional conditions that may be specified in the Commission resolution approving a grant. Each grant is made expressly only to the Consortia grantee as identified in the Commission resolution. The Consortia grantee may not assign the project in whole or in part, except as expressly provided by the Commission's approval.

Each Consortia grantee must use the grant funds solely for the approved project as described in the Grantee's Commission-approved Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan as affirmed by the signed Affidavit. Each Consortia grantee must complete the project in accordance with and within the project performance period set forth in the Commission-approved Work Plan. The Grantee's performance and completion of the project must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The Bi-Annual Progress Report must present the results of performance metrics.

Grantees must notify the Communications Division Director within 30 days of becoming aware that they may not be able to meet performance metrics set forth in the Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan. Any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the Consortium grant (e.g., changes to Work Plan, Performance Metrics Plan, Budget, or designated Fiscal Agent, extensions, etc.) must be communicated in writing to the Communications Division Director at least 30 days before the anticipated change and may be subject to approval by either the Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective. Consortia grantees may modify an approved budget without prior authorization if the modification does not exceed 10% of the approved objective or activity, and so long as those modifications do not exceed the overall approved annual cap amount.

By receiving a CASF Consortia grant, the grantee agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the grant and thus submits to the jurisdiction of the Commission with regard to disbursement and administration of the grant.

Should the Consortia grantee fail to commence work six months from the date of submission of the Consent Form, the Commission may terminate the award by furnishing the Consortia grantee with 30 days written notice.

If the Consortia grantee fails to perform in good faith or fails to complete the project, in accordance with the expectations set forth in its Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan, as affirmed in the affidavit, the Commission may withhold subsequent grant disbursement, suspend, reduce, or terminate the Consortia grant, as warranted.

ii. Public Workshop Requirement

Pub. Util. Code § 281 directs the Commission to consult with regional consortia, stakeholders, local governments, existing facility-based broadband providers, and consumers regarding unserved areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal, through public workshops at least annually no later than April 30 of each year. All consortia receiving CASF grants shall attend at least one of the annual public workshops to be conducted by Communications Division.

Consortia may claim reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem costs associated with each CASF sponsored public workshop hosted by CPUC staff. Expense claims must comply with the travel expense, limitation rules applicable to State of California employees and contractors. The maximum reimbursement allowable is \$2,000 per person for up to five delegates for each workshop, for a total of up to \$10,000 per consortium.

Consortia may not claim reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem costs if the annual CASF public workshop is held virtually.

iii. Fiscal Agent

Each regional Consortium must retain at least one Fiscal Agent with lead responsibility and legal authority to represent the Consortium for purposes of sponsoring the application, administering fiscal activities between the Consortium and the Commission, receiving and dispersing Consortium grant funds and ensuring Consortium compliance with the grant. A Consortium cannot act as its own Fiscal Agent. In the event a Fiscal Agent dissolves or can no longer act as Fiscal Agent to a Consortium, the Consortium must make every effort to replace the Fiscal Agent and may act as its own Fiscal Agent temporarily and only in the interim or through the end of the grant award period, whatever occurs first. A Consortium must also notify the Communications Division Director as described below in Section XIV. In order for a Consortium to temporarily act as its own Fiscal Agent, the Consortium must ensure and

demonstrate a segregation of duties by providing an organizational chart detailing roles and responsibilities within its agency.

The Fiscal Agent must affirmatively agree on behalf of the Consortium, to comply with the Commission's directives and conditions relating to the review, approval, and administration of any consortia application grants. The Fiscal Agent must provide assurance that Consortium members or contractors retained by the Consortium are capable and committed to fulfilling the commitments.

The Fiscal Agent may be a local public institution e.g., city, county, academic institution, tribal government, etc., as defined under Section 50001 of the Government Code, or a town, as defined by Section 21 of the Government Code. The Fiscal Agent may also be a certificated telecommunications carrier or a tribal broadband provider. The Fiscal Agent may also be a non-profit or for-profit entity with experience assisting Tribal governments or local governments with telecommunications and/or grant-writing.

The Fiscal Agent must submit a letter stating its commitment to act as a Fiscal Agent for the Consortium. The letter must include:

- The name and contact information of the responsible party within the agency, including the person responsible for the administrative tasks, if different.
- Affirmation that the work outlined in the Consortium Work Plan will be completed and verification by an Annual Audit instead of the previously required Attestation Report, to be prepared by an independent, licensed Certified Public Accountant will be submitted annually to the Communications Division within six months after the end of each budget or work plan year. The letter must also state the Consortium's acceptance of the Fiscal Agent's rights, duties, and responsibilities. The Fiscal Agent is not eligible for payment, unless the expense was approved and included in the Budget.

The Fiscal Agent shall comply with all of the rules and requirements herein and the Resolution authorizing the award, including but not limited to ensuring implementation of the approved Work Plan within the allocated budget (in conjunction with staff), and shall be responsible for notifying Communications Division with 30 days of advance notice of any proposed changes to Work Plan, Performance Metrics Plan, or budget during the course of the grant cycle.

Any subsequent change in the Fiscal Agent must be approved by the Commission or Director of Communications Division. Any change in the official Consortia membership must be submitted to the Director of Communications Division and is subject to pre-approval.

iv. Distinguishing CASF from Other Financial Resources

D. 25-11-003 requires that each proposed consortium budget must expressly exclude any costs for activities or programs funded from other sources. CASF grants shall not duplicate funding from other sources. The proposed consortium budget must be accompanied by a description of any existing broadband deployment activities funded by any other state or federal grants within the same region, together with confirmation showing that the CASF consortium budget does not duplicate any other sources of funding.

v. Annual Audit

Pub. Util. Code, § 281 requires each consortium to conduct an annual audit of its expenditures and activities for grant programs funded and submit to the Commission an annual report that includes both of the following:

(A) A description of activities completed during the prior year, how each activity promotes the deployment of broadband services, and the cost associated with each activity.

(B) The number of project applications assisted.

The number of project applications assisted must reflect actual performance with agreed upon performance metrics. The annual audit report must be submitted with the information required by Pub. Util. Code, § 281 above within six months after the end of each budget or workplan year. For instance, Consortia grantees may submit the audit report after the second bi-annual progress report (e.g. Year 1 Report 2) but before the following bi-annual progress report (e.g. Year 2 Report 1). Discrepancies identified in the audit report must be reflected in the following bi-annual progress report and payment request (See Administrative Manual). The Annual Audit Report and related audit costs may be submitted separately from the bi-annual progress reports and payment requests.

vi. Reporting

Consortia grantees are required to submit bi-annual progress. Any payment request shall be submitted along with bi-annual progress reports, with the exception of the start-up and/or audit costs, which can be submitted as separate payment requests. Staff

will provide templates for all necessary reporting reports, and additional details in the Administrative Manual, which will be available on the CASF Consortia website.

A Start-up Report is required only if the grantee requests an initial start-up cost payment. The Commission will allow Consortia grantees to request an initial start-up costs payment, up to 25% of the entire grant following the submission of a signed Consent Form acknowledging acceptance of the grant. The Start-up Report must be submitted no later than three months after the completion of the start-up activities within the first budget year. In this report, recipients will report on the completion of start-up activities with dates, activities performed, and milestones per the Work Plan, and provide documentation such as invoices, receipts, deliverables, etc., for expenses or services performed, to support initial start-up costs for services performed. The start-up period is a maximum of six months and may be requested by first time grantees only; existing Consortia grantees are not eligible.

The bi-annual progress report is required every six months, i.e., at the end of the six-month period, at the end of the 12-month period, at the end of the 18-month period, at the end of the 24-month period, etc. These reports must be submitted no later than three months after every six months. Grantees will report on the status of bi-annual milestones per the Work Plan including line items to align objectives and/or activities performed with grant award disbursement schedule dates, as well as request payment for relevant expenses to date.

The annual audit report must be submitted six months after the end of each budget or workplan year. Consortia grantees may submit the audit report after the second bi-annual progress report but before the third bi-annual progress report. Discrepancies identified in the audit report must be reflected in the following bi-annual progress report and payment request.

A completion report is required at the end of the grant cycle. This report must be submitted no later than three months after completion of the project. In this report, grantees will report on the completion of the overall project, milestones met per the Work Plan, actual work products as well as request payment for final and remaining relevant expenses. The completion report must be submitted prior or in conjunction with a request for final payment.

vii. Payments

To receive a bi-annual payment, the Consortium must submit the Bi-Annual Progress Report to the Communications Division, together with all requests for payment and

reimbursement supported by verifiable and relevant supporting documentation, invoices, receipts, work products, deliverables, performance metrics plan, etc.

Grant funds will be disbursed in accordance with, and within the time specified in California Government Code, § 927. The disbursement of funds at any time is subject to Commission discretion, including a review-and-approval process of each grantee through regular site visits, progress reports on a bi-annual basis, narrative reports, and supporting documentation, invoices, timesheets, contracts, and receipts showing expenditures incurred in accordance with the approved CASF budget included in the application.

Consortia grantees may request reimbursement of start-up costs equivalent to a maximum of 25% of the total award. Such payment requests must be supported by itemized accounting and detailed documentation, e.g., receipts, invoices, deliverables, etc., for any portion of an award used to reimburse start-up costs and must demonstrate that total cost does not exceed 25% of the total award. Start-up costs include administrative expenses, e.g., hiring of personnel, purchase of office supplies, etc. The start-up report and payment request must be submitted within three months after the completion of start-up activities.

viii. Oversight of Consortia Activities

Staff is authorized to implement administrative controls necessary to assure that funds disbursed to a Consortium are administered efficiently and cost-effectively, consistent with the stated purposes and objectives for which the funds are to be used.

The Commission will retain continuing oversight of grant disbursements to ensure that funds are spent on authorized functions that meet set objectives and timelines specified in grantees applications.

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, site visits, verification and discovery for work proposed or completed under the grant award to ensure that CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission rules and with the terms of approval set by the Commission.

A consortium must keep detailed records, such as invoices and receipts of each program element and eligible activities. Each Consortia grantee shall maintain books, records, documents, and evidence sufficient to substantiate expenditures covered by the grant, according to generally accepted accounting practices. Each Consortia grantee shall make these records available to the Commission upon request and agrees that these records are subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within five years after the Grantee incurred the expense being audited. A Consortia grantee shall

provide access to the Commission upon 24-hour notice to evaluate work completed or being performed pursuant to the grant.

Each Consortia grantee must use the grant funds solely for the approved project as described in the Grantee's Commission-approved Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan as affirmed by the signed Affidavit. Each Consortia grantee must complete the project in accordance with and within the project performance period set forth in the Commission-approved Work Plan, see Section *Execution and Performance* on changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval.

Grantee's performance and completion of the project must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The Progress Report must present the results of performance metrics.

ix. Use of CASF Funds

Each Consortia grantee must use the grant funds solely for the approved project as described in the Grantee's Commission-approved Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan as affirmed by the signed Affidavit. Each Consortia grantee must complete the project in accordance with and within the project performance period set forth in the Commission-approved Work Plan.

End of Appendix A