

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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August 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado endorses the Gold Country Broadband Consortium application for financial support from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) per the provisions of CPUC Decision 11-06-038 for the Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp) as the Regional Consortium for the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant program.

SEDCorp, a regional, non-profit economic development organization, will lead the Gold Country Consortium by working with partners, stakeholders and experts to implement the regional Broadband Work Plan and meet the region's strategic priorities.

The challenge we face is in the expansion of broadband infrastructure to deliver high-speed Internet service to our low-density population dispersed over very difficult terrain. We concur with the plan to bring together residents, business owners, experts in service areas, and the broadband service providers to make the business cases needed to attract investment in broadband infrastructure expansion. However, we know that consumer education will be needed, and, we are confident that holding community meetings throughout the region will be an effective way to inform consumers about the expanding services available via broadband Internet connections. We plan to make the case that broadband service is a necessary utility in each home and business, and, correspondingly, to harvest higher broadband service adoption rates as broadband service availability expands in our rural area.

The County of El Dorado is committed to supporting the Gold Country Broadband Consortium project. We will assist in preparing for community meetings in our area so that the most timely and applicable information is shared. We will participate in the meetings to convey our knowledge and views on the specific questions and concerns related to improving broadband service availability in our area as soon as possible. And, we will support the preparation of infrastructure expansion project applications intended to increase the availability of broadband service in our area.

Thank you for your thoughtful review of the Gold Country Broadband Consortium application as the most efficient and effective way to provide greater broadband service availability and adoption in our rural area.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Nutting, Chair
Board of Supervisors