Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Velocity IG Operations, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1001.	Application 26-03-002

DECISION GRANTING VELOCITY IG OPERATIONS, LLC A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PURSUANT TO PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE SECTION 1001

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Summary

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1001, the Commission grants Velocity IG Operations, LLC a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide full facilities-based and resold (i) competitive local exchange service within all the service territories of the uniform regulatory framework incumbent local exchange carriers and (ii) interexchange carrier service throughout the state of California subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs.

Application A.26-03-002 is closed.

1. Background

On March 9, 2026, Velocity IG Operations, LLC (Velocity), a California limited liability corporation authorized to do business in California filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN).

Velocity proposes to build facilities which will transmit or facilitate voice services (traditional wireline and/or interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)) through third parties. Velocity also intends to focus on the provision of fiber optic infrastructure for use by other telecommunications providers and large commercial customers.[1] According to Velocity, it will provide co-location and dark fiber in California through existing conduit and infrastructure that will ultimately be used by third parties, including telecommunication companies and commercial customers.[2]

[1] Application, Item 8.

[2] Reporter's Transcript (RT) at page 5: line 24 - page 6: line 5.

Velocity's corporate address is 204 S. Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.[3]

On March 9, 2026, Velocity filed a motion for leave to file under seal the estimated customer counts in Appendix I.11 to its application; financial instruments in Appendix K to its application; and information regarding two third-party entities deemed owners of Velocity in Appendix G to its application.

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on June 4, 2026, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary. During the PHC, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) granted the March 9, 2026 motion of Velocity to file under seal confidential information.[4]

On July 1, 2026, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling to set forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding.

On August 24, 2026, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling directing Velocity to file and serve additional information. On August 27, 2026, Velocity filed a response to the ALJ's inquiry. Velocity also filed a motion for leave to file under seal Exhibit A to its August 27, 2026 response.

On September 3, 2026, Assistant Chief ALJ Robyn Purchia issued a ruling directing Velocity to file and serve a public version of a map showing their construction activities. On September 4, 2026, Velocity provided a public map.

[3] Velocity's registered agent for service of process is Cogency Global, Inc., 1325 J Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento CA 95814. (Application, Item 2.)

[4] RT at page 11: lines 10 – 14.

2. Submission Date

This matter was submitted on September 4, 2026 upon receipt of Velocity's response to the ALJ's inquiry.

3. Issues Before the Commission

The issues in this proceeding are as follows:

1. Whether Velocity meets all of the Commission requirements, including but not limited to financial, technical, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for a CPCN.
2. Whether Velocity should be authorized to use the Commission Energy Division's 21-day expedited environmental review process for its full facilities-based construction activities under statutory or categorical exemptions to CEQA.
3. Impacts on environmental and social justice communities, including the extent to which Velocity's operation as a telephone corporation in California impacts achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan.

4. Jurisdiction

The Commission has broad jurisdiction over "public utilities," as defined in Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 216.[5] California's Constitution extends the Commission's jurisdiction to companies engaged in "the transmission of telephone and telegraph messages," which includes both public utility services and facilities.[6] The Commission classifies entities providing two-way voice communications service for compensation within California as "telephone corporations,"[7] and regulates them as public utilities.[8]

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[5] Pub. Util. Code §§ 216, 234.

[6] *See* Decision (D.) 20-07-011, at 14-15; Cal. Const., art. XII, §§ 1-6; Pub. Util. Code § 701.

[7] Pub. Util. Code §§ 216, 233, 234; D.22-10-021 at 68.

[8] Pub. Util. Code § 216(a). Telephone corporations are required to file annual affiliate transaction reports and pay surcharges and user fees.

As part of its regulatory authority over "telephone corporations," the Commission authorizes certificates of public convenience and necessity to "telephone corporations" seeking to construct a "line, plant, or system, or any extension thereof" in California.[9] Pub. Util. Code Section 233 defines a "telephone line" to include "all conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, instruments, and appliances, and other real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned or controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate communication by telephone, whether such communication is had with or without the use of transmission wires." This includes services delivered over any technology, including, but not limited to, traditional copper lines, coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, and mobile or fixed wireless radios.

Providers of voice services, including local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, and interconnected VoIP service providers, are telephone corporations subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.[10] Providers of local exchange, interexchange, and fixed interconnected VoIP services must obtain a CPCN or 1013 registration license to operate in California. Providers of only nomadic interconnected VoIP are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction for rules of general applicability and preempted from licensing requirements that act as barriers to market entry. These providers must obtain a nomadic registration to operate in California.[11]

Velocity proposes to build facilities which will transmit or facilitate voice services (traditional wireline and/or interconnected VoIP) through third parties.

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[9] Pub. Util. Code § 1001.

[10] Pub. Util. Code §§ 216, 233, 234; D.22-10-021 at 68; D.24-11-003 at 18-19.

[11] D.24-11-003 at 40-42.

Velocity also intends to focus on the provision of fiber optic infrastructure for use by telecommunications providers and other large commercial customers, which will transmit or facilitate voice services such as traditional wireline and/or interconnected VoIP. Velocity is a telephone corporation and a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

5. Proposed Construction and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

Velocity proposes to provide full facilities-based service in addition to resold/non-facilities-based service, which may be subject to CEQA review. Pursuant to CEQA and Rule 2.4, the Commission acts as the designated lead agency to consider the environmental consequences of projects that are subject to the Commission's approval.[12] As the lead agency, the Commission must identify any potential environmental impacts and reduce and avoid them to the extent feasible.

Velocity's description of proposed construction activities indicates they will generally include the installation of facilities to transmit voice services with focus on the fiber optic infrastructure for use by telecommunications providers and other large commercial customers.

These activities are expected to fall within Classes 1-3 categorical CEQA exemptions for which neither an Environmental Impact Report nor a Negative Declaration is required.[13] Exemption from CEQA review of these activities is

[12] Pub. Resources Code §§ 21000, *et seq*.

[13] D.24-11-003 at 57-58. Categorical exemptions include Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 32, while statutory exemptions include Public Resources (Pub. Res.) Code § 21080.51.

similar to those undertaken by other carriers that the Commission has decided are exempt from CEQA.[14]

Velocity may use the 21-Day CEQA review process adopted in Decision (D.) 21-04-006 and extended to telecommunications licensing in D.24-11-003. This process will expedite the review and is appropriate for the type of construction outlined here, which will likely be exempt.

If the Energy Division rejects Velocity's claimed CEQA exemption(s) and issues a letter of denial to Velocity, Velocity must either (1) redesign the specific project and facilities and then reapply for a finding of exemption from CEQA, or (2) file a formal application with the Commission seeking approval and full CEQA review, before commencing any construction activities.

Velocity shall not perform any full facilities-based construction activities without first obtaining a Notice to Proceed from the Energy Division or authorization by the Commission after the requisite environmental review.

Granting this CPCN will benefit the public interest by expanding the availability of technologically advanced telecommunications services within the state.

6. Financial Qualifications

To receive a CPCN for authority to provide full facilities-based services, an applicant with profitable interstate operations may demonstrate that it has a

[14] *See, e.g.,* D.06-04-063 (describing procedure for full facilities-based construction activities that involve potential exemptions from environmental review); D.06-04-067 (finding project exempt from further environmental review).

minimum of $100,000 cash or cash equivalent, reasonably liquid and readily available to meet the firm's start-up expenses in California.[15]

In the application, Velocity provided Appendix K showing it has at least $100,000 that is reasonably liquid and available. The documentation demonstrates that Velocity has sufficient funds to meet its start-up expenses and fulfilled this requirement. The Commission will verify and review Velocity's financial documentation for one year to ensure that such funds are available. Accordingly, Velocity must demonstrate that it maintains at least $100,000 that was reasonably liquid and available for its first year of operations by providing the Commission's Communications Division with a confidential copy of its updated financial documentation at both six and 12 months from the issuance date of this decision by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

In addition to demonstrating financial fitness, Velocity must also demonstrate that it has an additional $25,000 available for deposits to interconnect with local exchange carriers. Velocity met this requirement by providing documentation of its ability to pay deposits in Appendix K.

7. Technical Qualifications

To receive a CPCN for authority to provide competitive local exchange and interexchange service, an applicant must make a reasonable showing of managerial and technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business.[16] Velocity supplied biographical information on its management in Appendix G to

[15] The financial requirement for CLECs, NDIECs, and fixed interconnected VoIP providers is contained in D.24-11-003 at Appendix F.

[16] D.95-12-056 at Appendix C, Rule 4.A, *as modified by* D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003.

its application. The information provided demonstrates that Velocity has sufficient expertise and training to operate as a telecommunications provider.

8. Certification Requirements

In its application, Velocity verified that no one associated with or employed by Velocity as an affiliate, officer, director, partner, or owner of more than 10 percent of Velocity, or anyone acting in a management capacity for Velocity

> (a) held one of these positions with a company that filed for bankruptcy; (b) been personally found liable, or held one of these positions with a company that has been found liable, for fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; (c) been convicted of a felony; (d) been (to his/her knowledge) the subject of a criminal referral by judge or public agency; (e) had a telecommunications license or operating authority denied, suspended, revoked, or limited in any jurisdiction; (f) personally entered into a settlement, or held one of these positions with a company that has entered into settlement of criminal or civil claims involving violations of [Sections] 17000 *et seq.*, [Sections] 17200 *et seq.*, or [Sections] 17500 *et seq.* of the California Business & Professions Code, or of any other statute, regulation, or decisional law relating to fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; or (g) been found to have violated any statute, law, or rule pertaining to public utilities or other regulated industries; or (h) entered into any settlement agreements or made any voluntary payments or agreed to any other type of monetary forfeitures in resolution of any action by any regulatory body, agency, or attorney general.[17]

[17] D.13-05-035 at OP 14 (requiring certifications); *see also* D.24-11-003 at 46 (extending and updating existing processes).

Also, to the best of Velocity's knowledge, neither Velocity, nor any affiliate, officer, director, partner, nor owner of more than 10 percent of Velocity, or any person acting in such capacity whether or not formally appointed, is being, or has been investigated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or any law enforcement or regulatory agency for failure to comply with any law, rule or order.[18] For the foregoing reasons, this decision finds that Velocity is in compliance with the requirements of D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003.

9. Tariffs

Competitive local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, and fixed interconnected VoIP providers requesting detariffed status may be exempt from the requirement to file tariffs provided they do not provide basic service as defined by D.12-12-038 and comply with the consumer protection rules identified in D.98-08-031. Velocity indicates that it will not offer services that require a tariff or schedule. Therefore, detariffed status is granted.

In the future, if Velocity decides to offer services that require a tariff or schedule, such as basic service, Velocity must submit proposed tariffs and/or user guides to the Commission's Communications Division by Tier 2 advice letter using the General Order (GO) 96-B advice letter process at least 30 days before initiation of service.[19]

10. Service Territory and Map Requirements

Applicants are required to provide maps of their proposed service territories to the Commission when seeking to provide service in specific

[18] D.13-05-035 at OP 14.

[19] D.12-12-038 at 10-11.

portions of the state.[20] When applicants propose service in the service territories of the incumbent local exchange carriers and/or throughout the State of California, the Commission may rely on its public map of carrier territories to track the proposed service territory.[21] As Velocity requests authority to provide service in areas of the incumbent local exchange carriers and throughout the State of California,[22] the Commission does not need Velocity to provide a map of their proposed service territory.

When proposing full facilities-based construction activities, utilities must provide a map showing the location or route of the proposed construction or extension, and its relation to other public utilities, corporations, persons, or entities with which the same is likely to compete.[23] Velocity provided a confidential map of the location of its proposed construction on August 27, 2026, and a public version of the map on September 4, 2026, in compliance with this requirement.

11. Rule 3.1(i) Statement

Rule 3.1(i) requires that a utility filing an application under Pub. Util. Code Section 1001 provides a statement regarding GO 104-A, Section 2. Velocity states that it is not aware of any reportable matters pursuant to

[20] *See* D.24-11-003 at Appendix C; D.20-08-011 at Appendix A; D.95-12-056 at Appendix C; D.95-07-054 at Appendix A.

[21] *See* https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/high-cost-support-and-surcharges/chcf-a-1/ilec-territories-2023_230412.pdf. Operations throughout California covers the service territories of the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and the General Rate Case Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (also known as Small Local Exchange Carriers).

[22] *See* Application, Item 6, 6.d. and 6.e.

[23] Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 3.1(c).

GO 104-A, Section 2.[24] Velocity, therefore, has nothing to report under this rule. Going forward, Velocity must file all reports required of a public utility under Commission jurisdiction.

12. Expected Customer Base

Velocity provided its estimated customer base for the first and fifth years of operation in its confidential Appendix I 11.j of its application. Therefore, Velocity has complied with this requirement.

13. Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan

In its August 27, 2026 response, Velocity states that granting the application furthers, or is consistent with, the nine goals stated in the Commission's ESJ Action Plan. Specifically, Velocity attests that its provision of services will result in greater competition in the telecommunications market and, thereby, put downward pressure on prices to the benefit of customers makes granting the application consistent with Goals 1 and 3 of the ESJ Action Plan. Velocity also puts forward arguments as to why granting the application is consistent with, or advances, Goals 4, 6, and 7.

Based on the information provided in the application and response to the ALJ inquiry, this decision finds that approval of the application is consistent with the Commission's ESJ goals.

14. Safety Considerations

With the adoption of the *Safety Policy Statement of the California Pub. Util. Commission* on July 10, 2014, the Commission has, among other things, heightened its focus on the potential safety implications of every proceeding. The Commission considered the potential safety implications here. The Commission

[24] Application at Appendix I, no. 11.i.

finds that Velocity will meet the Commission's minimum safety goals and expectations because: (1) Velocity has taken steps to meet the financial requirements, as set forth in this decision for a full facilities -based and resold competitive local exchange carrier and interexchange carrier, and (2) Velocity is a public utility that is required pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 451 to "… furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, including telephone facilities … as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public."

15. Conclusion

Velocity's application conforms with the Commission's rules for certification as a (i) full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange carrier and (ii) interexchange carrier. Accordingly, the Commission grants Velocity's CPCN to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange services within all the service territories of uniform regulatory incumbent local carriers and interexchange services throughout California, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs.

The CPCN granted by this decision provides benefits to Velocity and corresponding obligations. Velocity receives authority to operate in the prescribed service territory, and this authority enables Velocity, pursuant to Section 251 of the 1934 Communications Act, as amended by the 1996 Telecommunications Act (47 U.S.C. Section 251), to interconnect with telecommunications carriers. This authority also enables Velocity to obtain access to public rights-of-way in California as set forth in D.98-10-058, and approved in

T-Mobile West LLC v. City and County of San Francisco, 6 Cal. 5th 1107 (2019), subject to the CEQA requirements set forth in this decision.

In return, Velocity is obligated to comply with all Pub. Util. Code provisions, Commission rules, GOs, and decisions applicable to telephone corporations providing approved services. The applicable statutes, rules, GOs, and decisions include, but are not limited to the consumer protection rules, tariffing, and reporting requirements. Moreover, Velocity is obligated to pay all Commission-prescribed user fees and public purpose program surcharges, as set forth in Attachment B of this decision, to comply with CEQA, and to adhere to Pub. Util. Code Section 451, which states that every public utility "…shall furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, including telephone facilities, as defined in Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public." Granting this application will benefit the public interest by expanding the availability of technologically advanced telecommunications services within the state.

16. Additional Requirements Following Commission's Grant of CPCN

The CPCN granted in this decision is contingent upon Velocity's compliance with several requirements: (1) rendering service to customers within 12 months from the effective date of this decision; (2) using its assigned corporate identification number in the caption of all original filings with the Commission; (3) filing in this docket a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision; (4) providing the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of its designated primary

regulatory/official contact person to the Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate; (5) providing the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of its designated contact person for purposes of resolving consumer complaints to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate; (6) submitting a Tier 1 advice letter containing a copy of the license holder's executed performance bond within 30 days of the effective date of this decision; (7) submitting its compliance with Pub. Util. Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision; and (8) providing the date that services are first rendered to the public, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins.

These requirements are in addition to Velocity's ongoing obligation to be subject to all the current requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers and interexchange carriers included in Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in GO 168; and all applicable Commission rules, decisions, GOs, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

17. Confidential Treatment of Documents

At the PHC held June 4, 2026, the assigned ALJ granted the March 9, 2026 Motion for Leave to File Under Seal. Confidential treatment of the documents is

granted for a period of three years, without the need to file a further motion for confidential treatment.[25] During this three-year period, this information shall not be publicly disclosed except on further Commission order or ALJ ruling. If Velocity believes that it is necessary for this information to remain under seal for longer than three years, Velocity may file a motion showing good cause for extending this order by no later than 30 days before the expiration of the grant of confidentiality.

On August 27, 2026, Velocity filed a motion for leave to file under seal Exhibit A to its August 27, 2026 response to the ALJ inquiry. Exhibit A contains a geographical map depicting the areas of California in which Velocity initially proposes to construct facilities or offer service. Referencing Government Code Section 7922.000, Velocity asserts that the public interest in nondisclosure "clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure" because Exhibit A will reveal the confidential network design, proprietary construction plans, and related internal business and decision-making processes.[26] According to Velocity, "the general public has no direct or substantive interest in the details of the Confidential Exhibit, especially as the information concerns private businesses."[27]

On September 3, 2026, Velocity was directed to file a public version of the map depicting the areas where it plans to construct facilities. On September 4, 2026, Velocity provided a public version of the map.

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[25] D.24-11-003 at 48-54; General Order (G.O.) 66-D.

[26] Motion to Seal at 2.

[27] Motion to Seal at 4.

Accordingly, we grant Velocity's August 27, 2026 motion for leave to file under seal Exhibit A. Confidential treatment of Exhibit A is granted for a period of three years, without the need to file a further motion for confidential treatment.[28] During this three-year period, this information shall not be publicly disclosed except on further Commission order or ALJ ruling. If Velocity believes that it is necessary for this information to remain under seal for longer than three years, Velocity may file a motion showing good cause for extending this order by no later than 30 days before the expiration of the grant of confidentiality.

18. Summary of Public Comments

Rule 1.18 allows any member of the public to submit written comments in any Commission proceeding using the "Public Comment" tab of the online Docket Card for that proceeding on the Commission's website. Rule 1.18(b) requires that relevant written comments submitted in a proceeding be summarized in the final decision issued in that proceeding. No public comments have been submitted in this proceeding.

19. Comments on Draft Decision

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 311(g)(2) and Rule 14.6(c)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

20. Assignment of Proceeding

Matthew Baker is the assigned Commissioner and Patricia Miles is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

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[28] D.24-11-003 at 48-54; General Order (G.O.) 66-D.

Findings of Fact

1. Velocity is a limited liability corporation authorized to do business in California.

2. Velocity's principal place of business is 204 S. Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

3. Velocity proposes to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier services.

4. Velocity is a telephone corporation and a public utility as defined in Pub. Util. Code Sections 234(a) and 216(a).

5. Velocity's proposed construction activities are likely to fall within the Classes 1-3 CEQA categorical statutory exemptions.

6. Velocity proposes to construct facilities which will transmit or facilitate voice services (traditional wireline and/or Interconnected VoIP) through third parties. Velocity also intends to focus on the provision of fiber optic infrastructure for use by telecommunications providers and other large commercial customers, which will transmit or facilitate voice services such as traditional wireline and/or interconnected VoIP.

7. Granting this CPCN will expand the availability of technologically advanced telecommunications services within the state.

8. Granting Velocity a CPCN is in the public interest.

9. Velocity has a minimum of $100,000 of cash or cash equivalent that is reasonably liquid and readily available to meet its start-up expenses.

10. Velocity has an additional $25,000 to cover deposits that may be required by other telephone corporations to provide the proposed service.

11. Velocity meets the financial requirements for a CPCN pursuant to D.24-11-003.

12. Velocity's management possesses sufficient experience, knowledge, and technical expertise to provide local exchange and interexchange services to the public.

13. No one associated with or employed by Velocity as an affiliate, officer, director, partner, agent, or owner (directly or indirectly) of more than 10 percent of Velocity, or anyone acting in a management capacity for Velocity: (a) held one of these positions with a company that filed for bankruptcy; (b) been personally found liable, or held one of these positions with a company that has been found liable, for fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; (c) been convicted of a felony; (d) been the subject of a criminal referral by judge or public agency; (e) had a telecommunications license or operating authority denied, suspended, revoked, or limited in any jurisdiction; (f) personally entered into a settlement, or held one of these positions with a company that has entered into settlement of criminal or civil claims involving violations of Sections 17000 *et seq*., Sections 17200 *et seq.*, or Sections 17500 *et seq.* of the California Business & Professions Code, or of any other statute, regulation, or decisional law relating to fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; (g) been found to have violated any statute, law, or rule pertaining to public utilities or other regulated industries; or (h) entered into any settlement agreements or made any voluntary payments or agreed to any other type of monetary forfeitures in resolution of any action by any regulatory body, agency, or attorney general.

14. To the best of Velocity's knowledge, neither Velocity, or any affiliate, officer, director, partner, nor owner of more than 10 percent of Velocity, or any person acting in such capacity whether or not formally appointed, is being, or has been investigated by the FCC or any law enforcement or regulatory agency for failure to comply with any law, rule, or order.

15. Velocity requested and is eligible for exemption from tariffing requirements and must observe the consumer protection rules adopted in D.98-08-031 and D.24-11-003.

16. Velocity meets the applicable requirements of Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

17. Velocity meets the technical managerial requirements for a CPCN pursuant to D.13-05-013 and D.24-11-003.

18. Velocity meets the certification requirements for a CPCN pursuant to D.13-05-013 and D.24-11-003.

19. Velocity proposes to operate within all the service territories of uniform regulatory incumbent local carrier and interexchange services throughout California.

20. Velocity provided a public map showing the location of its proposed construction or extension, and its relation to other public utilities, corporations, persons, or entities with which the same is likely to compete.

21. Velocity has no information to report under Rule 3.1(i), which requires that a utility filing an application under Pub. Util. Code Section 1001 provides a statement regarding compliance with GO 104-A, Section 2.

22. Velocity provided an estimate of its customer base for the first and fifth years of operation.

23. Velocity will meet the Commission's minimum safety goals.

24. The authority sought is consistent with the Commission's ESJ Action Plan.

Conclusions of Law

1. Velocity should be granted a CPCN to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange services within all the service territories of uniform regulatory incumbent local carrier and interexchange services throughout California**,** subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this decision.

2. Velocity should be allowed to use the Energy Division's 21-day CEQA exemption review process.

3. Velocity should be allowed construction activities that will generally include the installation of facilities to transmit voice services with focus on the fiber optic infrastructure for use by telecommunications providers and other large commercial customers.

4. Velocity should demonstrate that it maintained at least $100,000 that was reasonably liquid and available for its first year of operations by providing the Commission's Communications Division with a confidential copy of its updated financial documentation at both six and 12 months from the issuance date of this decision by providing updated bank statements within eight and 14 months, respectively, as an information-only submittal by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

5. Velocity should be exempt from tariffing. In the future, if Velocity decides to offer services that require a tariff or schedule, such as basic service, Velocity should submit proposed tariffs and/or user guides to the Commission's

Communications Division via Tier 2 advice letters using the GO 96-B advice letter process at least 30 days before initiation of service.

6. Velocity should be subject to applicable rules in D.20-08-011 for operating in a small LEC territory.

7. The certificate granted, and the authority for Velocity to render service to customers under the rates, charges, and rules authorized, should expire if not exercised, by offering or actively providing service on a wholesale and/or resale basis, after 12 months from the effective date of this decision. Velocity should be responsible for seeking approval for an extension of time to comply with this decision pursuant to Rule 16.6.

8. Velocity should be assigned utility identification number U-7576-C and should be responsible for using this as its corporate identification number in the caption of all original filings with this Commission, in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases, and informal submissions to the Commission.

9. Velocity should file in this docket a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. The written acceptance filed in this docket does not reopen the proceeding.

10. Velocity should provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated primary regulatory/official contact person to the Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate.

11. Velocity should provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated contact person for purposes of resolving consumer complaints to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate.

12. Velocity should submit a Tier 1 advice letter containing a copy of the license holder's executed performance bond in accordance with the process established in D.10-09-017/D.11-09-026 and modified by D.13-05-035 and Decision 24-11-003 to the Commission's Communications Division within 30 days of the effective date of this decision.

13. Velocity should submit its compliance with Pub. Util. Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision.

14. Velocity should provide the date that services are first rendered to the public, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins.

15. Velocity should be subject to all the current requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers and interexchange carriers included in Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in GO 168; and all applicable Commission rules, decisions, GOs, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

16. The confidential portions of Appendices I.11.j, K, and G to Velocity's application and Exhibit A to Velocity's August 27, 2026 response should be kept under seal for a period of three years from the issuance date of this decision.

17. All rulings by the assigned Commissioner and the assigned ALJ should be affirmed.

18. All pending motions should be deemed denied.

19. This proceeding should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is granted to Velocity IG Operations, LLC to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange services within all the service territories of uniform regulatory incumbent local carrier and interexchange services throughout California, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this decision.

2. Velocity IG Operations, LLC is allowed to use the California Public Utilities Commission's Energy Division's 21-day California Environmental Quality Act exemption review process.

3. Velocity IG Operations, LLC, is authorized to install facilities to transmit voice services with focus on the fiber optic infrastructure for use by telecommunications providers and other large commercial customers.

4. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must demonstrate that it maintained at least $100,000 that was reasonably liquid and available for its first year of operations by providing the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division with a confidential copy of its updated financial documentation at both six and 12 months from the issuance date of this decision by providing updated bank statements within eight and 14 months, respectively, as an information-only submittal by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

5. Velocity IG Operations, LLC may operate on a detariffed basis. In the future, if Velocity IG Operations, LLC decides to offer services that require a tariff or schedule, such as basic service, Velocity IG Operations, LLC must submit

proposed tariffs and/or user guides to the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division via a Tier 2 advice letter using the General Order 96-B process at least 30 days before initiation of service.

6. The certificate granted, and the authority for Velocity IG Operations, LLC, to render service to customers under the rates, charges, and rules authorized, will expire if not exercised, by offering or actively providing service on a wholesale and/or resale basis, after 12 months from the effective date of this decision. Velocity IG Operations, LLC is responsible for seeking approval for an extension of time to comply with this decision pursuant to Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 16.6.

7. The Velocity IG Operations, LLC is assigned utility identification number U-7576-C and is responsible for using this as its corporate identification number in the caption of all original filings with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases, and informal submissions to the Commission.

8. Velocity IG Operations, LLC, must file in this docket a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. The written acceptance filed in this docket does not reopen the proceeding.

9. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated primary regulatory/official contact person to the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate. Refer to Attachment B for additional information related to updating contact information.

10. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated contact person for purposes of resolving consumer complaints to the California Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate. Refer to Attachment B for additional information related to updating contact information.

11. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must submit a Tier 1 advice letter containing a copy of the license holder's executed performance bond in accordance with the process established in Decision (D.) 10-09-017/D.11-09-026 and modified by D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003 to the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. Refer to Attachment B for additional information on annual performance bond requirements.

12. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must submit its compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision.

13. Velocity IG Operations, LLC must provide the date that competitive local exchange service is first rendered to the public, to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins.

14. Velocity IG Operations, LLC is subject to all the current requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, and fixed interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol providers included in

Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in General Order 168; and all applicable California Public Utilities Commission rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

15. Confidential treatment of Velocity IG Operations, LLC's Appendices I.11.j, K, and G to its application and Exhibit A to its August 27, 2026 response is granted for a period of three years after the date of this decision. During this three-year period, this information shall not be publicly disclosed except on further Commission order or Administrative Law Judge ruling. If Velocity IG Operations, LLC believes that it is necessary for this information to remain under seal for longer than three years, Velocity IG Operations, LLC may file a motion showing good cause for extending this order by no later than 30 days before the expiration of this order.

16. All rulings by the assigned Commissioner and the assigned Administrative Law Judge are affirmed.

17. All pending motions are deemed denied.

18. Application 26-03-002 is closed.

This decision is effective today.

Dated _____2026, at San Francisco, California

ATTACHMENT A

ATTACHMENT A

TARIFF DEFICIENCIES

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(END OF ATTACHMENT A)

ATTACHMENT B

ATTACHMENT B

TELEPHONE CORPORATION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PROVIDERS OF COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS, INTEREXCHANGE CARRIERS AND FIXED INTERCONNECTED VOIP CARRIERS (Carrier)

1. Carrier is subject to all the current applicable California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities and telephone corporations on an ongoing basis.

2. Carrier is responsible for rendering services to customers under the rates, charges, and rules authorized by the Commission within 12 months from the date of the decision. Rendering services may include, but are not limited to, offering and/or actively providing services to its customers on a wholesale and/or resale basis.

3. Carrier is responsible for keeping all contact information up to date with the Commission. Changes to its primary regulatory and/or complaint contact information must be updated in the Commission's Telecommunications and User Fee Filing System (TUFFS) portal within 30 days of any change or at least annually by June 1 of each calendar year. Additionally, information on accessing TUFFS is available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees.

4. Carrier is subject to California public purpose program surcharges and user fees. Pursuant to Decision (D.) 22-10-021, as modified by D.24-11-003, all telephone corporations operating in California must assess, collect, report, and

remit public purpose program surcharges based on the number of active access lines. For the definition of "access line," see Section 5.2.2 of D.22-10-021. The surcharge funds the following California public purpose programs:

a. The Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 277);

b. The California Relay Service and Communications Devices Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 2881; D.98-12-073);

c. The California High Cost Fund-A (Pub. Util. Code § 275.6); D.96-10-066, at 3-4, App. B, Rule 1.C);

d. The California High Cost Fund-B (Pub. Util. Code § 276.5), D.96-10-066, at 191, App. B, Rule 6.F.; D.07-12-054);

e. The California Advanced Services Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 281; D.07-12-054); and

f. The California Teleconnect Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 280; D.96-10-066, at 88, App. B, Rule 8.G).

User Fees must be assessed and collected based on intrastate telecommunications revenues. The User Fee funds the Commission's annual operating budget for regulating telecommunications corporations under its jurisdiction (Pub. Util. Code §§ 431-435). Pursuant to D.24-11-003, Interconnected VoIP service providers operating in California are subject to User Fees, starting on July 1, 2025.

5. Carrier is responsible for obtaining guidance and directives from the Commission's Communications Division for timely reporting and remitting of public purpose program surcharges and the user fees through the Commission's proprietary TUFFS portal. Additional information about telecommunications surcharges and user fees is available from the Commission's website:

https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees.

6. Carrier is responsible for timely and accurate reporting of its number of access lines and remitting the resulting public purpose program surcharges through TUFFS, even if there are zero access lines to report and zero resulting surcharges to remit. Carriers that report and/or remit surcharge funds after the due date will be charged a penalty equal to an annual rate of 10 percent. Send an email to Telcosurcharge@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to surcharges and access to TUFFS. Current and historical surcharge rates are available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees/surcharge-rates.

7. Carrier is responsible for timely and accurate reporting and remitting of the user fees based on a standard user fee remittance rate applied to the gross intrastate revenue or an annual minimum user fee of $100, whichever is greater. The user fee remittance rate is determined annually by the Commission and posted on the Commission's webpage. The reporting and remittance of user fees must be through TUFFS within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) or January 15 due date for those paying the annual minimum user fee of $100. TUFFS will automatically adjust the minimum user fee amount to $100 when the annual gross intrastate revenue is zero ($0) or less than the annual minimum user fee of $100. Under Pub. Util. Code Section 405, carriers that are in default of reporting and submitting user fees more than 30 days after the quarterly user fee payment due dates of April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15, or more than 30 days after the January 15 due date for those utilities paying the annual minimum user fee of

$100, will be subject to automatic penalties including suspension or revocation of their authority to operate in California. Pursuant to D.24-11-003, Interconnected VoIP service providers operating in California are subject to User Fees, starting on July 1, 2025. Send an email to userfees@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to user fees. Send an email to userfees@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to user fees. Current and historical user fee rates are available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees/user-fee-rates.

8. In compliance with Resolution T-16901, December 2, 2004, Carrier is responsible for checking the joint tariff for public purpose program surcharges and user fees filed by Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California and applying the current public purpose program surcharges and user fees amounts in that joint tariff on end user bills until further revised.

9. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its tariff filings reflect all surcharges and fees to which it is subject, as identified above.

10. If Carrier is a provider of interexchange services, competitive local exchange services, and/or fixed interconnected VoIP services, the effectiveness of its future nondominant carrier tariffs, if applicable, is subject to the requirements of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

11. If Carrier is a non-dominant interexchange carrier, the effectiveness of its future non-dominant interexchange carrier tariffs is subject to the requirement of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

12. Carrier providing competitive local exchange service is responsible for submitting a service area map as part of its initial tariff filed via Advice Letter to the Communications Division.

13. Carrier is responsible for submitting a copy of its complete tariff in use to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, in compliance with Pub. Util. Codes Section 489(a), no later than February 15 of each year. Additional information is available from the Commission's Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/tariff-filing-requirements.

14. Carrier is responsible for obtaining a performance bond of at least $25,000 in accordance with D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003. Within 30 calendar days after the effective date of CPCN authority, Carrier is required to submit a Tier-1 advice letter to the Director of the Communications Division via TD_PAL@cpuc.ca.gov with a copy of the license holder's executed performance bond. The performance bond must be a continuous bond *(i.e.*, there is no termination date on the bond) issued by a corporate surety company authorized to transact surety business in California, and the Commission must be listed as the obligee on the bond. Requests for an extension of time to submit the initial performance bond must be submitted to the Director of the Communications Division via email at cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov within 30 days of the effective date of this decision using the performance bond filing extension form is available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/performance-bond-requirements. Pursuant to D. 13-05-035, the Commission must revoke a CPCN if a carrier is more than 120 days late in providing the Communications Division a copy of its executed performance bond and the carrier has not been granted an extension of time by the Communications Division.

15. Carrier is required to submit a Tier-1 Advice Letter on an annual basis, no later than March 31 of each year, with a copy of the executed performance bond. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its performance bond does not lapse during any period of its operation. Additional information regarding performance bond requirement is available from the Comission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/performance-bond-requirements.

16. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its employees comply with the provisions of Pub. Util. Code Section 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

17. If Carrier is 90 days or more late in complying with its reporting obligations to the Commission including but not limited to filing its annual reports (*e.g.*, Operations and Financials, and Affiliated Transaction Reports), submitting Performance Bonds, reporting and remitting surcharges and user fees; and has not received written permission from the Commission or Communications Division to file or remit late, the Communications Division may issue a citation pursuant to Resolution T-17601. Failure to comply with the issued citation or timely appeal the citation may result in a revocation of the company's operating authority and/or a referral to the Commission's Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division for enforcement action, which could result in additional fines, penalties, or other sanctions.

18. Carrier is exempt from Rule 3.1(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

19. Carrier is exempt from Pub. Util. Code Sections 816-830.

20. If Carrier decides to discontinue service or file for bankruptcy, it must immediately notify the Commission's Director of the Communications Division by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

(END OF ATTACHMENT B)

ATTACHMENT C

ATTACHMENT C

ANNUAL REPORT

In addition to the annual reports requirement pursuant to General Order 104-A, Telephone Corporations must submit the following information electronically to the Commission's Communications Division using the Annual Operational and Financial Information Report Form via email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.[29]

Failure to submit this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in Pub. Util. Code Sections 2107 and 2108.

Required information:

1. Exact legal name and Utility ID number of the reporting utility.
2. Address of the reporting utility.
3. Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted concerning the reported information.
4. Name and title of the officer having custody of the general books of account and the address of the office where such books are kept.
5. Type of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.).

   If incorporated, specify:

   a. Date of filing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.
   b. State in which incorporated.
6. Number and date of the Commission decision granting the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
7. Date operations were begun.
8. Description of other business activities in which the utility is engaged.

[29] An Annual Operations and Financial Information Report form (in PDF format) has been developed to help facilitate the submission of this reporting obligation and available from the CPUC website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/licensing-compliance/annual-reporting-requirements/aropfi.pdf.

9. List of all affiliated companies and their relationship to the utility. State if affiliate is a:
   a. Regulated public utility.
   b. Publicly held corporation.
10. Balance sheet as of December 31st of the year for which information is submitted.
11. Income statement for California operations for the calendar year for which information is submitted.

Additional information about the reporting requirements is available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/annual-report-forms. For any questions concerning this report, please send an email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov with a subject line that includes: "CD Annual Reports."

(END OF ATTACHMENT C)

ATTACHMENT D

ATTACHMENT D

CALENDAR YEAR AFFILIATE TRANSACTION REPORT

Telephone Corporations must submit the following information electronically to the Commission's Communications Division using the Annual Affiliate Transaction Report Form[30] via email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than May 1st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual affiliate transaction report is submitted.

Failure to submit this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in Pub. Util. Code Sections 2107 and 2108.

1. Each utility must list and provide the following information for each affiliated entity and regulated subsidiary that the utility had during the period covered by the Annual Affiliate Transaction Report.
   Form of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, joint venture, strategic alliance, etc.);
   Brief description of business activities engaged in;
   Relationship to the utility (e.g., controlling corporation, subsidiary, regulated subsidiary, affiliate);
   Ownership of the utility (including type and percent ownership)
   Voting rights held by the utility and percent; and
   Corporate officers.

2. The utility must prepare and submit a corporate organization chart showing any and all corporate relationships between the utility and its affiliated entities and regulated subsidiaries in item 1 above. The chart must have the controlling corporation (if any) at the top of the chart, the utility and any

[30] An Annual Affiliate Report form (in PDF format) has been developed to help facilitate the submission of this reporting obligation and available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/licensing-compliance/annual-reporting-requirements/annual-affiliate-transaction-report-form_.pdf.

subsidiaries and/or affiliates of the controlling corporation in the middle levels of the chart, and all secondary subsidiaries and affiliates (*e.g.,* a subsidiary that in turn is owned by another subsidiary and/or affiliate) in the lower levels. Any regulated subsidiary must be clearly noted.

3. For a utility that has individuals who are classified as "controlling corporations" of the competitive utility, the utility must only report under the requirements of items 1 and 2 above any affiliated entity that either (a) is a public utility or (b) transacts any business with the utility filing the annual report, excluding the provision of tariff services.

4. Each annual report must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP § 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

5. Any required information, documents, or other material that a utility is unable to provide must be reasonably described, and the reasons they cannot be obtained, as well as the efforts expended to obtain them, must be set forth in the utility's Annual Affiliate Transaction Report and verified, in accordance with Section I-F of D.93-02-019.

6. Utilities that do not have affiliated entities must submit, in lieu of the annual transaction report, an annual statement to the Commission stating that the utility had no affiliated entities during the report period. This statement must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility, stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP § 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

Additional information about the reporting requirements is available from the Commission's website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/annual-report-forms. For any questions concerning this report, please send an e-mail to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov with a subject line that includes: "CD Annual Reports."

(END OF ATTACHMENT D)