

July 10, 2026

Agenda ID: 24373
RESOLUTION 17930

TO: [CASF Service List](#)

This is Draft Resolution T-17930 of the Communications Division. This Draft Resolution will appear on the agenda at the next Commission meeting to be held August 13, 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: [CASF Service List](#), angela.beane@cpuc.ca.gov and broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov by July 30, 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 that merely reargue positions taken in the advice letter or protests will be accorded no weight and are not to be submitted. Comments should list the recommended changes to the Draft Resolution.

Replies to comments must be submitted no later than August 4, 2026. Replies shall be submitted and served in the same manner as opening comments.

Sincerely,

/s/
Maria Ellis

610667226

Director for Broadband Initiatives
Communications Division
California Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

RESOLUTION T-17930
August 13, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-17930: Modifies the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians' (EBKI) Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) March 2023 grant to include electrification studies and permitting.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Approves the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians' (EBKI) request to modify their March 2023 Local Agency Technical Assistance grant to include electrification studies and permitting.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are no adverse safety considerations identified by the Communications Division (CD). The broadband projects which are planned to be implemented by the work products can improve communications resiliency and redundancy.

ESTIMATED COST:

- There are no costs associated with this resolution.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians' (EBKI) request to modify their March 20, 2023, previously awarded Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant's project scope, to include electrification studies and permitting related to the broadband infrastructure activities.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Budget Act of 2021 and Senate Bill (SB) 156 (Stats. 2021, Chap. 84 and 112), the legislature provided, among other things, \$50 million to facilitate completion of the statewide broadband middle-mile network and last mile projects, the formation of municipal entities and agreements for financing broadband infrastructure and to fund projects, distribute grants, or fund support costs associated with these projects, among other allowable uses.

On February 25, 2022, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 22-02-026 and authorized a total of \$50 million in funds for the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program, including a \$5 million set-aside for tribes.¹ In D.22-02-026, the Commission established rules under which technical assistance grants are available to eligible local agencies for reimbursable work products including guidelines for modification requests.

On March 20, 2023, CD staff ministerially approved EBKI's LATA grant application for \$498,896 in LATA funds for the "*EBKI Network Contractor Solicitations, Permitting, Business Plan, and Outreach*" project, to be completed in two years. EBKI's approved LATA application includes seven work products to be completed in two years.²

AMENDMENT REQUEST

On February 25, 2026, EBKI requested to modify the project scope to include electrification studies and permitting related to the broadband infrastructure activities.³

Electrification Studies

EBKI is seeking approval to modify its project scope as follows:

Work Product 3, titled "EBKI Broadband Business Plan" changes to "EBKI Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study Plus Tribes & EBKI Broadband Business Plan" at a

¹ Public. Utilities. Code section 281, subdivision (b)(5)(A) specifies activities including but not limited to "[p]roviding technical assistance to local governments and providers" to facilitate deployment of high-quality advanced communications services to all Californians.

² CD staff ministerially approved two additional budget modifications and one project timeline extension to extend the project completion date to June 30, 2025. CD staff also ministerially approved reimbursements for three of the seven work products, resulting in a remaining balance of \$307,000.

³ In addition to electrification studies, CD staff is ministerially approving EBKI's request to extend the project timeline to October 31, 2026, and a budget modification, including work to support broadband expansion to three tribal communities and supported by a letter from these tribes: La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Campo Band of Kumeyaay Nation.

cost of \$17,998. The work product comprises of two documents: EBKI Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study Plus Tribes and (2) EBKI Broadband Business Plan.

The EBKI Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study Plus Tribes plan provides a framework for delivering broadband infrastructure to the EBKI Reservation and surrounding communities in the Laguna Mountains of eastern San Diego County (the grant area).⁴

The plan includes an electrification planning study to provide electricity for broadband infrastructure through connection to the public electric grid, via San Diego Gas and Electric Company, in a joint underground trench co-located with fiber-optic media.⁵

Work Product 6 titled “EBKI Electrification Permitting” changes to “Energization of Broadband Facilities and Customer Premises Equipment Permitting” at a cost of \$16,398. The modification request includes permitting for the energization of broadband infrastructure, including obtaining necessary permits from the U.S. Forest Service and San Diego Gas and Electric Company.

The total award cost decreases from \$498,896 to \$303,929.56.

DISCUSSION

Although LATA guidelines do not explicitly include electrification studies, the guidelines explicitly state that the activities listed are not intended to constitute the entirety of activities eligible for technical assistance. Since electrical studies are not listed as eligible technical assistance in the Decision, Commission staff are bringing the modification request to the Commission for approval through a resolution.

D.22-02-026, Attachment A (p.2), states the following: “For the purpose of the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Program, “technical assistance” means reimbursement for work product resulting from activities such as the preparation of environmental, feasibility, and engineering design studies or reports, and/or assistance in the development of needs assessments, market studies, broadband strategic plans, or business plans that support local agencies in their pursuit of the provision of service to unserved and underserved communities [. . .]. *The aforementioned activities are not intended to constitute the entirety of activities eligible for technical assistance* (emphasis added).”

⁴ The three tribes in surrounding communities submitted letters of support for EBKI’s work product.

⁵ The Business Plan does not include any electrification studies.

D.22-02-026 Attachment A (p.11) also states that, “the grantee must communicate in writing to the Communications Division Director any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the grant (such as changes to a reimbursable work product contract, work plan, or budget) at least 30 days before the anticipated change is to be effected. *Substantive changes may require approval by either the Communications Division Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective* (emphasis added).”

Electrification Necessary for Broadband

Electricity is a necessity to implement and sustain broadband to the grant area. The EBKI Reservation and surrounding Laguna Mountains communities have been without electrical services since the establishment of the EBKI Reservation in 1891. In December 2025, EBKI completed the successful deployment of small renewable energy solar generation systems for each of eight buildings and one groundwater well system on the EBKI Reservation. While these solar systems provide basic electrical capacity for building operations, they do not provide a grid connection to support full broadband network operations, including tower electronics and network equipment.

The EBKI Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study Plus Tribes will provide an updated analysis of electrification requirements limited to only broadband deployment in the grant area.⁶ Electrical permitting is required to support the connection to the electrical grid. Without a connection to the electric grid, EBKI cannot implement underground fiber-to-the-premises infrastructure that will meet the 100/100 Mbps symmetrical broadband speeds as required by D.22-02-026.

Electrification is essential for broadband because electricity is the foundational infrastructure that powers and enables internet connectivity and without it, broadband technologies cannot operate. Since electrification of the grant area is necessary for the implementation of broadband and the electrification studies are part of a larger broadband planning study, CD recommends that the Commission approve these studies as eligible technical assistance.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

⁶ In a June 4, 2026, email EBKI stated the plan focuses solely on energization of the broadband infrastructure and does not propose electrification of the entire EBKI Reservation.

EBKI is required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant funding as specified in D.22-02-026 and this Resolution. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to those requirements listed in Appendix A.⁷

COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code section 311, subdivision (g)(1) a Notice of Availability was e-mailed on July 10, 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 website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>. Comments must be received by July 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. and reply comments must be received by August 4, 2026.

FINDINGS

1. On March 20, 2023, the Commission approved EBKI's LATA grant application for \$498,896 in LATA funds for the "EBKI Network Contractor Solicitations, Permitting, Business Plan, and Outreach" project.
2. On February 25, 2026, EBKI requested a modification to its original application and grant award to amend its project scope to include electrification studies and permitting.
3. Electrification studies and permitting of the reservation do not conflict with the guidelines of D.22-02-026 and is related to and necessary for EBKI's implementation of broadband.
4. A notice letter was e-mailed on July 10, 2026, informing all applicants filing for CASF funding, parties on the CASF distribution list of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commissions website found here at www.cpuc.ca.gov.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. EBKI's Local Agency Technical Assistance request to modify its original application and grant award to include electrification in its project scope.

⁷ See D.22-02-026, Appendix 1 for a full list of Local Agency Technical Assistance program requirements and guidelines.

2. This modification does not change any other conditions approved in the original LATA application, March 20, 2023, Award Letter, and subsequent modifications.
3. This modified LATA award is based on the description of the project as described herein and is predicated on commitments to provide the reimbursable work products as expressed in the grantee's application and in compliance with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with the award, as specified in D.22-02-026 and this Resolution.
4. The grantee must comply with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with the Local Agency Technical Assistance program, including those in D.22-02-026 and its Attachment 1, and this Resolution including Appendix A.
5. By receiving LATA grant funding, the grantee agrees to comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the grant and thus submits to the jurisdiction of the Commission regarding disbursement and administration of the grant.
6. If the grantee fails to complete the project in accordance with the terms outlined in D.22-02-026 and this Resolution, they must reimburse some or all the Local Agency Technical Assistance funds it has received.

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 Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on August 13, 2026, the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated _____, at <Voting meeting location>, California

APPENDIX A

Compliance Requirements

A. Contractor Reporting

Grantees must comply with Pub. Util. Code section 281, subdivision (l)(1) contractor reporting requirements if they are using a licensed contractor or subcontractor to undertake a contract or subcontract in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to perform work on the project funded or financed by CASF. Licensed contractor or subcontractor means any contractor that holds a California state license through the contractor's state license board (<https://www.cslb.ca.gov/>). Please refer to the Local Agency Technical Assistance website for reporting templates and instructions.

B. Execution and Performance

The grantee must complete the project within the 24-month timeframe of the award date. If the grantee is unable to complete the proposed project within the required 24-month timeframe, it must notify the Commission or the Director of Communications Division as soon as it becomes aware of this prospect. The Commission reserves the right to reduce or withhold payment for failure to satisfy this requirement. The grantee, after accepting the award as outlined in Section A of this Appendix, must complete all performance on the project before the termination date in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission. In the event that the grantee or contractor fails to complete the work in accordance with the approval granted by the Commission, and as described in the contract, the local agency must reimburse some or all the funds that it has received.

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification and discovery for work proposed or completed under the technical assistance for local agencies to ensure CASF funds are spent in accordance with Commission rules and with the terms of approval granted by the Commission.

C. Project Completion

Upon project completion and before final payment, the applicant must provide a signed completion form stating that the technical assistance work has been completed, and a copy of each reimbursable work product's final report(s), plan(s), studies, etc., produced under the scope of the contract.

D. Payment

Payment will be made directly to the local agency as the grant recipient. Local agency grantees may request partial reimbursement if they complete one or more of the approved reimbursable work products prior to completion of other reimbursable work products approved in the same grant authorization. Payment will be based upon receipt and approval of an invoice(s) submitted by the local agency showing the expenditures incurred for the reimbursable work product, along with the final reimbursable work product and the completion reporting. The invoice(s) must be supported by documentation including but not limited to the actual cost of labor and any other expense that will be recovered by the grant. Any portion of the award used to reimburse a local agency for administrative costs associated with securing or completing a reimbursable work product must be submitted with an itemized accounting of such costs demonstrating the total requested for reimbursement does not exceed 15 percent of the total authorized award.

If the grantee or contractor fails to complete the work within the 24-month timeline, the grantee must notify the Commission or Director of Communications Division as soon as they become aware that they may not meet the project deadline. The Commission may withhold or reduce payment if the grantee fails to notify the Commission or Director of Communications Division.

If any portion of reimbursement is found to be out of compliance, grantees will be responsible for refunding any disallowed amount along with appropriate interest rates determined in accordance with applicable Commission decisions.

E. Project Changes

Grantees must communicate in writing to Communications Division Director regarding any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying Commission approval of the grant (such as changes to a reimbursable work product contract, work plan, or budget) at least 30 days before the anticipated change. Substantive changes may require approval by either the Communications Division Director or by Commission resolution before becoming effective.

F. Record Retention

Grantees are required to maintain records such as files, invoices, and other related documents for five years after final payment. Grantees shall make these records and invoices available to the Commission upon request and agree that these records are

subject to financial audit by the Commission at any time within five years after the final payment made to the grantee.