



Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday
September 22, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940

**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
The Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940**

**Additional Teleconference Location(s) are Listed on the
Last Page of this Agenda**

(All Teleconference Locations are Accessible to the Public)

This meeting will also be livestreamed for public access. Members of the public can 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/81951077253>

Enter Password: 821109

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:

Dial +1 (669) 444-9171

Enter meeting ID: 819 5107 7253

Enter password: 821109

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 before or during the meeting. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all GSCA Board of Directors members.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County

Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

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.

4. Consent Agenda – ACTION

a. July 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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b. Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Update

Page 5

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate

**c. Resolution 23-03 Delegating Certain Responsibilities in
Administering the California Environmental Quality Act**

Page 7

Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director

5. GSCA Chair’s Report

Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County

6. Program Updates

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer

Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President

a. GSCA Program Update

7. 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>

Additional Teleconference Location(s)

Mendocino County 778 S. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437	212 South Main Street, Suite 206 Templeton, CA 93465
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**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023 - 12:30 p.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

GSCA Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, presided. Present were Executive Director Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and RCRC Director of Board Operations Maggie Chui, clerk. GSCA Chair Garamendi called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Rex Bohn
Matt Kingsley*
Rusty Robinson
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Ted Williams*
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Angela Curro
Bob Nelson
Tim Garman
Lee Adams
Nancy Ogren*
Bill Moule
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Gary Bradford

County

Alpine
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Humboldt
Inyo
Kings
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Napa
Nevada
Placer
San Benito
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou
Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Thomas Arnold	Glenn
Michael Kelley	Imperial
EJ Crandell	Lake
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Kevin Goss	Plumas
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Mitch Mashburn	Solano
James Gore	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter
Angel Barajas	Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **May 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Proposed 2023 GSCA Revised Operating Budget**

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

Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Darrin Short, Del Norte County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

GSCA Chair’s Report

GSCA Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, welcomed supervisors to the July GSCA Board of Directors meeting, and praised staff on GSCA’s ongoing efforts.

Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Update

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate, provided a legislative and regulatory advocacy update regarding broadband budget deferrals in the State Budget, continued efforts to implement the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, a status update on the Federal Funding Account and anticipated grant awards, and the California Advanced Services Fund’s Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund proposed process. Ms. Rhine also provided a brief update on Assembly Bill 662 (Boerner), which would constrain the California Public Utilities Commission’s implementation of expected BEAD Program funding.

GSCA Program Update

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an overview of GSCA's approved program of work, including an update on the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program and its progress, conceptual network design areas, as well as ongoing initiatives to identify and finance projects.

Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President, discussed continuing discussions with investors, and a review of financial policies.

Adjournment

GSCA Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors at 1:29 p.m.



To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate
Date: September 12, 2023
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Update

Summary

This memo provides an update on legislative and regulatory activities related to telecommunication policy.

Regulatory Activity

RCRC is engaged in numerous telecommunication related Proceedings at the CPUC. The following is a summarization of those issues before the CPUC.

Carrier of Last Resort Obligation Relinquishment

On April 3rd, RCRC responded to an Application by AT&T for “targeted relief” of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations, in unspecified locations. While AT&T indicates few remote rural customers will be affected, AT&T did not identify the location or total number of customers affected. RCRC objected to AT&T’s request on several grounds, including that it is 1) premature to grant COLR relief without first establishing minimum service quality standards for non-wireline telephone services, 2) Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), fixed and mobile wireless are insufficient voice alternatives to Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) customers as currently regulated, 3) AT&T’s desired transition timeline is too aggressive to transition existing customers to new services, and 4) AT&T’s request to streamline future relief will result in less public scrutiny and should be rejected. RCRC is concerned with COLR relief *preceding* investments that would close the digital divide and expand quality broadband availability equitably across the state, but especially in low-income, rural and tribal counties. Alternative voice services do not provide wireline customers with equivalent service quality protections, such as continuous access to 9-1-1. RCRC submitted comments in opposition to AT&T’s application for relief on June 30, 2023.

On August 3rd, RCRC and other parties informed the CPUC in a prehearing conference the concerns with AT&T’s amended Application for “targeted” COLR relief, primarily that the negative effects far outweigh any of AT&T’s perceived benefits. AT&T does not propose a replacement COLR, but instead has identified what it considers as voice alternatives, which do not have consistent regulatory treatment or service quality standards of legacy POTS, nor is there any guarantee that a customer receive service. In the coming weeks, the Commission will determine the scope of issues to arbitrate this application, including whether to provide a streamlined process to terminate COLR service in the future, and how affected customers will be notified of this Application (among other things).

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Proceeding

On April 20th, RCRC submitted a formal motion to participate in a new proceeding to implement the BEAD Program, created by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. On June 26, 2023, the White House held an event to announce the state distribution amounts of the \$42.45 billion available nationwide. California will receive \$1.8 billion in BEAD funding, estimated to be available for award mid-2024.

The BEAD program directs the state to first prioritize projects to service unserved locations determined by FCC National Broadband maps, then underserved locations, and then projects connecting eligible community anchor institutions that lack access to gigabit-level broadband service, such as schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities. Through this proceeding, the CPUC is seeking input to develop rules where they have the discretion to do so, such as criteria to ultimately select subgrantees. RCRC submitted Opening Comments in response to the CPUC's Order Instituting Rulemaking on July 21, 2023. Additionally, the CPUC opened a proceeding to receive public comment on its BEAD Five-Year Action plan to provide reliable, affordable, high-speed internet service throughout California. On August 6th, RCRC filed comments as part of the California Alliance for Digital Equity (CADE). The CPUC submitted its final Five-Year Action Plan to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on August 27th and must submit a complete plan for implementing BEAD in California by the end of the year.

California Advanced Services Fund

The California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) provides financial grants to qualified service providers to construct broadband infrastructure needed to deploy high speed internet service in unserved and underserved areas. This proceeding is currently focused on the \$750 million (current funding level of \$175 million) Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund (LLR). On June 21, 2023, the CPUC released a revised staff proposal, which sets forth a framework for project funding through the LLR program. The staff proposal outlines two possible funding mechanisms, one of which will allow an eligible entity to be awarded the equivalent of up to 100 percent of the bond principal. The "tranche" offering includes two pathways for applications: a "General Market" track and "Equity" track. The Equity track is restricted to projects where three fourths or more of the project area is within a "priority community," defined by the FFA eligible Disadvantage Communities and Low-Income Areas. Funding available is split between each track over three rounds per year. Projects are primarily prioritized by those applicants requesting the lowest amount of coverage. Staff plans to submit comments on the revised staff proposal July 10, 2023, and Reply Comments on July 20, 2023.



To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors
From: Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director
Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Date: September 12, 2023
Re: Resolution 23-03: Delegating Certain Responsibilities in Administering the California Environmental Quality Act – **ACTION**

BACKGROUND

On August 16, 2023, the GSCA Executive Committee adopted Resolution 23-02, authorizing the Executive Director to apply for and accept state and federal financial assistance for GSCA's proposed broadband infrastructure projects. This authorization was provided due to the tight timelines to apply for the California Public Utilities Commission's Federal Fund Account (FFA)/Last Mile program, which would not allow for timely review and approval by the full GSCA Board or Executive Committee.

Staff is presently performing a structured evaluation to identify broadband infrastructure projects within GSCA member counties that are financially viable and otherwise meet GSCA's policy goals. The results of this evaluation will form the basis for FFA applications which must be submitted by the end of September. Staff will consult with the three Board Chairs (RCRC, GSFA, and GSCA) before making these determinations, and will report these selections to the GSCA Board or Executive Committee at the next regular meeting.

GSCA is the "lead agency" responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with respect to broadband projects that it proposed to construct and operate. During the FFA application process, it has become apparent that GSCA may be required to take certain steps under CEQA in order to apply for and/or obtain the requested funding – such as approving and filing Notices of Exemption for those projects that are categorically exempt from CEQA review.

The state's CEQA Guidelines (Section 15025) authorize GSCA to delegate certain functions to staff, including determining whether a project is exempt and filing appropriate notices. The proposed resolution would assign those functions to the Executive Director with respect to any project for which funding is requested. This will allow staff to timely take all steps necessary to complete and submit the applications for FFA funding. As with Resolution 23-02, the authority provided by this proposed resolution will expire on January 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that proposed Resolution Delegating Certain Responsibilities in Administering the California Environmental Quality Act be approved.

Attachments

- Proposed GSFA Resolution 23-03
- GSCA Executive Committee's Resolution 23-02 Memo (Dated August 8, 2023)

GSCA RESOLUTION NO. 23-03

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY DELEGATING CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADMINISTERING THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-02, the Executive Director has been granted authority to apply for and accept state and federal financial assistance for certain broadband infrastructure projects on behalf of Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA); and

WHEREAS, GSCA is the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with respect to broadband infrastructure projects acquired, constructed, improved, and maintained by GSCA; and

WHEREAS, commencement or completion of the CEQA process may be required in order for GSCA to apply for and accept state and federal financial for such broadband infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15025 authorizes delegation to staff of certain responsibilities in administering the CEQA process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Golden State Connect Authority that the Executive Director is hereby assigned all of the following functions in connection with any broadband infrastructure project for which financial assistance is sought or obtained under Resolution No. 23-02:

- (1) Determining whether a project is exempt.
- (2) Conducting an Initial Study and deciding whether to prepare a draft EIR or Negative Declaration.
- (3) Preparing a Negative Declaration or EIR.
- (4) Determining that a Negative Declaration has been completed within a period of 180 days.
- (5) Preparing responses to comments on environmental documents.
- (6) Filing of notices.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the authorization provided by this Resolution shall expire on January 31, 2024, and shall thereafter be of no further force or effect.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Golden State Connect Authority, the 22nd day of September 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Golden State Connect Authority

2023 Chair of the Board

I certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of GSCA Resolution No. 23-03, approved by the governing board of the Golden State Connect Authority on September 22, 2023 in Monterey, California.

Date: September 22, 2023

Secretary



To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President
Date: August 8, 2023
Re: Resolution No. 23-02: Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept State and Federal Financial Assistance for Broadband Infrastructure Projects

BACKGROUND

The Federal Fund Account (FFA)/Last Mile program was created under SB 156 in July 2021. Two billion dollars was allocated, split \$1 billion for rural counties and \$1 billion for urban counties, to fund last mile broadband deployment resulting in a minimum 100/100 Mbps service to unserved/underserved areas of California. While allocated on a county basis, eligible applicants for the FFA/Last Mile program include internet service providers and network administrators that will be deploying infrastructure within specific counties. *FFA/Last Mile dollars do not flow to or through counties unless they are actively engaged in providing internet service or administering networks.*

GSCA will be reviewing the GSCA-partner LATA awardees high level designs with the GSCA External Finance Team and RCRC Internal Broadband Team to determine project area financial and technical feasibility. The following is the schedule of activities that will culminate in completion and submittal of FFA/Last Mile program applications for GSCA project areas:

August 2 & 3

Meet with External Finance Team (Underwriters, Financial Advisor, Bond Counsel, UTOPIA Fiber) to review and validate financial stack components (bond, grant, other sources of financing) to identify potential project areas for GSCA to deploy open access network.

August 9

Meet with RCRC Internal Broadband Team to review financial analysis and evaluation process.

Week of August 14

Concurrently:

- Communicate with member counties and cities therein to confirm desire to partner with GSCA for deployment of open access broadband network in their communities.
- Begin loading applicant information into FFA/Last Mile program applicant tool for selected project areas. Applications will be completed, but not submitted.

- Together with Operations Partner, UTOPIA Fiber, begin work on narrative and budget portion of FFA/Last Mile applications.

August 16

GSCA Executive Committee Meeting – Review the factors that will be used to determine financial and technical feasibility of project areas for GSCA open access network. Request action by GSCA Executive Committee to delegate decision-making authority to Executive Director to approve any, all, or some project area applications to the FFA/Last Mile Program.

August 17 – September 15

Complete local government meetings to ascertain local desire to partner with GSCA for open-access broadband deployment and complete and submit FFA/Last Mile applications.

September 29

Close of FFA/Last Mile application window.

Due to the tight timelines to apply for FFA/Last Mile funding (and other financial assistance programs for broadband projects), it is recommended that the Executive Director be authorized to approve and submit such applications on GSCA's behalf, and take any other steps necessary to secure financial assistance for these projects. The attached resolution would provide that authorization.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that proposed Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply For and Accept State and Federal Financial Assistance for Broadband Infrastructure Projects be approved.

Attachment

- Proposed GSCA Resolution 23-02



To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors
From: Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President
Date: September 12, 2023
Re: GSCA Program Update

BACKGROUND

When the legislature unanimously passed and the Governor signed SB 156 into law in July 2021, four programs were created and funded with an allocation of \$6 billion. The four programs included:

State Open Access Middle Mile Program	\$3.2 billion
Federal Fund Account (FFA)/Last Mile Program	\$2.0 billion
Loan Loss Reserve Fund	\$750 million
Local Agency Technical Assistance Program \$	\$50 million

In partnership with thirty-one member counties and 7 cities within these member counties that opted to participate, staff assisted in the completion and submittal of Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grants. Each of the thirty-eight grants submitted received a \$500,000 award that would be used to develop network designs and financial feasibility analysis focusing on priority project areas within their jurisdiction. The work is to be completed in a three-step process:

1. Conceptual Design (*Complete*) – gather complete address inventory across jurisdiction and design (desktop engineering) fiber broadband infrastructure to every address. Using industry assumptions and experience, develop build cost model and associated bill of materials. This step provides the foundation for future Steps 2 & 3.
2. Refined High Level Design and Financial Feasibility (*Complete*) – with input from awardee and CPUC/FCC data, determine project priority area across jurisdiction that include unserved/under served areas. The resulting High Level Design package includes detailed, refined network design (desktop engineering) for identified project areas and corresponding financial analysis for identified polygons/project areas.
3. Low Level Design and Financial Feasibility – with input from awardee, approximately 40 miles of priority project areas will receive low level network design (on-the-ground engineering) that will result in construction-ready network design to every address in the selected project area, complete with list of associated permits by agency, timelines, and costs, as well as final financial feasibility analysis, build cost model, and bill of materials.

Note: In early August, Santa Barbara County joined the GSCA-partner LATA awardee group. Refined High Level Designs and Financial Feasibility was conducted on priority

project areas within the jurisdiction. This brought the number of GSCA-partner LATA awardees conducting network design to thirty-two member counties and 7 cities within these member counties.

At present, each of the awardees has progressed through the Refined High-Level Design and Financial Feasibility phase. Staff has used the technical and financial outputs of this phase to develop a financial model that includes analysis of bonding capacity for each of the selected project areas within an awardee's jurisdiction and the corresponding identification of the amount of grant funding needed to meet the project area build cost.

With this information, staff then evaluated a series of project areas within each awardee's jurisdiction to determine "viable" project areas for financing and deployment of GSCA's open-access municipal broadband network. In order to be determined "viable", evaluation of individual and collective project areas within a jurisdiction were reviewed for the following factors:

- Located adjacent to the state's Phase 1: Open-Access Middle Mile project. Phase 1 denotes Middle Mile project areas that the state has the budget to construct, lease, or purchase open-access Middle Mile infrastructure. (Noted on FFA/Last Mile Public Map)
- Prioritize project areas by individual awardee (jurisdiction) that include 75% of Low Income Designated Areas, as defined by areas where household income is less than 80% of the median household income for that county/city. (Noted on FFA/Last Mile Public Map)
- Include CPUC unserved addresses. (Noted on FFA/Last Mile Public Map)
- Remain under the FFA/Last Mile allocation for projects within a county.
- With input from awardee and/or CPUC Regional Consortia, avoid project areas that are covered with quality infrastructure (fiber) and provide reliable access to residents and businesses.
- Within awardee jurisdictions or neighboring jurisdictions, consider clustering of project areas to ensure efficient and effective construction phasing.
- Within awardee jurisdictions or neighboring jurisdictions, consider "remoteness" of project areas as related to GSCA ability to provide maintenance over long-term.

Together with expertise from project consultants, Tilson Technology and UTOPIA Fiber, and with input from awardees, GSCA project areas were identified. In August, each awardee received an email from staff identifying the selected polygon/project areas for their jurisdiction and asking for a "Reply" email indicating that they would either like GSCA to proceed with completing and submitting an FFA/Last Mile grant application that would include the identified polygon/project areas, or that they would prefer GSCA not complete and submit an application within their jurisdiction.

As of August 28, 2023, staff have received thirty-seven emails indicating a desire for GSCA to proceed with completing an FFA/Last Mile grant application for funding of proposed project areas within their jurisdictions, and two emails from member counties declining GSCA's offer to complete and submit an application for FFA/last mile funding within their jurisdictions. (In declining cases: 1.) a private ISP is filing an FFA/Last Mile grant application to significantly expand an existing presence,

and 2.) a formal ISP solicitation process was undertaken earlier this summer to identify potential partners for FFA/Last Mile grants.)

As of September 11, 2023, thirty Letters of Support have been received from the thirty-seven jurisdictions represented by GSCA FFA/Last Mile applications. It is anticipated that Letters of Support will be received from all thirty-seven jurisdictions before the final grant submittal date of September 29, 2023.

FFA/Last Mile grant details by individual jurisdiction can be seen on the Attachment, but collectively GSCA will be filing thirty-seven individual grant applications totaling an approximate request of \$859.3 million in FFA/Last Mile grant program funds on behalf of projects across member counties. The associated bondable portion of these projects is expected to be approximately \$475 million, bringing the potential total GSCA broadband infrastructure investment to \$1.335 billion.

It is anticipated that there will be competition for the FFA/Last Mile funds. While staff is working closely with Tilson Technology and UTOPIA Fiber to assemble the most complete and compelling applications, simply applying for the funds does not guarantee an award, and does not represent a commitment to proceed with the project.

Similarly, the bond component for each project area contemplates use of the CPUC Loan Loss Reserve Program to reduce the cost of borrowing to affordable levels. It is anticipated that the CPUC will complete the rule-making process for this program in Q4 2023 or Q1 2024. Assuming the program operates as anticipated, GSCA will apply for \$1 of Loan Loss Reserve for every dollar of principle issued via bonds.

In the 2023/24 California State Budget, the \$750 million originally intended for the Loan Loss Reserve Program was reduced to \$175 million in the current year, with the remaining balance (\$575 million) being deferred to future years. It is anticipated that GSCA would apply for Loan Loss Reserve program funds, as needed, up to but not exceeding the amounts contemplated for the current (2023/24) state fiscal year, \$175 million, and the upcoming (2024/25) state fiscal year, \$225 million, bringing the anticipated total Loan Loss Reserve amount available in the near term to \$400 million.

On August 16, 2023, the GSCA Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 23-02, authorizing the Executive Director to apply for and accept state and federal financial assistance for GSCA's proposed broadband infrastructure projects. This authorization was provided due to the tight timelines to apply for the California Public Utilities Commission's Federal Fund Account (FFA)/Last Mile program, which may not allow for timely review and approval by the full GSCA Board or Executive Committee should there be last minute adjustments to GSCA applications that are needed. Additionally, the Resolution included a required consultation with the three Board Chairs (RCRC, GSFA, and GSCA) before making a final decision on FFA/Last Mile applications, and provided that the final selections will be reported to and endorsed by the GSCA Board of Directors or Executive Committee at the next regular meeting.

The required consultation with the three Board Chairs will take place on Monday, September 18, 2023, and a full report of the FFA/Last Mile applications will be provided

to the GSCA Executive Committee for endorsement at the first meeting after the applications are submitted, i on October 18, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is needed. Information item.

ATTACHMENTS

- GSCA Resolution No. 23-02
- GSCA FFA/Last Mile Grant Application Information by Jurisdiction

GSCA RESOLUTION NO. 23-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) is a joint powers authority organized and existing under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, under Government Code section 26231 and that certain *Golden State Connect Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement* (GSCA JPA), GSCA is authorized to establish and operate programs and projects to facilitate provision and expansion of broadband internet access service in rural communities, and to acquire, construct, improve, and maintain broadband infrastructure and operate broadband internet access service; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of California operate multiple programs that provide financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of broadband infrastructure projects, including the California Public Utilities Commission Federal Funding Account, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund, California Advanced Services Fund, and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; and

WHEREAS, GSCA is presently performing a structured evaluation to identify potential broadband infrastructure projects within GSCA member counties that are financially viable and otherwise meet GSCA's policy goals; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that many of these potential projects may require some amount of federal or state financial assistance to ensure financial viability; and

WHEREAS, under Section 10.b.1 of the GSCA JPA, the GSCA Executive Committee may exercise all powers of the Board as necessary to conduct the business and affairs of GSCA between Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, because specific deadlines relating to the application process and other requirements associated with state and federal financial assistance programs do not always allow for timely review and approval by the GSCA Board or the GSCA Executive Committee, the Executive Committee desires to authorize said the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to apply for and accept such financial assistance on behalf of GSCA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Golden State Finance Authority as follows:

1. The Executive Director or their designee is authorized to take all actions necessary to apply for, accept, and administer financial assistance from the federal government or State of California for the acquisition, construction, operation, and/or maintenance of broadband infrastructure projects located within one or more of GSCA's member

counties. Such financial assistance may include, but is not limited to, funding under the California Public Utilities Commission Federal Funding Account, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund, California Advanced Services Fund, and/or Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

2. The Executive Director or their designee is further authorized to negotiate, execute, and deliver any contracts and agreements, and amendments thereto, and to otherwise act on GSCA's behalf in all matters necessary to obtain and administer such financial assistance.
3. The Executive Director or their designee is further authorized, for and in the name and on behalf of GSCA, to do any and all things and take any and all actions and execute and deliver any and all certificates, agreements, assignments, notes and other documents which they may deem necessary or advisable in order to consummate the matters contemplated by this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of Golden State Connect Authority, the 16th day of August 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Golden State Connect Authority

2023 Chair of the Board

I certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of GSCA Resolution No. 23-02, approved by the governing board of the Golden State Connect Authority on August 16, 2023 in Sacramento, California.

Date: August 16, 2023

Secretary

GSCA Project Area Finance Components - FFA/Last Mile and Bond

	Awardee Notified	Accepted	Project Area Total	MM Extension	MM Const.	Admin 2%	Total FFA Request	FFA Available	Bond Portion
ALPINE	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 6,433,998	\$ 300,000		\$ 134,680	\$ 6,868,678	\$ 6,989,054	\$ 3,130,000
AMADOR	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 55,518,135	\$ 300,000		\$ 1,116,363	\$ 56,934,498	\$ 57,203,182	\$ 10,175,000
BUTTE	23-Aug	25-Aug	\$ 1,912,204	\$ 50,000		\$ 39,244	\$ 2,001,448	\$ 19,200,702	\$ 710,000
OROVILLE	23-Aug	5-Sep	\$ 7,556,156	\$ 300,000		\$ 157,123	\$ 8,013,279	Same	\$ 36,735,000
CALAVERAS	23-Aug	25-Aug	\$ 24,642,804	\$ 550,000	\$ 3,625,000	\$ 576,356	\$ 29,394,160	\$ 30,803,504	\$ 9,365,000
COLUSA	23-Aug	29-Aug	\$ 3,729,632	\$ 300,000		\$ 80,593	\$ 4,110,225	\$ 28,949,944	\$ 1,980,000
DEL NORTE	23-Aug	8-Sep	\$ 8,754,372	\$ 350,000		\$ 182,087	\$ 9,286,459	\$ 10,289,691	\$ 16,785,000
GLENN	23-Aug	29-Aug	\$ 19,313,604	\$ 400,000		\$ 394,272	\$ 20,107,876	\$ 22,367,953	\$ 7,215,000
IMPERIAL	23-Aug	30-Aug	\$ 11,863,675	\$ 500,000		\$ 247,274	\$ 12,610,949	\$ 13,953,151	\$ 9,785,000
KINGS	23-Aug	30-Aug	\$ 35,770,393	\$ 350,000		\$ 722,408	\$ 36,842,801	\$ 37,686,606	\$ 21,595,000
LAKE	23-Aug	30-Aug	\$ 27,650,442	\$ 100,000		\$ 555,009	\$ 28,305,451	\$ 28,435,066	\$ 19,375,000
LASSSEN	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 16,145,353	\$ 300,000		\$ 328,907	\$ 16,774,260	\$ 24,906,799	\$ 2,560,000
SUSANVILLE	23-Aug	25-Aug	\$ 6,433,985	\$ 200,000		\$ 132,680	\$ 6,766,665	Same	\$ 13,570,000
MARIPOSA	23-Aug	29-Aug	\$ 29,981,169	\$ 400,000		\$ 607,623	\$ 30,988,792	\$ 40,840,910	\$ 9,890,000
MENDOCINO	8-Sep	9-Sep	\$ 50,229,891	\$ 600,000		\$ 1,016,598	\$ 51,846,489	\$ 57,430,812	\$ 25,365,000
MERCED	23-Aug	DECLINED							
MODOC	8-Sep	12-Sep	\$ 19,100,666	\$ 400,000		\$ 390,013	\$ 19,890,679	\$ 23,143,741	\$ 3,950,000
MONO	23-Aug	5-Sep	\$ 5,655,033	\$ 300,000		\$ 119,101	\$ 6,074,134	\$ 10,598,618	\$ 4,090,000
MAMMOTH LAKES	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 3,976,484	\$ 100,000		\$ 81,530	\$ 4,158,014	Same	\$ 36,970,000
MONTEREY	8-Sep	29-Aug	\$ 3,775,358	\$ 150,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 79,107	\$ 4,034,465	\$ 17,276,545	\$ 2,915,000
GONZALES	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 2,682,959	\$ 100,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 56,259	\$ 2,869,218	Same	\$ 5,725,000
GREENFIELD	23-Aug	11-Sep	\$ 3,127,511	\$ 100,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 65,150	\$ 3,322,661	Same	\$ 11,725,000
SOLEDAD	23-Aug	25-Aug	\$ 3,590,029	\$ 100,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 74,401	\$ 3,794,430	Same	\$ 11,950,000
KING CITY	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 2,859,387	\$ 100,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 59,788	\$ 3,049,175	Same	\$ 9,265,000
NEVADA	8-Sep	12-Sep	\$ 72,681,302	\$ 550,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 1,467,126	\$ 74,823,428	\$ 74,866,197	\$ 21,165,000
PLUMAS	25-Aug	11-Sep	\$ 38,592,365	\$ 300,000		\$ 777,847	\$ 39,670,212	\$ 42,282,567	\$ 7,885,000
SAN BENITO	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 8,965,500	\$ 300,000		\$ 185,310	\$ 9,450,810	\$ 10,436,025	\$ 12,745,000
SAN LUIS OBISPO	23-Aug	28-Aug	\$ 19,763,698	\$ 400,000		\$ 403,274	\$ 20,566,972	\$ 22,346,936	\$ 31,280,000
SANTA BARBARA	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 6,516,400	\$ 300,000	\$ 8,700,000	\$ 310,328	\$ 15,826,728	\$ 15,870,746	\$ 13,970,000
SHASTA	23-Aug	28-Aug	\$ 28,981,008	\$ 300,000		\$ 585,620	\$ 29,866,628	\$ 32,441,786	\$ 16,945,000
SIERRA	23-Aug	28-Aug	\$ 3,739,398	\$ 150,000		\$ 77,788	\$ 3,967,186	\$ 12,506,375	\$ 1,570,000
SISKIYOU	23-Aug	29-Aug	\$ 44,425,244	\$ 400,000		\$ 896,505	\$ 45,721,749	\$ 45,789,155	\$ 15,380,000
SONOMA	23-Aug	30-Aug	\$ 18,614,728	\$ 200,000		\$ 376,295	\$ 19,191,023	\$ 19,233,509	\$ 3,130,000
SUTTER	23-Aug	24-Aug	\$ 19,819,638	\$ 150,000		\$ 399,393	\$ 20,369,031	\$ 20,397,544	\$ 16,560,000
TEHAMA	23-Aug	12-Sep	\$ 71,182,235	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,433,645	\$ 73,115,880	\$ 74,801,160	\$ 35,640,000
TULARE	23-Aug	DECLINED							
TUOLUMNE	25-Aug	25-Aug	\$ 13,402,073	\$ 400,000		\$ 276,041	\$ 14,078,114	\$ 15,546,864	\$ 10,110,000
YOLO	23-Aug	28-Aug	\$ 14,382,544	\$ 200,000		\$ 291,651	\$ 14,874,195	\$ 15,391,758	\$ 7,930,000
YUBA	25-Aug	8-Sep	\$ 34,450,807	\$ 300,000		\$ 695,016	\$ 35,445,823	\$ 39,372,153	\$ 5,585,000
			\$ 818,901,482	\$ 10,800,000	\$ 12,600,000	\$ 16,846,030	\$ 859,147,512	\$ 871,359,053	\$ 474,720,000

KEY:
 FFA/Last Mile Program Components
 Bond Proceeds

Awardee Notification - Date that awardee was notified of proposed project areas
Accepted - Date received email from awardee to proceed/decline with application
Project Area Total - Amount of FFA/Last Mile necessary for Last Mile construction
MM Extension - Contingency for MM connection if necessary to cross freeway or other hazard - State has not yet published Shapefiles denoting connection locations
MM Construction - MM construction is necessary to reach Last Mile project areas
Admin 2% - FFA/Last Mile grant program allows up to 2% of total grant request to be used for Administrative expenses
Total FFA/Last Mile Requested - Sum of preceding four columns
FFA Available - Amount of FFA/Last Mile funding allocated to fund projects in each county/cities therein
Bond Portion - The portion of the total project cost that is will be funded via bond proceeds to fund proposed project areas