



Information and General Services Department

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-265-1238
Fax: 530-265-7112

*Information Systems
Geographic Information Systems
Facilities Management*

*Emergency Services
Central Services
Cable Television*

*Purchasing
Airport
Library*

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 23, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a contract between the County of Nevada and Sierra Business Council (SBC) for solicitation, facilitation and administration of a Nevada County Last-Mile Broadband Grant, in the amount of \$25,000, for the period of July 23, 2019 through June 30, 2021, approving the Grant amount of \$225,000 and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Information General Services Administration FY 2019/20 Budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution

FUNDING: There is a \$250,000 fiscal impact to the General Fund Economic Development Infrastructure Assignment. A budget amendment has been included for approval.

BACKGROUND:

The County receives an estimated \$464,000 in transient occupancy tax (TOT) annually. Currently the County uses TOT to fund its contract with the Nevada County Economic Resource Council for comprehensive economic development management services and to fund the County's economic development infrastructure assignment established in 2012. The Economic Development Infrastructure Assignment is for infrastructure improvement projects that will promote economic development in the unincorporated areas of the County.

In January 2019, at the Board's annual workshop, staff reported a series of potential projects that qualified for funding, per Board approval, with the County's economic development infrastructure assignment that included the Higgins Market Place Sewer Project, Soda Springs Visitor's Center,

Broadband Development Project, County Corporation Yard Re-Use Project and a North Sam Fire Suppression System. Moreover, on June 27, 2018, the Board adopted Resolution 18-324 supporting and promoting local broadband expansions, access and usage in Nevada County. Furthermore, Sierra Business Council (SBC) manages the Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC), formerly managed by SEDCorp before its dissolution, with the mission to increase digital access and use of broadband in the counties of Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Sierra and eastern Alpine County. GCBC is one of 14 regional consortiums in California funded by the California Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia grant program. GCBC was formed to leverage regional, state and natural resources as an investment in improving and expanding broadband access. As such, SBC is uniquely positioned as the County's subject matter expert, to solicit, facilitate, and administer a grant program for the development and expansion of Broadband in Nevada County.

Furthermore, Broadband infrastructure development is defined in three segments: 1) Backbone, 2) Middle-Mile, and 3) Last-Mile. Backbone refers to the major high-speed transmission line that strategically links smaller high-speed internet networks across the globe. Middle-Mile refers to the connection between the Backbone and the Last-Mile. Last-Mile refers to connecting the end-user or customer's home or business to a local network provider. The development of Last-Mile transmission networks is the most cost prohibitive component of broadband expansion in Nevada County. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will only develop Last-Mile networks if there are enough end-user ratepayers in a given location to justify the upfront costs of development or if infrastructure development is subsidized in some capacity. Due to the lack of density of end-user ratepayers in the unincorporated rural areas of the county, costs of development is the largest deterrent for ISP investment to expand existing networks. The Last-Mile Broadband Grant is a pilot program to subsidize the development of Last-Mile Broadband infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of the County to promote and support economic development.

Therefore, the attached Resolution will a) authorize the Chair to execute a contract for an amount of \$25,000 with SBC to solicit, facilitate, and administer a Nevada County Last-Mile Broadband Grant Program, b) approve a Last-Mile Broadband Grant amount of \$225,000 which will be awarded through this process (the results of the grant solicitation and award recommendation will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors

for approval prior to final award), and c) direct the Auditor-Controller to amend the Information General Services FY 2019/20 Budget by releasing funds from the Economic Development Infrastructure Assignment in the total amount of \$250,000.

Item Initiated by: Elise Strickler, Administrative Services Officer

Approved by: Steve Monaghan, Chief Information Officer

Submittal Date: 7/8/2019