

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

SUZANNE ALLEN DE SANCHEZ
Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JOHN R. KNIGHT
District I

RAY NUTTING
District II

JAMES R. SWEENEY
District III

RON BRIGGS
District IV

NORMA SANTIAGO
District V

March 9, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Dolgonas:

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is writing this letter of support for CENIC's *Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan* to expand and improve broadband options in 18 counties within the California Central Valley area including El Dorado County.

This project, developed by CENIC in partnership with selected private firms, will significantly impact many areas of our county's development and will dramatically change the ways in which our residents learn, work and live together.

Connectivity is vital for counties to remain competitive in today's business world. Many El Dorado County businesses engage in back office/call center operations, hospitality and retail services, as well as an increased investment in companies providing alternative energy resource products and services. Without access to high speed internet, our communities' businesses cannot take advantage of the wide range of business broadband applications available online nor retain highly skilled workers, a key factor in non-agriculture related industries. Furthermore, without this connectivity, communities are unable to provide the best educational opportunities to its residents, respond effectively in disasters or provide adequate telemedicine care to its residents.

The proposed 600+-middle mile multi-wavelength fiber optics network infrastructure through the 18 counties will enable the El Dorado County Office of Education, the El Dorado County Library as well as other community anchor institutions such as major health care and public safety facilities to be directly connected to this infrastructure assuring them access to the increased capacity they will require over time at a very nominal marginal cost.

The plan also recognizes that broadband adoption goes hand in hand with infrastructure deployment, and thus, by CENIC aligning with key educational organizations and other non-profits that are focused on providing programs that advance the adoption of broadband capabilities, use within the areas to be served is more likely to succeed and provide the long-term economic benefits El Dorado County and its citizenry so desperately need to succeed.

By complementing this fiber optics infrastructure as part of this project with last mile wireless network infrastructure CENIC and its partners are enabling local businesses, residences and governmental

agencies access to cost-effective higher-speed broadband Internet capabilities not currently available in our region of California. With over 54% percent of El Dorado County classified as either unserved or underserved by broadband infrastructure, now more than ever our residents deserve the best in training and services a robust network infrastructure can provide.

If funded, the deployment of the *Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan* will be used by El Dorado County and the organizations/businesses we represent to:

1. Provide institutions, public safety entities, government agencies, local businesses and households within our county access to Internet services at reasonable costs
2. Have the network infrastructure in place to help our county build, attract, & retain competitive businesses, entrepreneurs, and residents to compete in a global marketplace
3. Improve current communication systems of public safety entities within our county by offering enhanced network services so that vital emergency/safety information can be shared across organizational and geographic boundaries, thus leveraging the already significant local investment in Public Safety Interoperability
4. Allow our county to compete for low and high-end service jobs (the fastest growing sector and most conducive for broadband applications), from call centers to software development
5. Increase network capacity in our county libraries to provide residents, particularly those in high-need communities, public access to computers that might not be possible otherwise

We realize few initiatives have the ability to positively impact the delivery of education, health care and safety services as well as enhance businesses and economic development and the overall quality of life of our citizens as does increased broadband capabilities and services. We are privileged to add our counties name and the organizations/businesses we represent to the list of supporters and look forward to working with CENIC and its private partners to make this exciting vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Norma Santiago, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
530.621.6577
bosfive@edcgov.us