

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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June 2, 2015

Michael Picker, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94101

RE: SUPPORT FOR TWO APPLICATIONS TO THE CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND FROM CAL.NET CORPORATION TO PROVIDE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS FOR TWO AREAS OF EL DORADO COUNTY

President Pickler:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors for El Dorado County, I am writing to express our strong support for two proposals from the Cal.Net Corporation to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Advanced Services Fund to provide improved high speed internet service to Northern and Southern areas of the county. Each of the above areas, with almost 2,000 residents, have been categorized as being "underserved" in broadband coverage, and we hope that the CPUC will approve funding for much needed upgrades.

This is a priority project for our county, as the current lack of reliable broadband infrastructure puts our community at a substantial economic disadvantage. The National Broadband Map published by the FCC (www.broadbandmap.gov) ranks El Dorado County as 34th of 58 California counties in broadband speed. The National Broadband Map also shows substantial service gaps in our community where many residents still rely on dial-up modems. Access to broadband is now a pillar of competitiveness; allowing businesses to order supplies and sell goods, and for the education of a workforce to power the economies of tomorrow. El Dorado County considers broadband deployment to be a crucial component of economic growth.

Our county strongly supports the project proposed to the CPUC by Cal.Net, but we also hope that this project is an inroad to system improvements that can be made to our broadband infrastructure as funding and/or technology becomes available.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jeff McLaughlin, Economic and Business Relations Manager for El Dorado County, at 530-621-5595 or jeff.mclaughlin@edcgov.us. Please let us know if there is any assistance we may provide to help insure the funding and timely completion of this vital project.

Sincerely,

Brian Veerkamp, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
EL Dorado County

CC: Pamela Knorr, Chief Administrative Officer
Randy Wagner, CEO – Sierra Economic Development Corporation