

June 12, 2026

Agenda ID: 24302
RESOLUTION T-17915

TO: [CASF Distribution List](#)

This is Draft Resolution T-17915 of the Communications Division. This Draft Resolution will appear on the agenda at the next Commission meeting to be held July 16, 2026, which is at least 30 days after the date of this letter. The Commission may vote on this Resolution at that time, or it may postpone a vote until a later meeting. To confirm when the item will be heard, please see the Business Meeting agenda, which is posted on the Commission's website 10 days before each Business Meeting. When the Commission votes on a Draft Resolution, it may adopt all or part of it as written, amend, modify, or set it aside and prepare a different Resolution. Only when the Commission acts does the Resolution become binding on the parties.

Any member of the public may serve comments on the Draft Resolution as provided in Public Utilities Code, § 311(g) and Rule 14.5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).

Comments along with a certificate of service (COS) shall be sent via email to: the [CASF Service List](#), Heyward.Daluz@cpuc.ca.gov, Rosa.sauer@cpuc.ca.gov and casf_infrastructure_grant_administrator@cpuc.ca.gov by July 2, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Those submitting comments on the Draft Resolution must serve their comments on the entire service list the Draft Resolution was served to on the same date that the comments are submitted to the Communications Division.

Comments shall focus on factual, legal, or technical errors in the proposed Draft Resolution. Comments should list the recommended changes to the Draft Resolution. Comments shall be limited to three pages in length and shall include a subject index listing the recommendations to the draft resolution, a table of authorities, and an appendix setting forth the proposed revised findings and ordering paragraphs.

Replies to comments must be submitted no later than July 7, 2026. Replies shall be submitted and served in the same manner as opening comments.

Sincerely,

/s/

Maria Ellis
Director for Broadband Initiatives
Communications Division
California Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Broadband Video and Market Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17915
July 16, 2026**

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17915: Approves up to \$33,197,090 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account applications of Surfnet Communications, Inc., (U-7265-C) for the Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects in Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Awards two grants for up to \$33,197,090 from the CASF Infrastructure Funding Account to Surfnet Communications, Inc. in Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are no adverse safety considerations identified by the Communications Division. The projects to be funded by this award have the potential to improve communications resiliency and redundancy.

ESTIMATED COST:

- There are no costs associated with this Resolution.

I. SUMMARY

This Resolution approves grant funding for two grants in the amount of up to \$33,197,090 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account (Infrastructure Account) for the grant applications of Surfnet Communications, Inc. (Surfnet) for the Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects. The projects will provide broadband connectivity to a total of 1,293 unserved locations in Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

This Resolution recommends two grant awards to one grantee: Surfnet. The following grant applications listed below in Table 1 are recommended for approval by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Associated maps and project information summaries are included in the appendices.

Table 1: Summary of Grant Funding

Applicant	Project Name	Unserved Locations	Initial Requested Amount	Revised Amount	CASF Approved Amount
Surfnet Communications, Inc.	Santa Barbara Fiber	366	\$9,792,000	\$9,190,327	\$9,190,327
Surfnet Communications, Inc.	Central Coast Fiber Broadband	927	\$24,976,000	\$24,006,763	\$24,006,763

II. BACKGROUND

The CASF Infrastructure Account provides grant funding to Internet service providers (ISPs)/eligible entities to build or upgrade broadband infrastructure in areas that are unserved by existing broadband providers. The CASF program was initiated in 2008, after the program was first adopted by the Commission in Decision (D.) 07-12-054 and enacted into statute pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1193.

On July 20, 2021, Governor Newsom signed historic broadband legislation to help bridge the digital divide; Senate Bill (SB) 156 changed the definition of “unserved area,” allowing, but not requiring, funding for “an area for which there is no facility-based broadband provider offering at least one tier of broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream, 3 Mbps upstream.”¹ Additionally, SB 156 requires grantees to “deploy infrastructure capable of providing broadband access at speeds of a minimum of 100 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps upstream”² and that any grantees receiving CASF funding must report subcontracted work in excess of \$25,000; this information must be posted by the Commission on a monthly basis.³

¹ Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 281(b)(1)(B)(ii)(I).

² Pub. Util. Code § 281(f)(5)

³ Pub. Util. Code § 281(l).

On November 17, 2022, the Commission issued D.22-11-023, adopting programmatic changes to the CASF Infrastructure Account. Attachment 1 of D.22-11-023 (CASF Guidelines) set forth the rules, application requirements, and guidelines for the CASF Infrastructure Account.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Surfnet Communications, Inc. Background

On October 31, 2025, Surfnet submitted two CASF Infrastructure applications, requesting 100 percent funding for a total of \$34,768,000, to deploy last-mile fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband access to 1,459 unserved households in the counties of Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo.

The Surfnet Santa Barbara Fiber Project originally proposed 408 locations. Staff deemed 30 locations ineligible (served by Frontier) and upheld 12 challenged locations submitted by Frontier, resulting in a total reduction of 42 locations. On March 18, 2026, Surfnet revised its request, lowering the funding request to \$9,190,327 and reducing the proposed locations to 366.

Surfnet's Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project, originally called Four County Fiber, initially proposed 1,051 locations. Staff determined 2 locations were invalid because they were not within the project area. Staff deemed an additional 3 locations were previously funded by the Federal Funding Account (FFA) Grant Program previously awarded to Surfnet. In response to challenges by Ranch WiFi and Charter Communications, staff upheld 119 of the challenged locations resulting in a total reduction of 124 locations. In light of the reduction in the number of locations, on May 14, 2026, Surfnet revised its application, changing the project name and lowering the funding request to \$24,006,763 for a total of 927 project locations.

The total revised grant funding for the two projects is \$33,197,090 to serve 1,293 locations. The CASF grant funding request will cover the complete project deployment costs of the two projects. The applicant determined eligibility for funding based on the California Interactive Broadband Map,⁴ which during the 2025 application cycle was based on 2023 mapping data. Because the evaluation and review period occurred while the Commission was collecting 2024 broadband location data, staff verified eligibility using the more current 2024 dataset to ensure the eligibility of all locations are based on the most recent

⁴ California Interactive Broadband Map available at <https://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/>

available data and to prevent the awarding of program funds in areas already served.

Surfnet, established in 2004, following the acquisition of SurfnetUSA, is a broadband Internet Service Provider (ISP) that connects California's Central Coast communities. Per Surfnet, the company's emphasis is on providing broadband access to mountain and coastal communities that are unserved by major broadband carriers. Surfnet's mission is to work directly with local residents in the Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz Mountains, North Monterey County, San Luis Obispo and Santa Clara areas. Surfnet benefits from over 70 years of cumulative experience in the ISP industry. The company is locally owned and operated and is committed to hiring from within the community and supporting local businesses.

Staff's review and evaluation of the applications is summarized below.

1. Santa Barbara Fiber

Project Summary

In compliance with D.22-11-023, staff determined that the Santa Barbara Fiber Project is eligible to receive up to \$9,190,327 in CASF Infrastructure Account grant funding.

Surfnet proposes to serve 366 unserved locations by constructing a FTTH network with up to 1,000 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1,000 Mbps upload in Santa Barbara County.

Challenges

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 281(f)(8) and as required by D.22-11-023, the Commission provided an opportunity for entities to challenge the application. Challenges were due on December 5, 2025.

Frontier submitted timely challenges to Surfnet's Santa Barbara Fiber Infrastructure Account grant application. CASF Staff upheld 12 of Frontier's challenged locations.

Revisions

Staff determined that the Santa Barbara Fiber Project does not overlap with other grant funded terrestrial broadband projects. Surfnet revised its application, reducing the number of project locations by 42 to account for ineligible locations and challenges upheld by staff. Staff posted the revised Santa Barbara Fiber Project Summary on the Commission's

webpage on April 14, 2026.

Technology Deployment

Surfnet will deploy approximately 44.72 miles of last mile fiber. The network infrastructure will be 97.4% aerial and 2.6% underground.

Median Household Income and Low-Income Service

The median household income (MHI) for the project area is approximately \$162,200 which exceeds the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) low-income threshold by county.⁵ This data is calculated from the American Community Survey (ACS) and reflects the MHI at the census block group (CBG) level which results in an incomplete picture of the economic conditions. Despite the overall affluence of Santa Barbara County (where lower and higher income households are averaged together within the same CBG), localized analysis and data reveal substantial income and connectivity disparities within the project area. Rural valleys and agricultural communities across the Santa Ynez region continue to face limited or unreliable broadband options.

School district data further illustrates this disparity. Approximately 21% of students in the Los Olivos Elementary School District and 31% of students in the College Elementary School District⁶ qualify for the National School Lunch Program,⁷ a commonly used indicator of low-income households. English Language Learner populations represent roughly 5% of students in Los Olivos Elementary School District⁸ and approximately 8% in the College Elementary School District.⁹ The Santa Ynez Valley is a designated AG-I (agricultural) zone;¹⁰ many working families in the agriculture industry earn substantially less than the county's median household income.¹¹ This project will serve a community with demonstrable income disparity and identifiable low-income populations within a high-cost region, supporting its alignment with CASF criteria for a "low-income area."

This project will provide a low-income plan of \$15 for speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Connection charges will be waived for five years from completion of the project.¹² To further reduce the burden on low-income residents, Surfnet intends to

⁵ <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/income-limits-2025.pdf>

⁶ These school districts serve the project area but are not Surfnet's Santa Barbara Fiber Project polygon.

⁷ Data derived from: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/documents/frpm2526.xlsx>

⁸ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sdprofile/details.aspx?cds=42692450000000>

⁹ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sdprofile/details.aspx?cds=42691790000000>

¹⁰ <https://www.countyofsb.org/944/Santa-Ynez-Valley-Planning-Area>

¹¹ Lowest Earning Industry Cluster according to [Santa Barbara State of the Workforce Report](#) dated September, 2024.

¹² See [D. 22-11-023, Attachment 1](#), §8.11, Pricing Commitment

participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program upon completion of the Santa Barbara Fiber Project.

Safety Considerations

The proposed project enables the public to access the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. The project is located in a Tier 2 Fire Zone.

Funding Determination

The proposed project will cost up to \$9,190,327, of which the CASF account will fund 100% of costs.

Viability

CASF Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering design meets the program standards. The applicant, a recipient of multiple grants from both the CASF Infrastructure and Last Mile FFA programs, has demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

Surfnet received nine letters of support for the Santa Barbara Project from local government and community representatives, including the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, EconAlliance, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Los Olivos Elementary School District. For more details, see Appendix F.

California Environmental Quality Act

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that the project meets the criteria for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption under 14 California Code of Regulation (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15304 (Minor Alternations to Land). Thus, the Santa Barbara Fiber project is categorically exempt from CEQA review, and the Commission may authorize funds for the construction activities.

2. Central Coast Fiber Broadband

Project Summary

In compliance with D.22-11-023, staff determined that Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project is eligible to receive up to \$24,006,763 in CASF Infrastructure Account grant funding.

Surfnets proposes to serve 927 unserved locations by constructing a FTTH network with up to 1,000 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1,000 Mbps upload in Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Challenges

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 281(f)(8) and as required by D.22-11-023, the Commission provided an opportunity for entities to challenge the application. Challenges were due on December 5, 2025.

Ranch WiFi and Charter Communications submitted timely challenges to Surfnets's Central Coast Fiber Broadband Infrastructure Account grant application. CASF Staff upheld 118 of Ranch WiFi's challenged locations and 1 of Charter Communications challenged locations and directed Surfnets to reduce the number of proposed locations to reflect these upheld challenges.

Revisions

Staff determined that the Central Coast Fiber Project does not overlap with other grant funded terrestrial broadband projects. However, Surfnets did revise the original application and removed the following: two locations outside of project area, 3 locations previously funded by the FFA, and 119 challenged locations for a total of 122. Staff posted the revised Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project summary on the Commission's webpage on May 15, 2026.

Technology Deployment

Surfnets will deploy approximately 118 miles of last mile fiber. The network infrastructure will be approximately 98% aerial and 2% underground.

Median Household Income and Low-Income Service

The Surfnets Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project MHI data, calculated by CBG, obfuscates significant intra-region disparities. The calculated MHI for the project area in Monterey County (\$88,333,) Santa Clara County (\$123,312) and Santa Cruz County (\$148,015) meets the low-income standard for a family of four as designated by the HCD list of state income limits by county. The MHI for San Luis Obispo County (\$120,459) exceeds HCD's low-income threshold for the area to be served by the project. See Table 2 for MHI calculation by CBG for each county.

Table 2: Central Coast Broadband Fiber Median Household Income by County ¹³

County	MHI Calculation by CBG (Project Areas)	HCD 2025 State Income Limits by County
Monterey	\$88,333	\$115,700
Santa Clara	\$123,312	\$159,550
Santa Cruz	\$148,015	\$158,700
San Luis Obispo	\$120,459	\$111,300

However, analysis by staff revealed economic disparities within San Luis Obispo County including in several school districts within the county. According to 2025-2026 Unified School District data, 72.6% of students in the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District¹⁴, 37.4% in the Templeton Unified School District¹⁵, 69.7% in the Shandon Joint Unified School District¹⁶, and 69.4% in the San Miguel Joint Union School District¹⁷ are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, a commonly used indicator of economic hardship. Overall, the four counties included in Surfnet’s Central Coast Fiber Broadband project contain both affluent and low-income households, where historically underserved communities continue to face significant barriers to affordable and reliable broadband access.

This project will provide a low-income plan of \$15 for speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Connection charges will be waived for five years from completion of the project.¹⁸ To further reduce the burden on low-income residents, Surfnet intends to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program upon completion of the Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project.

Safety Considerations

The proposed project enables the public to access the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure.

Funding Determination

The proposed project will cost up to \$24,006,763, of which the CASF account will fund 100% of costs.

¹³ [California Department of Housing and Community Development | California Department of Housing and Community Development](#)

¹⁴ [EdData - District Profile - Paso Robles Joint Unified](#)

¹⁵ [EdData - District Profile - Templeton Unified](#)

¹⁶ [EdData - District Profile - Shandon Joint Unified](#)

¹⁷ [EdData - District Profile - San Miguel Joint Union](#)

¹⁸ See [D. 22-11-023, Attachment 1](#), §8.11, Pricing Commitment

Viability

CASF Staff determined that the applicant and the project are financially viable, and the applicant's engineering design meets the program standards. Surfnet, a recipient of both CASF and FFA grants, demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

Surfnet received twenty-three letters of support; one letter of support for the Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project from the Member of Congress, 24th District, California, one letter from the County of Santa Cruz, Information Services Dept., one from the First District Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors, two from Assemblymember's, Assembly California Legislature, 28th and 30th Districts, one from President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund, one from United States House of Representatives, 19th Congressional District, and 12 from local residents. For more details, see Appendix I.

California Environmental Quality Act

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that this project has not met the requirements of CEQA categorical exemption at this time. Surfnet must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices. If Surfnet provides additional documentation demonstrating that the project qualifies for a CEQA exemption, then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.

IV. NOTICE

On October 31, 2025, the Communications Division (CD) received 41 grant applications¹⁹ for CASF Infrastructure Account funding.²⁰ On November 14, 2025 staff posted all the proposed project area maps and project summaries for the Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects on the Commission's CASF Infrastructure Project Summaries webpage²¹ and sent notice regarding the project to the CASF Distribution and Service Lists.

¹⁹ See <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-infrastructure-project-summaries> for project summaries and <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-infrastructure-grant/casf-infrastructure-approved-projects> for approved projects.

²⁰ The Commission extended the CASF Infrastructure application deadline from April 1 to October 31, 2025, and all subsequent deadlines were moved back by six months.

²¹ See CASF Infrastructure Project Summaries at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-infrastructure-project-summaries>

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 281(f)(8) and as required by D.22-11-023, the Commission provided an opportunity for entities to challenge the application. Challenges were due on December 5, 2025.

V. COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g), a notice letter was emailed on June 12, 2026 informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's documents website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/documents/>. This letter also informed parties that the final conformed Resolution adopted by the Commission will be posted and available on the same website.

VI. FINDINGS

1. On October 31, 2025, Surfnet Communications, Inc. (Surfnet) submitted two grant applications for California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) funding for its Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects to deploy last-mile broadband infrastructure to enable Fiber-to-the-Home service at speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) symmetrical to a total of 1,459 eligible locations in Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties.
2. On November 14, 2025, staff posted all the proposed project area maps and project summaries for the Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects on the Commission's CASF Infrastructure Project Summaries webpage. On April 14, 2026, Staff posted the revised Santa Barbara Fiber Project and on May 15, 2026, staff posted Central Coast Fiber summaries on the Commission's webpage.
3. Staff received challenges from Frontier, Ranch WiFi and Charter Communications to the Santa Barbara Fiber and Central Coast Fiber Broadband projects. CASF Staff upheld 12 of Frontier's challenged locations to the Santa Barbara Fiber project, 118 of Ranch WiFi's challenged locations, and 1 of Charter Communications challenged locations to the Central Coast Fiber Project.
4. Based on its review, staff determined that the two Surfnet projects qualify for Infrastructure Account grants pursuant to D.22-11-023 and its Attachment 1 and recommends Commission approval of total CASF funding of up to \$33,197,090.

5. Surfnet proposes offering broadband-speed internet, using Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) technology at speeds up to 1 Gbps upload and 1 Gbps download to last-mile consumers.
6. Surfnet will secure joint-pole agreements with utility pole owners where needed to deploy broadband infrastructure on existing utility poles for both Surfnet projects.
7. The Commission has determined that the Surfnet Communications, Inc. Santa Barbara Fiber project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulation (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15304 (Minor Alternations to Land). Surfnet's Central Coast Fiber Broadband project is not exempt from California Environmental Quality Act at this time and is still under review.
8. A notice letter was emailed on June 12, 2026, informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's documents website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/documents/>.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission shall award up to \$9,190,327 in CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds to Surfnet for the Santa Barbara Project as described herein and summarized in the appendices of this Resolution.
2. The Commission shall award up to \$24,006,763 in CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds to Surfnet for the Central Coast Fiber Broadband Project as described herein and summarized in the appendices of this Resolution.
3. Surfnet shall comply with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with a CASF award, as specified in D.22-11-023 and its Attachment 1, and all requirements for this project included in this Resolution, including Appendices A through I.
4. If Surfnet fails to complete the project in accordance with the CASF guidelines and requirements outlined in D.22-11-023 and its Attachment 1, and the terms outlined in this Resolution, Surfnet must reimburse some or all the CASF funds that it has received.

5. If staff evaluation finds the Surfnet Central Coast Project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.
6. The Commission cannot release funds for construction activities for the Surfnet Central Coast Project until CEQA review is complete. Funds for preconstruction activities such as permitting and CEQA compliance may be awarded prior to commencement of construction. The awardee must comply with the requirements set forth in the CEQA Section of the Resolution. The awardee must provide their Proponent's Environmental Assessment for each project prior to the first payment.
7. Surfnet must complete and execute the consent forms (to be sent to the grantee after this Resolution is adopted) agreeing to the conditions set forth in this Resolution and return to CASF Staff 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 result in the Commission voiding the grant award.

This resolution is effective today.

Commissioner Signature blocks to be added
upon adoption of the resolution

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the California Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on July 16, 2026, the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated _____, at _____,
California

APPENDIX A
Compliance Requirements

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. If the grantee is unable to complete the proposed project within the 18-month or 24-month timeframe requirements, the grantee must notify the Director of the Communications Division as soon as the grantee becomes aware of this possibility. If such notice is not provided, the Commission may reduce payment for failure to satisfy this requirement of timely notification to the Director.

B. Execution and Performance

Staff and awardee shall determine a project start date after the CASF grant recipient has obtained all approvals, including permits. Should the grantee or any contractor it retains fail to commence work by the designated date, upon five days' written notice the Commission may terminate the grant. If the grantee fails to complete the project in accordance with the terms of Commission approval as set forth in this resolution, the awardee shall reimburse some or all of the CASF funds that it has received.

The grantee must complete all construction covered by the grant on or before the grant's termination date.

C. Minimum Performance Criteria

	CASF Performance Criteria	Proposed Projects
Project Completion	CEQA-exempt projects must be completed within 18 months, and all other projects shall be completed within 24 months after receiving authorization to construct	Within 18 months of permitting approval (CEQA Exempt)
Pricing	Prices committed for five years after completion of the project	5-year commitment
Speed	At least 100/20 Mbps ²²	100 Mbps / 20 Mbps
Latency	Maximum of 100 ms of latency	< 100 ms
Data Caps	Minimum of 190 GBs per month	No data cap

²² SB 156, enacted on July 20, 2021, and effective immediately, requires the Commission to fund projects that “deploy infrastructure capable of providing broadband access at a minimum of 100 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps upstream.” See Pub. Util. Code § 281(f)(5).

Affordability	Must offer low-income plan	\$15.00/month
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D. Letter of Credit

The Commission exempts Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) holders from providing a letter of credit, on the basis that the company submitted a performance bond to the Commission to maintain its CPCN and that the Commission has other means to enforce compliance. In its application, Surfnet provided proof of CPCN registration and thus is exempt from the requirement of providing a letter of credit.

E. Project Audit

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification, and discovery during project implementation/construction to ensure that CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission approval.

Grantee invoices may be subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within three years of completion of the work.

F. Providing Voice Service

Surfnet established a strategic partnership with RingCentral, a leading provider of cloud-based voice solutions. This partnership enables Surfnet to offer voice services to its customers indirectly, ensuring access to communication methods that meet stringent safety standards. RingCentral's voice services meet and often exceed FCC standards, providing E-911 service to all customers. In addition, RingCentral's voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services features battery back-up capabilities.

G. Reporting

All grantees must submit biannual progress reports on the status of the project, irrespective of whether grantees request reimbursement or payment. These reports are due semi-annually, in March and September, until the project is completely built and operational. Progress reports shall describe the schedule for deployment, major construction milestones and costs submitted in the proposal; indicate the actual date of completion of each task/milestone as well as problems and issues encountered, and the actions taken to resolve these problems and issues during project implementation and construction; and identify future risks to the project.

Before full payment of the project is made, grantees must submit a project completion

report. Grantees shall also include test results on the download and upload speeds at a representative sample of locations in the final completion report, per CASF Guidelines, Section 13: Reporting Requirements.²³ Grantees must certify that each progress report is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

H. Prevailing Wage

Section 1720 of the California Labor Code specifies that CASF-subsidized projects are subject to prevailing wage requirements. Grantees committed to following state prevailing wage requirements with regards to these projects.

I. Contractor Reporting

Grantees must comply with the contractor reporting requirements of Section 281(l)(1) of the California Public Utilities Code, which requires reporting of certain information for all contractors and subcontractors undertaking a contract or subcontract in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars on CASF-subsidized projects.

²³ See [D. 22-11-023, Attachment 1](#).

Resolution T-17915
CD / HD1 / SAU

July 16, 2026

APPENDIX B
Payments to CASF Recipients

Pub. Util. Code Section 281(f)(10) defines the costs the Commission may reimburse as follows:

- Costs directly related to the deployment of infrastructure;
- Costs to lease access to property or for Internet backhaul services for a period not to exceed five years; and
- Costs incurred by an existing facility-based broadband provider to upgrade its existing facilities to provide for interconnection.

Additionally, D.22-11-023, Attachment 1, Section 7 caps administrative expenses directly related to the project at 10 percent of the grant amount.²⁴

The grantee may submit reimbursement requests at the following intervals:

- 10 percent completion;
- 35 percent completion;
- 60 percent completion;
- 85 percent completion; and
- 100 percent completion.

The final 15 percent payment request (from 85 to 100 percent) will not be paid 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 CASF funding budget included in the CASF grantee's application.

Payment to grantees shall follow the process adopted for funds created under Public Utilities Code Section 270. The Commission generally processes payments within 20-25 business days, including Communications Division and Administrative Services review time. The State Controller's Office (SCO) requires an additional 14-21 days to issue payment from the day that requests are received by SCO from Administrative Services. The project is funded at 100%, CASF will not accept invoices that include a handling fee.

²⁴ Administrative costs are defined as "indirect overhead costs attributable to a project, per generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and the direct cost of complying with Commission administrative and regulatory requirements related to the grant itself." Applicants seeking additional funds will require a Commission exemption included in a resolution.

APPENDIX C
California Environmental Quality Act Requirements

Santa Barbara Fiber project

The Santa Barbara Fiber Project was subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and determined to be Categorical exempt.

The project is located in Santa Barbara County, near the unincorporated communities of Los Olivos and Santa Ynez. Surfnet Communications, Inc. provided the Commission with its project plans to place 230,000 feet of aerial fiber on existing SoCal Edison and Frontier utility poles under joint-use agreements. Where aerial placement is not feasible, approximately 6,104 feet of underground conduit will be installed through directional boring or trenching. Power equipment and passive optical networking devices will be housed in newly installed equipment cabinets. No project infrastructure will be placed in new rights-of-way or previously undisturbed ground. Following the completion of construction activities, Surfnet Communications, Inc. will return the site to its original condition.

Based on the information that Surfnet provided, the Commission's Energy Division has confirmed that the project meets the criteria for the CEQA categorical exemptions under 14 California Code of Regulation (C.C.R.) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Thus, Surfnet's Santa Barbara Fiber Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review, and the Commission may authorize funds for construction activities.

Central Coast Fiber Broadband project

The Central Coast Fiber Project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

The Commission must complete CEQA review prior to disbursing CASF funds for construction activities. The initial funding granted in this Resolution may be used for project development and other Surfnet activities that do not involve construction or any activities that would have any direct or indirect effect on the physical environment. Prior to any construction activity for the project, Surfnet is required to seek further authority from the Commission for such activity by filing a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), pursuant to Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.4; and must undergo an environmental review pursuant to CEQA (California Public

Resources Code § 21000 et seq.).

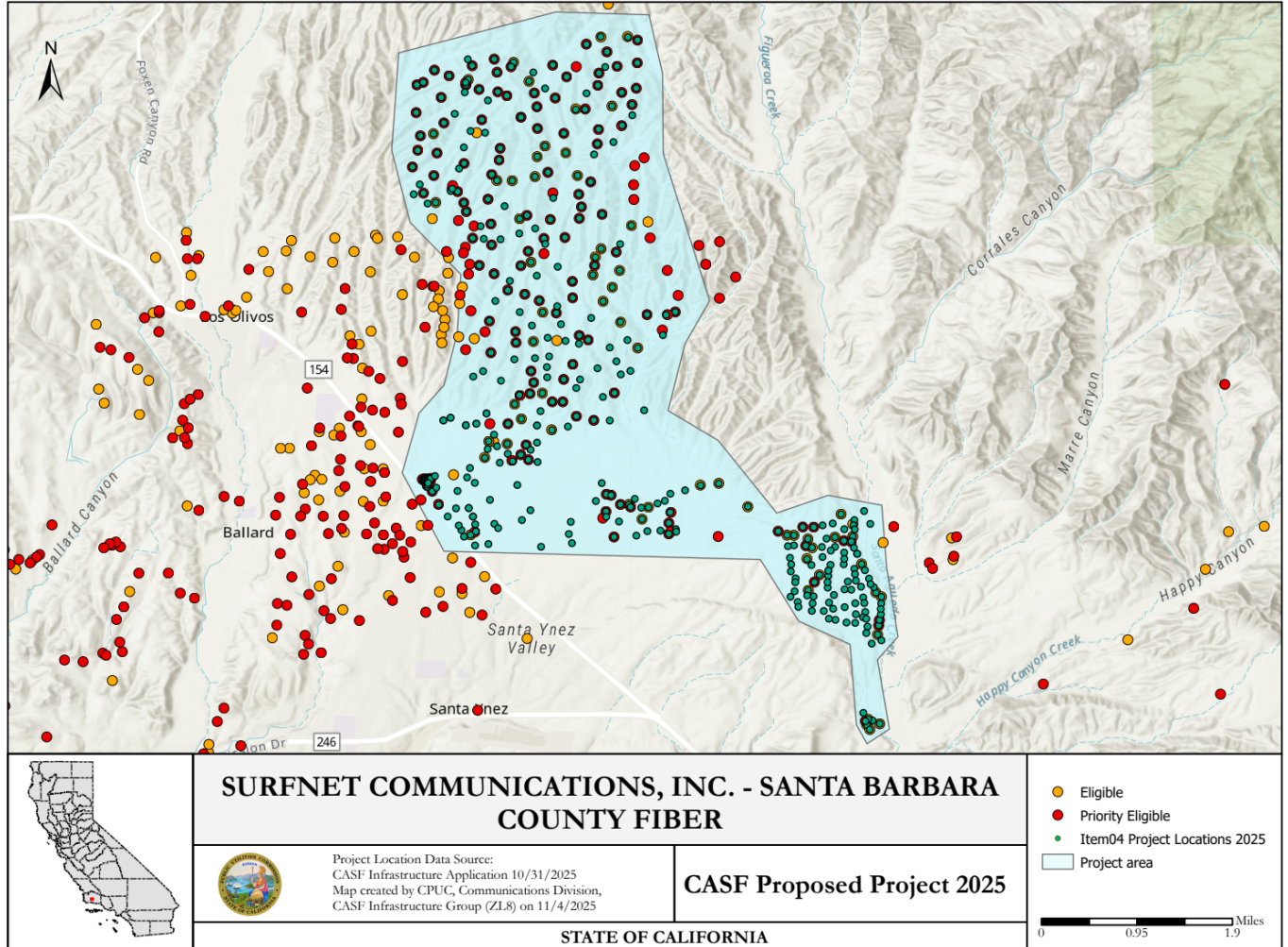
Surfnet should contact the Supervisor of the Commission's Energy Division Infrastructure Planning and CEQA Section well in advance of a contemplated filing to (a) consult with staff regarding the process of developing and filing a PEA; (b) provide for cost recovery per Rule of Practice and Procedure 2.5; and (c) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Energy Division to initiate the retention of an environmental contractor to perform the environmental review. Surfnet must provide a PEA prior to the first payment. The Commission cannot release funds for the construction phase of this project until the Commission has completed CEQA review.

APPENDIX D
Surfnet Communications, Inc. – Santa Barbara Fiber
Key Information

Project Name	Santa Barbara Fiber			
<i>Project Plan</i>	<i>The project proposes to deploy FTTH across Santa Barbara County to 366 unserved locations.</i>			
<i>County</i>	<i>Santa Barbara</i>			
<i>Communities</i>	<i>Santa Ynez</i>			
<i>Project Size</i>	<i>13.24 square miles</i>			
<i>Download / Upload speed</i>	<i>1,000 Mbps / 1,000 Mbps</i>			
<i>Median Household Income</i>	<i>\$162,200</i>			
<i>Pricing Plan (Monthly) Residential</i>	<i>100 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (100/100 Mbps): \$50 300 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (300/300 Mbps): \$80 1000 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (1000/1000 Mbps): \$130</i>			
<i>Affordability (Low Income Plan)</i>	<i>100/20 Mbps: \$15 Surfnet intends to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program</i>			
<i>Unserved Locations</i>	<i>366</i>			
<i>Subscriber take rate</i>	<i>80%</i>			
<i>High Fire Threat Districts</i>	<i>Yes</i>			
<i>Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)</i>	<i>24 Months</i>			
<i>Proposed Project Budget (Total)</i>	<i>\$9,190,327</i>			
<i>Original Grant Request</i>	<i>\$9,792,000</i>			
<i>CASF Grant Amount (100 percent)</i>	<i>\$9,190,326</i>			
<i>Cost per household</i>	<i>\$25,110</i>			
<i>Census Blocks</i>	<i>060830018001228</i>	<i>060830019051042</i>	<i>060830019051067</i>	<i>060830019053001</i>
	<i>060830019051008</i>	<i>060830019051043</i>	<i>060830019051068</i>	<i>060830019053002</i>
	<i>060830019051010</i>	<i>060830019051047</i>	<i>060830019051069</i>	<i>060830019053003</i>
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	<i>060830019051014</i>	<i>060830019051053</i>	<i>060830019051072</i>	<i>060830019053010</i>
	<i>060830019051013</i>	<i>060830019051055</i>	<i>060830019051073</i>	<i>060830019053011</i>
	<i>060830019051024</i>	<i>060830019051058</i>	<i>060830019053000</i>	<i>060830019053013</i>
	<i>060830019051025</i>	<i>060830019051059</i>	<i>060830019051035</i>	
	<i>060830019051026</i>	<i>060830019051060</i>	<i>060830019051028</i>	
	<i>060830019051027</i>	<i>060830019051062</i>	<i>060830019051030</i>	

APPENDIX E

Surfnet Communications, Inc. – Santa Barbara Fiber Project Location Map



APPENDIX F
Surfnet Communications, Inc. – Santa Barbara Fiber
Community Supporters

1. Marjie Kim, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
2. Laurie Tamura, Board President, EconAlliance
3. Laura Capps, Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
4. Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, CETF
5. Ray Vazquez, Superintendent/Principal, Los Olivos Elementary School District
6. Joan Hartmann, Third District Supervisor, County of Santa Barbara
7. Shelby Arthur, Tri-County Lead, Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast
8. Dr. Kimberly Sheehan, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District
9. Michael Foote, Director of Economics Development, REACH

APPENDIX G
Surfnet Communications, Inc. – Central Coast Fiber Broadband
Key Information

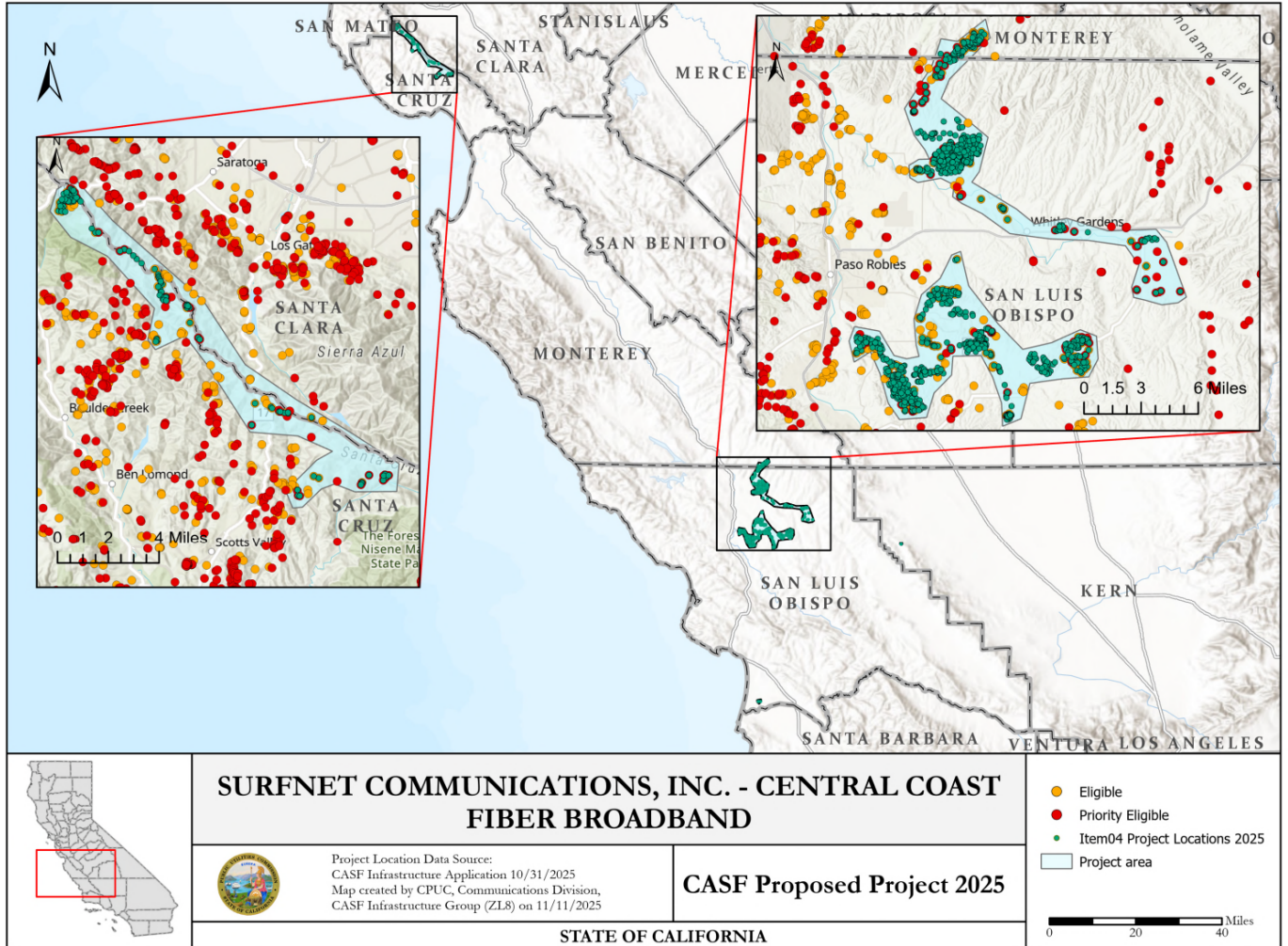
Project Name	Central Coast Fiber Broadband			
<i>Project Plan</i>	<i>The project proposes to deploy FTTH across Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo Counties to 927 unserved locations.</i>			
<i>County</i>	<i>Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo</i>			
<i>Communities</i>	<i>Creston, Los Gatos, Paso Robles, San Miguel, Scotts Valley, Templeton and surrounding communities</i>			
<i>Project Size</i>	<i>111.71 square miles</i>			
<i>Download / Upload speed</i>	<i>1,000 Mbps / 1,000 Mbps (FTTH)</i>			
<i>Median Household Income</i>	<i>Monterey \$88,333 Santa Clara \$123,312 Santa Cruz \$148,015 San Luis Obispo \$120,459</i>			
<i>Pricing Plan (Monthly) Residential</i>	<i>100 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (100/100 Mbps): \$50 300 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (300/300 Mbps): \$80 1000 Mbps Symmetrical Standard Plan (1000/1000 Mbps): \$130</i>			
<i>Affordability (Low Income Plan)</i>	<i>100/20 Mbps: \$15 Surfnet intends to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program</i>			
<i>Unserved Locations</i>	<i>927</i>			
<i>Subscriber take rate</i>	<i>80%</i>			
<i>High Fire Threat Districts</i>	<i>No</i>			
<i>Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)</i>	<i>18 Months</i>			
<i>Proposed Project Budget (Total)</i>	<i>\$24,006,763</i>			
<i>Original Grant Request</i>	<i>\$24,976,000</i>			
<i>CASF Grant Amount (100 percent)</i>	<i>\$24,006,763</i>			
<i>Cost per household</i>	<i>\$25,869</i>			
<i>Census Blocks</i>	<i>060290045002522</i>	<i>060790103012223</i>	<i>060790103031000</i>	<i>060790131001003</i>
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	060790103012188	060790103022042	060790103032104	060871205003003
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	060790103012193	060790103022048	060790103032106	060871205003006
	060790103012200	060790103022050	060790103032115	060871205003009
	060790103012218	060790103022051	060790103032126	060871205003014
	060790103012219	060790103022052	060790103032132	060871205003021
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				060871210001012
				060871210002011

APPENDIX H

Surfnet Communications, Inc. – Central Coast Fiber Broadband

Project Location Map



APPENDIX I
Surfnet Communications, Inc. - Central Coast Fiber Broadband
Community Supporters

1. Salud O. Carbajal, Member of Congress, 24th District, California Congressional Representative of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties
2. Jimmy Panetta, U.S. Representative, 19th Congressional District, United States House of Representatives
3. Gail Pellerin, Assemblymember, 28th District, Assembly California Legislature
4. Dawn Addis, Assemblymember, 30th District, Assembly California Legislature
5. Tammie Weigl, IT Director, County of Santa Cruz, Information Services Dept.
6. Sanjay Khandelwal, Board President, California Broadband Alliance
7. Tahar Goraya, MA, MPA, President and CEO, Central Coast Broadband Consortium, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
8. Shelby Arthur, Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast
9. Manu Koenig, First Director Supervisor, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
10. James Hackett, Chief Operating Officer, Cruzio Internet
11. Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, California Emerging Technology Fund
12. An additional 12 letters of support from local residents throughout the Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties