

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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February 24, 2015

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
Paul Smith, Senior Legislative Analyst
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you on behalf of El Dorado County. It is my understanding that there is opportunity for the Gold Country Broadband Consortium to continue working for the next two years. The County is in support of urgency legislation that would authorize the transfer of \$5-6 million from the revolving Loan Fund Account to the Regional Consortia account of the California Advanced Services Fund.

We are currently working to identify collaborative efforts as well as grant funding opportunities for broadband deployment to underserved and unserved areas of El Dorado County to benefit residents and business owners. The creation of high-speed broadband is a critical infrastructure need for our communities. Our residents need access to thrive – in education, for civic engagement, for work, and for connecting with their communities locally and globally. Farmers need it to access technology for better and more efficient use of water and farming practices as well as having the ability to move big data. Small businesses need it to take advantage of the newest technologies for future success and sustainability. We need it to attract larger businesses to our region for economic development and have identified gaps and areas of need that call for the continual support of the regional consortium.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need to continue a dialogue on this subject.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors