

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Agenda ID # 24385 (Rev.1)
Communications Division

RESOLUTION T-17926
August 13, 2026
Item# 50

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION T-17926: Approves up to \$24,040,291 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account application of Frontier California Inc., (U-1002-C) for the Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central projects.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Awards three grants for up to \$24,040,291 from the CASF Infrastructure Funding Account to Frontier California Inc. in Fresno, Merced, Plumas, and Tulare 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 three projects to Frontier California Inc. (Frontier) in the amount of up to \$24,040,291 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account (Infrastructure Account). The projects will provide broadband connectivity to a total of 590 unserved locations in Fresno, Merced, Plumas, and Tulare Counties.

The recommended grants are listed below in Table 1. Associated maps and project information summaries are included in the appendices.

Table 1: Summary of Grant Funding

Applicant	Project Name	Unserved Locations	Requested Amount	CASF Approved Amount
Frontier	Merced Dos Palos	289	\$14,838,903	\$14,838,903
Frontier	Plumas Greenville	187	\$3,451,686	\$3,451,686
Frontier	Tulare Central	114	\$5,749,702	\$5,749,702
TOTAL:	Three Projects	590	\$24,040,291	\$24,040,291

II. BACKGROUND

The CASF Infrastructure Account provides grant funding to Internet Service Providers (ISPs)/eligible entities to build or upgrade¹ 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 California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in Decision (D.) 07-12-054 and enacted into statute pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1193.²

On July 20, 2021, Governor Newsom signed historic broadband legislation to help bridge the digital divide; Senate Bill (SB) 156³ 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.”⁴ 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”⁵ and that any grantees receiving CASF funding must report subcontracted work in excess of \$25,000;⁶ this information must be posted by the Commission on a monthly basis.⁷

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

¹ Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 281(f)(4).

² See [Bill Text - SB-1193 Telecommunications: universal service: California Advanced Services Fund.](#)

³ See [Bill Text - SB-156 Communications: broadband.](#)

⁴ See Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 281(b)(1)(B)(ii)(I).

⁵ See Pub. Util. Code § 281(f)(5).

⁶ See Pub. Util. Code § 281(l).

⁷ See [CASF Grantee Monthly Contractor Reporting.](#)

Infrastructure Account.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Frontier Background

On October 31, 2025, Frontier submitted three applications for CASF Infrastructure Account grants requesting approximately 90 percent funding of each project's projected cost, for a total of up to \$24,040,291. The three projects will deliver fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband access to 590 unserved households in the counties of Fresno, Merced, Plumas, and Tulare.

The applicant determined eligibility for funding based on the California Interactive Broadband Map,⁸ 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 2024 dataset to ensure the eligibility of all locations was based on the most recent available data and to prevent the awarding of program funds in areas already served.

Frontier traces its history to 1929 and eventually became part of General Telephone & Electronics (GTE). It later became Verizon California after GTE's merger with Bell Atlantic in 2000 and was ultimately acquired by Frontier Communications in 2016. Frontier operates as a major incumbent local exchange carrier in California, providing telephone and broadband services across former Verizon territories. Frontier has maintained active status with the California Secretary of State since March 18, 1929, and is currently registered with the CPUC under utility number U-1002-C. On January 15, 2026, the Commission approved Verizon Communications Inc.'s acquisition of Frontier Communications, including Frontier's California operations and obligations.

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

1. Merced Dos Palos

Project Summary

In compliance with D.22-11-023, Staff determined that Merced Dos Palos Project is eligible to receive up to \$14,838,903 in CASF Infrastructure Account grant funding.

Frontier proposes to serve 289 unserved locations by constructing an FTTH network with

⁸ See [California Interactive Broadband Map](#).

up to 7 Gigabits per second (Gbps) download and 7 Gbps upload in Fresno and Merced 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.

The Merced Dos Palos Project received no challenges.

Revisions

Staff determined that the Merced Dos Palos Project does not overlap with other grant-funded terrestrial broadband projects.

Technology Deployment

Frontier will deploy approximately 80 miles of last-mile fiber for the Merced Dos Palos Project. The network infrastructure will be approximately 48 percent aerial and 52 percent underground.

Median Household Income and Low-Income Service

The median household income (MHI) for the Merced Dos Palos Project area is approximately \$51,080. This MHI meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 as it falls at or below the low-income threshold of \$75,100 for a family of four living in either Merced or Fresno Counties as designated by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).⁹

Frontier agrees to change the Verizon Forward (VZ FWD) income eligibility threshold for customers in the Merced Dos Palos Project area to match the CASF low-income threshold, which is based on the HCD Low Income limit for households in the respective counties. Per Frontier, this is an expansion of eligibility, as the CASF low-income threshold is higher than the previously stated VZ FWD threshold of 200 percent Federal Poverty Guideline. After applying the VZ FWD \$19.99 discount, Frontier will provide a low-income plan at \$20.00 for speeds of 200 Mbps download and 200 Mbps upload to eligible low-income customers served by the Merced Dos Palos Project. To further reduce the burden on low-income households, on May 29, 2026, Frontier submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot. Customers

⁹ See <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/income-limits-2025.pdf>. The project area also meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 because the MHI is below 80 percent of the 2025 Statewide Median Income of \$118,100, which is \$94,480.

who qualify both for Frontier’s low-income plan and for the Home Broadband Pilot discount will pay \$0.00 monthly charges. Installation and connection charges will be waived for five years from completion of the project.¹⁰

Safety Considerations

The Merced Dos Palos Project enables the public to access the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. Many households in the project area are within or fewer than two miles from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area Zone A indicating a high-risk flood area on FEMA’s National Flood Hazard Layer.¹¹ The Merced Dos Palos Project will provide critical communications resiliency and redundancy in the area.

The project is not located in a Commission-designated High Fire-Threat District.

Funding Determination

Frontier requested \$14,838,903 in CASF Infrastructure Account funding for the Merced Dos Palos Project, which is approximately 92 percent of the total project cost of \$16,129,242. Based on its review, Staff considers it appropriate to recommend funding the amount requested by Frontier (\$14,838,903), as the Merced Dos Palos Project will serve a low-income area and use existing outside plant infrastructure. Frontier will cover the remaining eight percent of proposed project expenditures.

Viability

Staff determined that the applicant and project are financially viable, and the applicant’s engineering design meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

Frontier received one letter of support for the Merced Dos Palos Project from California State Senator, 14th District Anna M. Caballero.

California Environmental Quality Act

Based on the information received, the Commission’s Energy Division has determined that the Merced Dos Palos Project has not yet met the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption at this time. Frontier must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices.

¹⁰ See [D. 22-11-023, Attachment 1](#), § 8.11, Pricing Commitment.

¹¹ See [Special Flood Hazard Area \(SFHA\) | FEMA.gov](#) and [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer](#).

If Frontier provides additional documentation demonstrating that the Merced Dos Palos 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.

2. Plumas Greenville

Project Summary

This resolution recommends that the Commission award Frontier a grant of up to \$3,451,686 for the Plumas Greenville Project. In compliance with D.22-11-023, Staff determined that Plumas Greenville Project is eligible to receive up to \$3,451,686 in CASF Infrastructure Account grant funding.

Frontier proposes to serve 187 unserved locations by constructing an FTTH network with up to 7 Gbps download and 7 Gbps upload in Plumas 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.

The Plumas Greenville Project received no challenges.

Revisions

Staff determined that the Plumas Greenville Project does not overlap with other grant-funded terrestrial broadband projects.

Technology Deployment

Frontier will deploy approximately 33 miles of last-mile fiber for the Plumas Greenville Project. The network infrastructure will be approximately 94 percent aerial and 6 percent underground.

Median Household Income and Low-Income Service

The MHI for the Plumas Greenville Project area is approximately \$59,240. This MHI meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 as it falls at or below the low-income threshold of \$76,250 for a family of four living in Plumas County as designated by the HCD.¹²

¹² See <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/income-limits-2025.pdf>. The project area also meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 because the MHI is below 80 percent of the 2025 Statewide Median Income of \$118,100, which is \$94,480.

Frontier agrees to change the VZ FWD income eligibility threshold for customers in the Plumas Greenville Project area to match the CASF low-income threshold, which is based on the HCD Low Income limit for households in the respective counties. Per Frontier, this is an expansion of eligibility, as the CASF low-income threshold is higher than the previously stated VZ FWD threshold of 200 percent Federal Poverty Guideline. After applying the VZ FWD \$19.99 discount, Frontier will provide one low-income plan at \$20.00 for speeds of 200 Mbps download and 200 Mbps upload to eligible low-income customers served by the Plumas Greenville Project. To further reduce the burden on low-income households, on May 29, 2026, Frontier submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot. Customers who qualify both for Frontier's low-income plan and for the Home Broadband Pilot discount will pay \$0.00 monthly. Installation and connection charges will be waived for five years from completion of the project.

Safety Considerations

The Plumas Greenville Project will enable the public to access public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. The project is located in rural census blocks with rocky and mountainous terrain in Plumas County. A significant portion of the project is in a Commission-designated Tier 2 High Fire-Threat District; the town of Greenville was largely destroyed by the Dixie Fire in 2021. The installation of high-speed broadband internet service will improve communications resiliency and redundancy in the area.

Additional Considerations

On August 4, 2021, the Dixie Fire, the largest single-source fire in California history, destroyed 75 percent of the town of Greenville. The Dixie Fire's economic impact on the community is ongoing, and Greenville continues to experience population loss since the fire. The Plumas Greenville Project will provide high-speed internet access to facilitate Greenville's economic recovery.

Funding Determination

Frontier requested \$3,451,686 in CASF Infrastructure Account funding for the Plumas Greenville Project, which is approximately 87 percent of the total project cost of \$3,962,900. Based on its review, Staff consider it appropriate to recommend funding the amount requested by Frontier (\$3,451,686), as the Plumas Greenville Project will serve a low-income area and use existing outside plant infrastructure. Frontier will cover the remaining 13 percent of proposed project expenditures.

Viability

Staff determined the project to be financially viable, and the applicant's engineering design

meets program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

Frontier received one letter of support for the Plumas Greenville Project from California Assemblymember, 1st District, Heather Hadwick.

California Environmental Quality Act

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that the Plumas Greenville Project has not yet met the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption at this time. Frontier must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices.

If Frontier provides additional documentation demonstrating that the Plumas Greenville 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.

3. Tulare Central

Project Summary

This resolution recommends that the Commission award Frontier a grant of up to \$5,749,702 for the Tulare Central Project. In compliance with D.22-11-023, Staff determined that the Tulare Central Project is eligible to receive up to \$5,749,702 in CASF Infrastructure Account grant funding.

Frontier proposes to serve 114 unserved locations by constructing an FTTH network with up to 7 Gbps download and 7 Gbps upload in Tulare 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.

Charter Communications, Inc. (Charter), doing business as Spectrum Pacific West, LLC, submitted timely challenges to the Tulare Central Project. Staff upheld one of Charter's challenged locations and removed it from the project. Remaining challenges were either not substantiated or found to be outside the area to be served by the Tulare Central Project.

Revisions

Staff determined that the Tulare Central Project does not overlap with other grant-funded terrestrial broadband projects.

Technology Deployment

Frontier will deploy approximately 39 miles of last-mile fiber for the Tulare Central Project. The network infrastructure will be approximately 72 percent aerial and 28 percent underground.

Median Household Income and Low-Income Service

The median household income (MHI) for the Tulare Central Project area is approximately \$72,169. This MHI meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 as it falls at or below the low-income threshold of \$75,100 for a family of four living in Tulare County as designated by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).¹³

Frontier agrees to change the VZ FWD income eligibility threshold for customers in the Tulare Central Project area to match the CASF low-income threshold, which is based on the HCD Low Income limit for households in the respective counties. Per Frontier, this is an expansion of eligibility, as the CASF low-income threshold is higher than the previously stated VZ FWD threshold of 200 percent Federal Poverty Guideline. After applying for the VZ FWD \$19.99 discount, Frontier will provide a low-income plan at \$20.00 for speeds of 200 Mbps download and 200 Mbps upload to eligible low-income customers served by the Tulare Central Project. To further reduce the burden on low-income households, on May 29, 2026, Frontier submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot. Customers who qualify both for Frontier's low-income plan and for the Home Broadband Pilot discount will pay \$0.00 monthly. Installation and connection charges will be waived for five years from completion of the project.

Safety Considerations

The Tulare Central Project will enable the public to access the public safety benefits of reliable broadband infrastructure. A significant portion of the households in the project area are located in a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area Zone A indicating a high-risk flood area on FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer. The Tulare Central Project's deployment of a high-speed, fiber-based broadband network will strengthen existing emergency communication systems.

Funding Determination

Frontier requested \$5,749,702 in CASF Infrastructure Account funding for the Tulare Central Project, which is approximately 91 percent of the total project cost of \$6,325,305.

¹³ See <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/income-limits-2025.pdf>. The project area also meets the definition of low-income as set forth in D.22-11-023 because the MHI is below 80 percent of the 2025 Statewide Median Income of \$118,100, which is \$94,480.

Based on its review, Staff considers it appropriate to recommend funding the amount requested by Frontier (\$5,749,702), as the Tulare Central Project will serve a low-income area and use existing outside plant infrastructure. Frontier will cover the remaining nine percent of proposed project expenditures.

Viability

Staff determined the Tulare Central Project to be financially viable, and the applicant's engineering design meets the program standards. The applicant demonstrated the administrative, technical, and operational capacity to provide broadband service at the scale of this project.

Frontier received a letter of support for the Tulare Central Project from California Assemblywoman, 33rd District, Alexandra M. Macedo.

California Environmental Quality Act

Based on the information received, the Commission's Energy Division has determined that the Tulare Central Project has not yet met the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption at this time. Frontier must comply with the CEQA requirements discussed in the appendices.

If Frontier provides additional documentation demonstrating that the Tulare Central 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 applications¹⁴ for CASF Infrastructure Account funding.¹⁵ On November 14, 2025, Staff posted all the proposed project area maps and project summaries for the Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central projects on the Commission's CASF Infrastructure Project Summaries webpage¹⁶ and sent notice regarding the project to the CASF Distribution and Service Lists.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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>.

V. COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g), a notice letter was emailed on July 13, 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. The Commission received no comments.

VI. FINDINGS

1. On October 31, 2025, Frontier California Inc. submitted three grant applications for CASF funding for its Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central projects to deploy last-mile broadband infrastructure to enable fiber-to-the-home service at speeds of up to 7 Gigabits per second (Gbps) download and 7 Gbps upload to a total of 590 CASF Eligible locations in Fresno, Merced, Plumas, and Tulare Counties.
2. On November 14, 2025, Staff posted all the proposed project area maps and project summaries for the Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central projects on the Commission's CASF Infrastructure Project Summaries webpage.
3. Staff received one challenge from Charter Communications, Inc. to the Tulare Central Project and directed Frontier California Inc. to remove one challenged location from the project.
4. Staff received no challenges to the Merced Dos Palos and Plumas Greenville projects.
5. Based on its review, Staff determined that all three Frontier California Inc. projects qualify for Infrastructure Account grants pursuant to D.22-11-023 and its Attachment 1 and recommends Commission approval for total CASF funding of up to \$24,040,291.
6. Frontier California Inc. proposes offering broadband-speed internet, using fiber-to-the-home technology, at speeds up to 7 Gbps download and 7 Gbps upload to last-mile consumers.
7. The Commission has determined that Frontier's Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central projects are not exempt from California Environmental Quality Act at this time.
8. A notice letter was emailed on July 13, 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/>.

9. The Commission received no comments.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission shall award up to \$14,838,903 in CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds to Frontier California Inc. for the Merced Dos Palos Project as described herein and summarized in the appendices of this Resolution.
2. The Commission shall award up to \$3,451,686 in CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds to Frontier California Inc. for the Plumas Greenville Project as described herein and summarized in the appendices of this Resolution.
3. The Commission shall award up to \$5,749,702 in CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds to Frontier California Inc. for the Tulare Central Project as described herein and summarized in the appendices of this Resolution.
4. Frontier California Inc. 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.
5. If Frontier California Inc. 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, it must reimburse some or all the CASF funds that it has received.
6. If Staff evaluation finds any of the projects can be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), then the project can be exempted by letter from the Communications Division Director or the director's delegate or designee.
7. For those projects not determined to be categorically exempt, the Commission cannot release funds for construction activities 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 Sections of this Resolution. The awardee must provide their Proponent's Environmental Assessment for each project prior to the first

payment.

8. Awardee 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.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on August 13, 2026. The following Commissioners approved it:

Leuwam Tesfai
Executive Director

APPENDIX A

Compliance Requirements

A. Deployment Schedule

The Commission requires a grantee to complete their projects within 24 months of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) approval or within 18 months if CEQA-exempt. If the grantee is unable to complete the proposed project within the 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 Project
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 (if CEQA Exempt)
Pricing	Prices committed for five years after completion of the project	5-year commitment
Speed	At least 100/20 Mbps ¹⁷	7 Gbps/ 7 Gbps
Latency	Maximum of 100 ms of latency	< 100 ms
Data Caps	Minimum of 190 GBs per month	None
Affordability	Must offer low-income plan	200/200 Mbps for \$20.00 monthly ¹⁸

¹⁷ 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).

¹⁸ Frontier agrees to change the Verizon Forward (VZ FWD) income eligibility threshold for customers in the Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central project areas to match the CASF low-income threshold, which is based on the HCD Low Median Household Income (MHI) for the respective counties.

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, Frontier California Inc. 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

Frontier will provide tariffed voice service that meets FCC standards for E-911 service and battery back-up, list the types of voice services offered, and a timeframe for providing any voice service offerings.

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.¹⁹ 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

¹⁹ See [D. 22-11-023, Attachment 1.](#)

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.

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.²⁰

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.

²⁰ 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 draft resolution.

APPENDIX C

California Environmental Quality Act Requirements

The following three projects are subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review:

- Merced Dos Palos Project
- Plumas Greenville Project
- Tulare Central Project

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 Frontier California Inc. 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, Frontier California Inc. 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.).

Frontier California Inc. 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. Frontier California Inc. 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

Frontier California Inc. – Merced Dos Palos

Key Information

Project Name	Merced Dos Palos		
<i>Project Plan</i>	<i>The project proposes to deploy Fiber-to-the-Home in two counties to 289 unserved locations.</i>		
<i>County</i>	<i>Merced and Fresno</i>		
<i>Communities</i>	<i>Dos Palos, South Dos Palos</i>		
<i>Project Size</i>	<i>73.65 square miles</i>		
<i>Download / Upload speed</i>	<i>7000 Mbps / 7000 Mbps</i>		
<i>Median Household Income</i>	<i>\$51,080</i>		
<i>Pricing Plan (Monthly) Residential</i>	<i>200/200 Mbps: \$39.99</i> <i>500/500 Mbps: \$49.99</i> <i>1000/1000 Mbps: \$74.99</i> <i>2000/2000 Mbps: \$89.99</i> <i>5000/5000 Mbps: \$114.99</i> <i>7000/7000 Mbps: \$134.99</i>		
<i>Affordability (Monthly Low-Income Plan)</i>	<i>200/200 Mbps: \$20.00²¹</i> <i>Frontier has submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program. Low-income customers who also participate in this program will pay \$0.00.</i>		
<i>Unserved Locations</i>	<i>289</i>		
<i>Subscribers take rate</i>	<i>49%</i>		
<i>High Fire Threat Districts</i>	<i>No</i>		
<i>Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)</i>	<i>18 Months if CEQA-exempt</i> <i>24 Months if not CEQA-exempt</i>		
<i>Proposed Project Budget (Total)</i>	<i>\$16,129,242</i>		
<i>Grant Requested Amount</i>	<i>\$14,838,903</i>		
<i>CASF Grant Amount (92 percent)</i>	<i>\$14,838,903</i>		
<i>Cost per household</i>	<i>\$51,346</i>		
<i>Census Blocks</i>	<i>060190084021001</i>	<i>060470024011044</i>	<i>060470024011125</i>
	<i>060190084021003</i>	<i>060470024011052</i>	<i>060470024011127</i>
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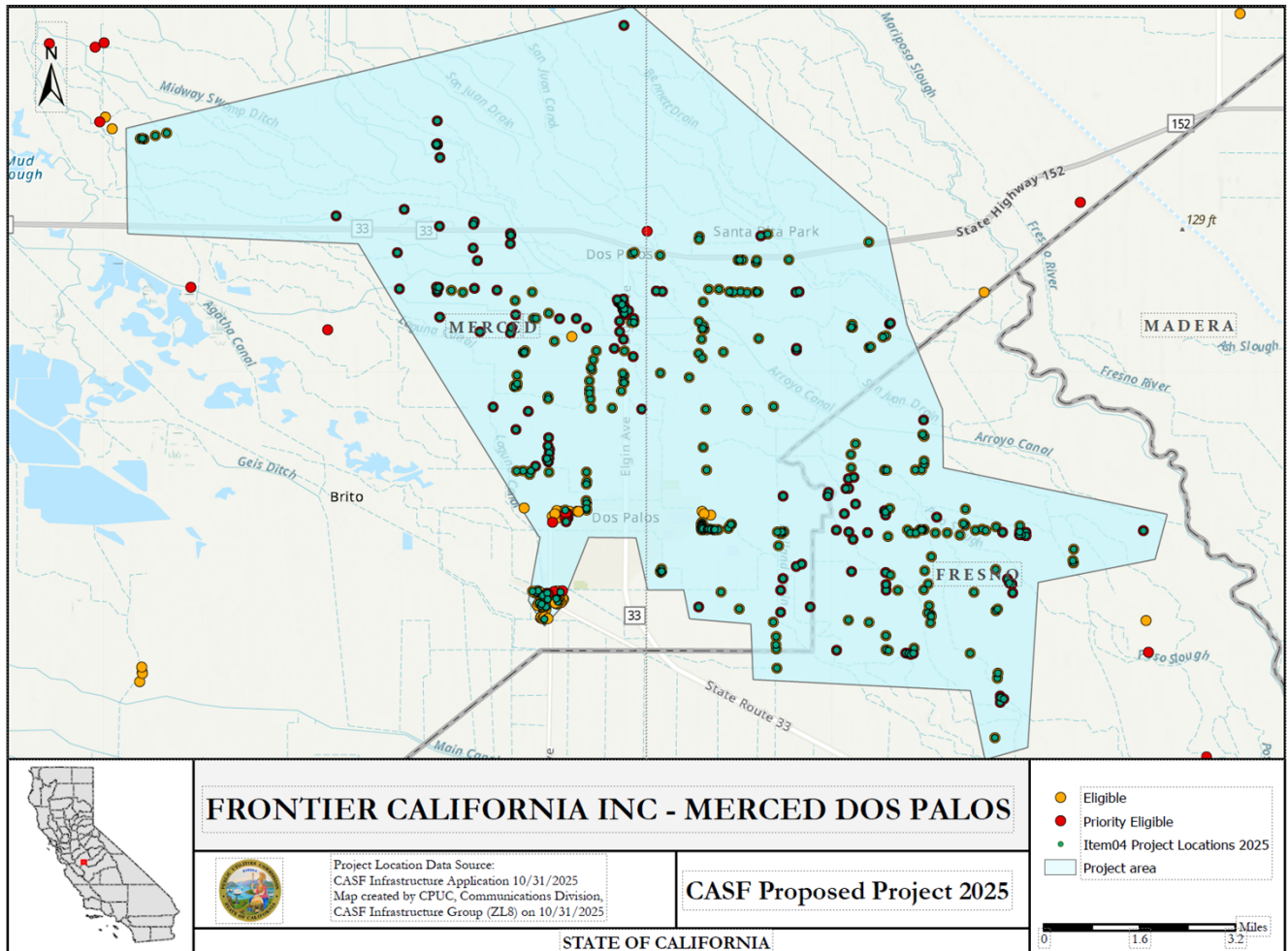
²¹ Frontier agrees to change the Verizon Forward (VZ FWD) income eligibility threshold for customers in the Merced Dos Palos, Plumas Greenville, and Tulare Central project areas to match the CASF low-income threshold, which is based on the HCD Low Income limit for households in the respective counties.

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	060190084021012	060470024011072	060470024011139
	060190084021013	060470024011080	060470024011140
	060190084021014	060470024011086	060470024011141
	060190084021015	060470024011088	060470024011142
	060190084021016	060470024011089	060470024011148
	060190084021017	060470024011092	060470024011153
	060190084021018	060470024011093	060470024011170
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	060190084021029	060470024011100	060470024032019
	060190084021034	060470024011103	060470024032049
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	060470021002016	060470024011114	060470024032052
	060470024011003	060470024011115	060470024032053
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	060470024011032	060470024011124	060470024042010
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APPENDIX E

Frontier California Inc. – Merced Dos Palos Project

Project Location Map



APPENDIX F

Frontier California Inc. – Plumas Greenville

Key Information

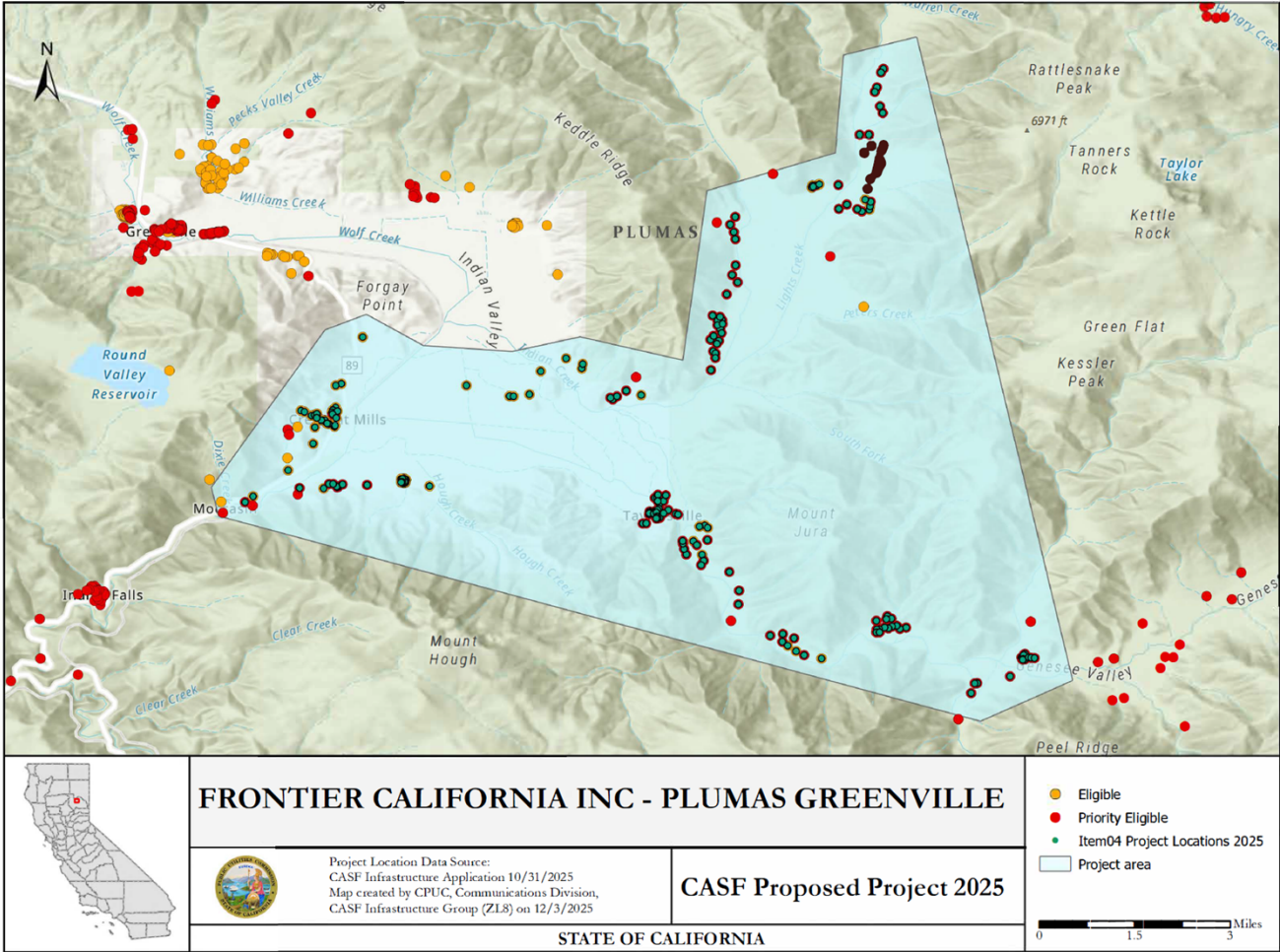
Project Name	Plumas Greenville		
Project Plan	The project proposes to deploy Fiber-to-the-Home across one county to 187 unserved locations.		
County	Plumas		
Communities	Crescent Mills, Greenville and Taylorsville		
Project Size	53.32 square miles		
Download / Upload speed	7000 Mbps / 7000 Mbps		
Median Household Income	\$59,240		
Pricing Plan (Monthly) Residential	200/200 Mbps: \$39.99 500/500 Mbps: \$49.99 1000/1000 Mbps: \$74.99 2000/2000 Mbps: \$89.99 5000/5000 Mbps: \$114.99 7000/7000 Mbps: \$134.99		
Affordability (Monthly Low-Income Plan)	200/200 Mbps: \$20.00 Frontier has submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot program. Low-income customers who also participate in this program will pay \$0.00.		
Unserved Locations	187		
Subscribers take rate	68%		
High Fire Threat Districts	Yes		
Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)	18 Months if CEQA-exempt 24 Months if not CEQA-exempt		
Proposed Project Budget (Total)	\$3,962,900		
Grant Requested Amount	\$3,451,686		
CASF Grant Amount (87% percent)	\$3,451,686		
Cost per household	\$18,458		
Census Blocks	060630004001019	060630004001175	060630004002014
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APPENDIX G

Frontier California Inc. – Plumas Greenville Project

Project Location Map



Appendix H

Frontier California Inc. – Plumas Greenville

Key Information

Project Name	Tulare Central		
Project Plan	The project proposes to deploy Fiber-to-the-Home across one county to 114 unserved locations.		
County	Tulare		
Communities	Strathmore, Lindsay, Porterville, Visalia, and Exeter		
Project Size	65.29 square miles		
Download / Upload speed	7000 Mbps / 7000 Mbps		
Median Household Income	\$72,169		
Pricing Plan (Monthly) Residential	200/200 Mbps: \$39.99 500/500 Mbps: \$49.99 1000/1000 Mbps: \$74.99 2000/2000 Mbps: \$89.99 5000/5000 Mbps: \$114.99 7000/7000 Mbps: \$134.99		
Affordability (Monthly Low-Income Plan)	200/200 Mbps: \$20.00 Frontier has submitted a Tier 2 Advice Letter requesting authorization to participate in the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot. Low-income customers who also participate in this program will pay \$0.00.		
Unserved Locations	114		
Subscribers take rate	50%		
High Fire Threat Districts	No		
Deployment Schedule (from permit approval date)	18 Months if CEQA-exempt 24 Months if not CEQA-exempt		
Proposed Project Budget (Total)	\$6,325,305		
Grant Requested Amount	\$5,749,702		
CASF Grant Amount (91 percent)	\$5,749,702		
Cost per household	\$50,435		
Census Blocks	061070008022065 061070008022077 061070008022079 061070008022089 061070014001005 061070014001009 061070014001013 061070014001014	061070033011031 061070033011035 061070033011050 061070033011061 061070033011063 061070033011073 061070033011080 061070033013028	061070033022022 061070033022023 061070033022026 061070033022027 061070033022031 061070033022034 061070033022036 061070033022040

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	061070025002027	061070033021022	061070033023026
	061070025002036	061070033021030	061070033023027
	061070025002071	061070033022006	061070033023028
	061070033011001	061070033022012	061070033023029
	061070033011019	061070033011007	

APPENDIX I

Frontier California Inc. – Tulare Central Project

Project Location Map

