



**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)**

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Friday  
September 16, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

**Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa  
Napa Ballroom  
3425 Solano Avenue  
Napa, California 94558**



**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, September 16, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.  
Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa  
Napa Ballroom  
3425 Solano Avenue  
Napa, California 94558**

In accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) (Assembly Bill 361), the September 16, 2022 GSCA Board of Directors Meeting will be facilitated virtually through Zoom with limited in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting in-person, provided that the GSCA Board of Directors reserve the right to limit the number of people in attendance. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting using one of the following methods:

1. Join the Zoom meeting application on your computer, tablet or smartphone:  
Go to: <https://rcrcnet.zoom.us/j/89415665856?from=addon>  
Enter Password: 013375

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:  
Dial +1 (669) 900-9128  
Enter meeting ID: 894 1566 5856  
Enter password: 013375

**PUBLIC COMMENT USING ZOOM:** Members of the public who join the Zoom meeting, either through the Zoom app or by calling in, will be able to provide live public comment at specific points throughout the meeting.

**EMAIL PUBLIC COMMENT:** One may also email public comment to [mchui@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mchui@rcrcnet.org) before or during the meeting. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all GSCA Board of Directors members.

**DISABLED ACCOMMODATION:** Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative means to assist you in attending, observing, or commenting on this meeting, or an alternative agenda document format, please contact GSCA at (916) 447-4806 or by email at [mchui@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mchui@rcrcnet.org) by 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

*Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County  
Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County*

### **2. Public Comments**

*At this time any member of the public may address the Board. Speakers are asked to state their name for the record but are not required to do so. Comments are usually limited to no more than 3 minutes per speaker.*

### **3. Consent Agenda – ACTION**

#### **a. August 17, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

- b. GSCA Resolution TC008-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361** **Page 3**

*Arthur J. Wylene, RCRC General Counsel*

- c. Adoption of the Revised 2022 GSCA Meeting Schedule** **Page 7**

*Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer*

**4. Program Updates**

*Barbara Hayes*

*Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President*

**a. Broadband Program Update**

**Page 11**

**5. Adjournment**

Agenda items will be taken as close as possible to the schedule indicated. Any member of the general public may comment on agenda items at the time of discussion. In order to facilitate public comment, please let staff know if you would like to speak on a specific agenda item. The agenda for this regular meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors was duly posted at its offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California, 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Any written materials related to an open session item on this agenda that are submitted to the GSCA Board of Directors than 72 hours prior to the meeting, and that are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, will promptly be made available for public inspection at GSCA's principal office, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 447-4806, during normal business hours, and on the GSCA website, <https://www.goldenstateconnect.org>

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Golden State Connect Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions**

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, presided. Present were Executive Director Patrick Blacklock, RCRC General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and RCRC Director of Board Operations Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Garamendi called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter*	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen*	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley*	Imperial
EJ Crandell	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Leticia Gonzalez*	Madera
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Bob Tiffany*	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Lee Adams	Sierra
Bob Williams	Tehama
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff*	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba
<b><u>Absent</u></b>	
Brian Oneto	Amador
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Ted Williams	Mendocino

Chris Lopez	Monterey
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Bob Nelson	Santa Barbara
Tim Garman	Shasta
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Mitch Mashburn	Solano
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Angel Barajas	Yolo

\*Attendance via Zoom

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Consent Agenda – ACTION**

- a. **June 24, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**
- b. **GSCA Resolution TC007-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **Adoption of GSCA Local Debt Policy**

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County items. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”**

### **Program Update**

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided a program update, including status of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic development Administration grant application, clarification on the Local Agency Technical Assistance program, and progress of the open-access municipal broadband network. Ms. Hayes also discussed current priorities, including funding opportunities for broadband.

Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President, provided an update on the GSCA-UTOPIA Fiber Operations Agreement, and continued communication on GSCA's financing prospects.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors at 2:31 p.m.



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Arthur J. Wylene, RCRC General Counsel  
**Date:** September 6, 2022  
**Re:** GSCA Resolution TC008-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 – **ACTION**

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### **Summary**

The proposed resolution will allow the current GSCA Board meeting to be held primarily in-person at the GSCA offices, while still permitting full remote participation for those members who are unable to attend in person, or prefer to participate virtually.

### **Background**

Meetings of the GSCA Board are subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Brown Act has traditionally placed significant restrictions on teleconferenced meetings, including requiring that each teleconference location be accessible to the public (i.e., participation of members from homes or private offices has not been permitted).

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued a series of Executive Orders temporarily suspending the restrictions on teleconferenced meetings, under which most meetings of RCRC-affiliated legislative bodies have been conducted during the last year-and-a-half. These Executive Orders terminated on September 30, 2021. In their place, the Legislature has enacted Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas), which permits legislative bodies to continue holding teleconferenced meetings without the traditional Brown Act restrictions (through December 2023) under any of the following circumstances:

- (A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.*
- (B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.*
- (C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.*

To continue holding teleconferenced meetings in the manner to which members have become accustomed, each RCRC-affiliated legislative body will need to make one of the determinations required by Assembly Bill 361. The "imminent risk" determinations are factually supportable, as the continued rates of transmission of the COVID-19 virus,

including the Omicron variant, can indeed present imminent risks to the health and safety of some in-person attendees, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions.

If the proposed resolution making these determinations is approved, the current GSCA Board meeting may be held as a remote and hybrid in-person/remote meeting, in substantially the same manner as previous meetings during the past 18 months. (Assembly Bill 361 includes several additional requirements for teleconferenced meetings, including providing an opportunity for “real time” public comment, and suspending the meeting in the event that remote connectivity is lost; however, these are all consistent with RCRC's existing practices.)

Assembly Bill 361 generally requires that the requisite determinations must be reconsidered every thirty days. Since GSCA Board meetings typically will not occur that frequently, a new resolution making these determinations will be required at the start of each meeting.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that proposed Resolution Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 be approved.

### **Attachment**

- Proposed GSCA Resolution TC008-22



**GSCA RESOLUTION NO. TC008-22**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING REMOTE AND HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE GSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

WHEREAS, Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of GSCA's legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the "reopening" of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the continued rates of transmission of the virus and variants causing COVID-19 within GSCA member counties are such that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of some attendees of public meetings, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has considered the current circumstances of the state of emergency, and determined that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Golden State Connect Authority as follows:

1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.
2. A proclaimed state of emergency exists and as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of some attendees, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions.
3. The Board of Directors is hereby authorized and directed to conduct open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
4. This Resolution is intended to enable the Board of Directors to meet via teleconference in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 of 2021 (Statutes 2021, Chapter 165), whether solely by teleconference or via a "hybrid" combination of physical location and teleconference.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective for a period of thirty (30) days thereafter, unless extended pursuant to Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3). Expiration of this resolution shall not prejudice any subsequent action to adopt another resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) during the present or any future state of emergency.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Golden State Connect Authority, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

I certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of Resolution TC008-22, approved by the Board of Directors of the Golden State Connect Authority on September 16, 2022 in Napa, California.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer  
**Date:** September 6, 2022  
**Re:** Adoption of the Revised 2022 GSCA Meeting Schedule – **ACTION**

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**Summary**

This memo highlights the revised 2022 meeting schedule for the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA).

**Issue**

Attached please find the revised 2022 meeting schedule of the GSCA Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

If any of the scheduled meetings prove not to be necessary to conduct the business needs of the organization, the meeting may be cancelled. GSCA will keep the GSCA Members apprised of any potential changes as the year progresses.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the GSCA Board of Directors approve the revised 2022 GSCA Meeting schedule as proposed.

**Attachment**

- Revised GSCA 2022 Meeting Calendar



## GSCA 2022 Meeting Calendar 9:00 a.m.

January 2022

*Friday, January 21, 2022*

*GSCA Executive Committee*

via Zoom

February 2022

*Friday, February 25, 2022*

*GSCA Executive Committee*

via Zoom

March 2022

*Friday, March 25, 2022*

*GSCA Board Meeting*

via Zoom

April 2022

*Friday, April 29, 2022*

*GSCA Executive Committee*

via Zoom

June 2022

*Friday, June 24, 2022*

*GSCA Board Meeting*

via Zoom

July 2022

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

*GSCA Executive Committee*

via Zoom

August 2022

*Wednesday, August 17, 2022*

*GSCA Board Meeting*

via Zoom

September 2022

*Friday, September 16, 2022*

*GSCA Board Meeting*

*Napa County/via Zoom*

October 2022

*Friday, October 28, 2022*

*GSCA Executive Committee*

via Zoom

December 2022

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

*GSCA Board Meeting*

*Sacramento/via Zoom*





**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer  
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President  
**Date:** September 6, 2022  
**Re:** Broadband Program Update

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**SUMMARY**

An update on the Golden State Connect Authority program of work will be provided.

**BACKGROUND**

**US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant**

A grant for development of broadband strategic plans for 27 member counties and two Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) was submitted on September 3, 2021, to the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) by Golden State Connect Authority affiliate, Golden State Finance Authority. Notification was received on August 23, 2022, that the grant was approved.

An update on next steps and anticipated project timelines will be presented.

**Local Agency Technical Assistance Program**

The Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) program established under SB 156 to assist local governments (among the eligible applicants) to prepare for and advance broadband deployment in their communities, opened the application window on August 1, 2022. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a monthly basis, until program funds are depleted. It is anticipated that the program may be greatly oversubscribed within the first or second funding rounds, August and September respectively. Program resources and application can be found on the CPUC program webpage ([Local Agency Technical Assistance](#)).

An update on the first round of funding (August 2022) will be provided.

**Advancement of Open Access Municipal Broadband Network**

An update will be provided on progress toward further solidification of GSCA technical and operational partners:

- Tilson Technology Management
- UTOPIA Fiber

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action is recommended.