

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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SUZANNE ALLEN DE SANCHEZ
Clerk of the Board



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March 9, 2010

Mr. Jim Dolgonas
President and CEO, CENIC
16700 Valley View Ave., Ste. 400
La Mirada, CA 90618

Dear Mr. Dolgonas:

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports the efforts of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) to secure federal funding for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan. It is our understanding that CENIC will seek American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding (ARRA) for this Plan through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). We believe the draft plan you have shared with the County will, upon acceptance and completion, bring additional value to the citizens and businesses of El Dorado County. Our citizens will reap the benefit from this new infrastructure through improved access to emergency, health, educational, library and information services.

This project, which we understand CENIC has developed in collaboration with regional telecommunication vendor Central Valley Independent Network, LLC (CVIN), will bring a newer and more economical alternative to existing and common carriers, and other Internet backbone providers in our region that are not otherwise available. Further, the potential exists to positively spur the emergence and growth of new Internet services desperately needed across the more sparsely populated parts of our County. This innovative public/private venture has the potential to bring to our local government an alternative for world wide broadband communications.

Currently, many of our citizens in rural El Dorado County are deprived of economical, fast Internet access. This disadvantages our citizens, who cannot practically use the Internet for banking, shopping, educational and entertainment services routinely used by their neighbors in larger cities and towns. Being close in proximity to a major urban center as Sacramento, California and unable to reap the benefits of modern technology can be frustrating. CENIC's project has the potential and ability to start us down the path of alleviating this frustrating disparity.

If funded and completed in accordance with your proposal, CENIC's (and CVIN's) new services could:

- Enhance public institutions, safety/emergency services, schools, health services, local businesses and households within our County with modern Internet access
- Provide enhanced access to worldwide markets for our agricultural and forestry products
- Offer improved and richer opportunities for tourism by facilitating communication with local businesses who, today, are often overlooked when potential visitors search for destinations on the Internet
- The ability to telecommute and bring the information to the worker eliminates exporting our workforce in automobiles resulting in a reduction of road wear-and-tear, future roadway expansions and noxious emissions
- Build stronger local communities and neighborhoods by replacing travel with telecommunications services

We appreciate the risks you face in embarking on this venture, and applaud the expansion of your service into the rural counties like El Dorado. We are pleased to offer this expression of our support in your new venture, and eagerly await the possibility of rural broadband throughout El Dorado County. Please keep us abreast of your progress.

Sincerely,

Norma Santiago
El Dorado County Supervisor
District V, Lake Tahoe
530.621.6577
530.573.3411
bosfive@co.el-dorado.ca.us



Leading the Way to Endless Internet

The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California

March 2, 2010

Mr. Ray Nutting
Supervisor, District II
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County Government Center
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Supervisor Nutting:

On behalf of CENIC thank you for giving our representatives, Carol Whiteside and Tom West, the opportunity to meet and discuss with you the proposed Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan. As Tom and Carol outlined for you, CENIC and its private sector partner are proposing to submit this project for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by the March 26, 2010 deadline. *(Please note, today the date has been extended by NTIA.)*

In addition to informing you of this plan, we had the following objectives for meeting with members of the Board of Supervisors, key County staff and other leaders in the community.

- To state that we are not seeking any financial assistance from the County for the implementation of this Plan.
- To request a "Letter of Support" from the Board of Supervisors, or the appropriate County official, as well as letters of support from other community groups by March 22, 2010. *(See below for instructions on getting us your letter both electronically by March 22 and by regular mail in the normal course of business. Tom will be in touch with your point of contact over the next two weeks to ascertain the status of a letter of support from you)*

At the time of the in-person meeting we were not able to inform you as to our private sector partner would be. We are now pleased to inform you that the private sector partner is the Central Valley Independent Network, LLC (CVIN). CVIN was organized in 1995 and its membership consists of eight rural independent telecommunications companies including: Sebastian, Ponderosa, Sierra, Calaveras, Volcano, Ducor, Cal-Ore and Siskiyou.

Several of the CVIN companies have conducted business in parts of the 18 counties for many decades and are very knowledgeable about the needs of the region. In fact, CVIN has had a long range plan to build a broadband infrastructure very much akin to this plan. CVIN's technical planning over the past decade plus CENIC's history of outstanding service to its anchor educational institutions in the counties for the past decade, coupled with the ARRA broadband funding designed to connect

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education institutions, libraries, health facilities and emergency services/public safety agencies make this plan feasible.

As promised, our intent is to send Tom (and hopefully a representative from CVIN) back out to meet with you after the March 26 submission and before April 30, 2010 to brief you on the final proposal submitted to NTIA and to start the work of engaging the key people in each county in gaining insight into additional future uses of this new infrastructure to better serve all segments of the community—governmental agencies, business, residents etc.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let Tom know twest@cenic.org or call 714.220.3436 (office) or 562.858.9378 (cell). We appreciate your consideration of our request for a letter of support and hope you will provide one by March 22. It will help make our case in Washington D.C.

Sincerely,



Jim Dolgonas
President and CEO

cc: Kitty Miller, Assistant, Carole Anne Ogdin, Consultant

Meeting Attendees:

Supervisor Ray Nutting (for a very brief time); IT personnel-CIO Scott Cambridge, Stu Whitehead, CATV, and Tom Straling, Technology Officer; County Librarian, Jeanne Amos; COE representative Jeremy Meyers; and Nutting's outside consultant, Carole Anne Ogdin; and Nutting's Assistant Kitty Miller

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please send a PDF version of the signed letter via email to:

Deborah Hunt
Deborah.lynn.hunt@pacbell.net.

Please send the original signed letter via regular mail to:

Mr. Jim Dolgonas, President and CEO
Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)
16700 Valley View Avenue, Suite 400
La Mirada, CA 90638



The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California • 16700 Valley View Ave. Ste 400 • La Mirada, CA 90638

California's education and research communities leverage their networking resources under CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, in order to obtain cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking to support their missions and answer the needs of their faculty, staff, and students.

CENIC designs, implements, and operates CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, a high-bandwidth, high-capacity Internet network specially designed to meet the unique requirements of these communities, and to which the vast majority of the state's K-20 educational institutions are connected. In order to facilitate collaboration in education and research, CENIC also provides connectivity to non-California institutions and industry research organizations with which CENIC's Associate researchers and educators are engaged.

<http://www.cenic.org/pix/about/calren.jpg> CalREN consists of a CENIC-operated backbone to which schools and other institutions in all 58 of California's counties connect via leased circuits obtained from telecom carriers or fiber-optic cable. In the map to the right, the CalREN backbone fiber network is shown in white, while orange circles indicate network connection points or circuit aggregation facilities.

CENIC is governed by its member institutions. Representatives from these institutions also donate expertise through their participation in various committees designed to ensure that CENIC is managed effectively and efficiently, and to support the continued evolution of the network as technology advances.



For more information go to <http://www.cenic.org/>



CVIN partners include Calaveras Telephone, Cal-Ore Telephone, Ducor Telephone, Kerman Telephone, Ponderosa Telephone, Sierra Telephone, Siskiyou Telephone, and Volcano Telephone. Our STP's are located in Fresno, CA and Jamestown, CA. Our staff is highly trained and customer satisfaction is our highest priority.



Calaveras Telephone is located in Copperopolis, California and was founded in 1895. It serves approximately 5,000 access lines in Calaveras county.



SEBASTIAN

Putting people first.

Sebastian (formerly Kerman Telephone) is located in Kerman, California and was founded in 1911. It serves approximately 6,000 access lines in Fresno and Placer counties.



Ponderosa Telephone

Delivering Quality Communications Solutions

Ponderosa Telephone is located in O'Neals, California and was founded in 1908. It serves approximately 10,000 access lines in Fresno, Madera, and San Bernardino counties.



SIERRA TELEPHONE

"Connecting You To The World"

Sierra Telephone is located in Oakhurst, California. It serves approximately 25,000 access lines in Madera county.



Volcano Telephone is located in Pine Grove, California and was founded in 1904. It serves approximately 10,000 access lines in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Alpine counties.



Ducor Telephone Company

A VarComm Corporation

Ducor • Rancho Tehama • Kennedy Meadows

Ducor Telephone is located in Ducor, California and was founded in 1954. It serves approximately 1,500 access lines in Tulare and Tehama counties.



Cal-Ore Telephone is located in Dorris, California and was founded in 1950. It serves approximately 3,000 access lines in Siskiyou and Modoc counties.



Siskiyou Telephone is located in Etna, California and was founded in 1896. It serves approximately 5,000 access lines in Siskiyou county.

For more information see <http://www.cvin.com/>

