

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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January 7, 2014

CPUC Communications Division
Attn: CASF Consortia Grant Account
505 Van Ness Ave., Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Endorsement of the Lake Tahoe Basin sub-Consortium

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this letter to express support for the Lake Tahoe Basin Broadband sub-Consortium (LTBBsC) organized by the Tahoe Prosperity Center (TPC) and other key stakeholders around the Basin.

In 2010, a comprehensive strategy for economic growth was developed for the Basin - the Lake Tahoe Basin Prosperity Plan. This plan was funded by the federal government and the Basin's six governmental jurisdictions. Broadband was identified as one of the top infrastructure challenges standing in the way of equitable growth in the areas of e-Health, telemedicine, distance learning, scientific research and resource management, sustainable tourism, hosting of large-scale sporting events, attraction of new environmentally beneficial businesses, export of environmental innovations, e-government and public safety, to name a few.

The Lake Tahoe Basin, by its very nature, presents extreme technical challenges for broadband implementation – mountainous, forested terrain; huge expanse of water; extreme winter weather. These conditions are unique to the Basin and require unique solutions. Added to the environmental hurdles are the regulatory safeguards imposed by the US Forest Service, which manages over 80% of the Basin land, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) responsible for protecting the environment through regulating development.

In response to the special circumstances listed above, the Tahoe Prosperity Center and its key partners are uniquely positioned to act as the Broadband sub-Consortium for the Tahoe Basin. The TPC was established in 2011 to implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Prosperity Plan. Its board includes representatives from the Basin's six jurisdictions, two Chambers of Commerce, the Tahoe Transportation District, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, as well as the non-profit, education, health and businesses communities. The Basin's key leadership and anchor institutions are all involved. The expansion of broadband is one of TPC's top strategic infrastructure goals and it has developed a Strategic Action Plan, in partnership with other Consortium members, to assess the gaps and leverage opportunities aimed at increasing Broadband deployment and access. The ability to apply for Regional Broadband Consortia Account funding will help ensure that the Basin has the same access to this vital 21st century infrastructure as California's other regions.

We fully endorse the Lake Tahoe Basin Broadband sub-Consortium and ask that you give favorable consideration to funding the activities described in its Strategic Action Plan.

Regards,

Norma Santiago, Chair
District V Supervisor