



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: October 25th, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant award in the amount of \$497,799 and authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Golden State Connect Authority and the County of Nevada

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The County will receive grant funding from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the County will reimburse the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) for grant expenses, less 5% retained by the County for administrative reimbursement. Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis, and no match is required. This funding and expense will go through the Information and General Services (IGS) Administrative budget unit in Fiscal Year 22/23 and 23/24 and a budget amendment will be brought forth as needed when expenditures occur. No general fund is required.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County's need for increased broadband coverage has been an ongoing priority for the Board since 2020 and is a 2022 priority objective per Resolution 22-092 adopted on February 8, 2022. Resolution 22-457 authorizing the Director of IGS to submit a grant application to the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Program for funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the expansion of broadband availability to un-served neighborhoods in Nevada County was approved on August 23, 2022.

With the enactment of SB 156 in July 2021, \$6 billion was allocated to the CPUC for broadband deployment across four program areas, including the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Fund (\$50 Million) – provided to eligible local agencies (including counties) to cover 100% of pre-deployment project costs that advance the deployment of broadband infrastructure.



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Funds from this grant will be used to advance the identification, planning, and engineering phases of projects in multiple areas in Nevada County, including but not limited to unincorporated neighborhoods that have been identified by the GSCA as a pilot project to implement open-access broadband services. An open-access municipal broadband model allows multiple internet service providers to use the same publicly owned high-speed network to provide a range of services to homes and businesses.

The \$497,799 award from the LATA grant program will pay for the planning and engineering phase of expanding broadband availability into unserved neighborhoods in Nevada County, including the unincorporated neighborhoods between Nevada City and Grass Valley. This phase is necessary before Nevada County can obtain Federal Funding Account (FFA) funding for the implementation of broadband technologies into identified unserved neighborhoods. Funds will cover the expenses of project engineering; staffing; additional technical assistance for projects; demonstration projects; project area analysis; policy and standards development; administrative support; and outreach. The award period is 2 years.

Nevada County is a member of the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) Joint Powers Authority, which was established to support and assist member counties with the advancement of broadband for all, across rural California. Nevada County will enter an MOU with GSCA for the management of the grant and project development, included as Attachment 1. GSCA will contract with the professional network design firm for the development of network designs, oversee the development of work product, manage the grant cash flow, and provide required grant reports for timely submittal and reimbursement. The County will receive funds from CPUC and reimburse GSCA.

Item Initiated by: Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator

Approved by: Steve Monaghan, Director, Information and General Services Agency

Submittal Date: October 25th, 2022