



Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

**Friday
September 20, 2024
8:00 A.M.**

**The Double Tree by Hilton
Vineyard Ballroom
One Doubletree Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.
The Double Tree by Hilton
Vineyard Ballroom
One Doubletree Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

**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/89894468728>
Enter Password: 872201
2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:
Dial +1 (669) 444-9171
Enter meeting ID: 898 9446 8728
Enter password: 872201

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. 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.

3. Consent Agenda – ACTION

- a. **July 24, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Legislative and Regulatory Update**
Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate

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4. GSCA Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County

5. GSCA Annual Report

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer

6. 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 Seaside Conference Room 778 S. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437	Solano County County Administration Center 675 Texas Street - 6th Floor Fairfield, CA 94533
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**Golden State Connect Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 24, 2024 - 12:30 p.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum

GSCA Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, presided. Present were Executive Director Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and RCRC Director of Board Operations Maggie Chui, clerk. GSCA Vice Chair Griffith called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Doug Teeter
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Rusty Robinson
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Ted Williams*
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Kevin Crye
Lee Adams
Nancy Ogren*
Andy Vasquez*
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff*
Angel Barajas
Gary Bradford

County

Alpine
Butte
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Nevada
Placer
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou
Solano
Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yolo
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Anne Cottrell	Napa
Kevin Goss	Plumas
James Gore	Sonoma
Mike Ziegenmeyer	Sutter

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

a. May 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

GSCA Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not voting: Monterey County; Solano County

GSCA Chair’s Report

GSCA Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, welcomed supervisors to the July GSCA Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Griffith acknowledged the challenges associated with the recently passed state budget and funding for broadband, particularly the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) Loan Loss Reserve (LLR) program, but noted that the program escaped elimination and ultimately ended up in the Budget Act signed by the Governor with funding at the \$50 million level.

Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Update

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate, provided a legislative and regulatory advocacy update. On the regulatory front, Ms. Rhine provided a status update on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program. On the legislative front, Ms. Rhine reported on the State Budget Package concerning broadband, which allocated \$50 million to the CPUC’s LLR program.

Broadband Program Update

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided a program update. Ms. Hayes also provided an update on the Federal Fund Account (FFA)/Last Mile Program, the LLR program, and the Local Agency Technical Assistance Program.

Ms. Hayes highlighted that on July 11, 2024, GSCA was awarded \$13,834,949 for the GSCA Imperial County Broadband Network Project under the FFA/Last Mile Program. Additionally, GSCA's Alpine County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mono County FFA/Last Mile applications have received funding recommendations and are awaiting action from the CPUC. More awards are expected over the next few months as the CPUC announces awards on a rolling basis every other week.

Adjournment

GSCA Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors at 2:00 p.m.



To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate
Date: September 10, 2024
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update - **Informational Item**

Summary

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

Regulatory Activity

RCRC is engaged in broadband implementation activities at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Department of Technology (CDT).

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

RCRC is actively involved in the CPUC proceeding to implement the BEAD Program, created by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. California will receive \$1.8 billion in BEAD funding, estimated to be available for award mid-2025. 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.

The CPUC opened the BEAD Challenge process portal on July 8, 2024. The Challenge Process is the process for submitting data that a broadband serviceable location should or should not be designated as served, unserved, or underserved for the purpose of BEAD funding eligibility.



To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors
From: Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President
Date: September 10, 2024
Re: GSCA Annual Report

SUMMARY

A summary of the Golden State Connect Authority's (GSCA) 2024 accomplishments and plans for 2025 will be provided.

BACKGROUND

Over the course of the last year, GSCA affiliate Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) has overseen development and completion of 25 countywide broadband strategic plans, while GSCA has advanced network design work under 39 Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grants, submitted 37 Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile applications for funding requests totaling more than \$800 million, submitted 37 Loan Loss Reserve applications requesting more than \$400 million of the, then, \$750 million program funding, and successfully fought to restore \$50 million to the Loan Loss Reserve program after it was zeroed out in the Governor's May Revised Budget. All of this has only been possible because of the tremendous support of the GSCA Board and the local government broadband teams that have been formed in the last couple of years to take advantage of these opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Countywide Broadband Strategic Plans

In Spring 2024, work on 25 countywide broadband strategic plans was completed. The plans were funded, in part, by a \$3 million grant from the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and are designed to serve as a compendium of information on broadband – from terminology to existing infrastructure – to assist local government leaders as they engage in conversations about broadband for their communities. Each individual plan has been presented to the respective county.

Local Agency Technical Assistance Grants

Presently, work under all GSCA-partner LATA grants is in the final stage of completion. In all but a few cases, locations for huts that house the electronics of the broadband network have been identified, with invaluable assistance from local government broadband teams. The hut locations are required for completion of the low-level design engineering. Each completed low level design package under the GSCA-partner LATA grants will include comprehensive, shovel-ready engineering documents and equipment lists, as well as completed permit applications necessary for each individual project, ready

for submittal. It is anticipated that work under each of the 39 LATA grants will be complete by December 2024.

FFA Last Mile Grants

In June, the California Public Utilities Commission began making FFA Last Mile grant announcements. Currently, GSCA has received 4 awards under the FFA Last Mile program – Imperial, Alpine, and Mono counties, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Awards have also been made in an additional 15 GSCA member counties. In these 15 counties, awards have been primarily made to tribes, local governments, and local providers. (See attached tracking sheet)

Awards are announced in the form of Resolutions that contain staff recommendations. The Commission discusses and acts upon these Resolutions within 30+ days of their release at CPUC Voting Meetings.

Upcoming CPUC Voting Meetings in 2024:

September 26, 2024
October 17, 2024
November 7, 2024
December 5, 2024
December 19, 2024

GSCA has brought on a procurement and contracting specialist to work closely with UTOPIA Fiber on construction of the GSCA network. While UTOPIA Fiber has extensive experience in deployment of open access, last mile fiber networks, there are unique hurdles associated with building in California that UTOPIA Fiber has likely not encountered. Janet Adams, GSCA Procurement and Contracting Specialist, has extensive experience managing large public works projects in California.

Work with Golden State Net, Third-Party Administrator for the state middle mile network, and the California Department of Technology, manager of the state middle mile network, to identify points of interconnection and opportunities for joint builds as LATA low-level design is completed is on-going.

Loan Loss Reserve Program

GSCA submitted 37 of the 38 Loan Loss Reserve applications received by the CPUC.

With restoration of \$50 million in the Loan Loss Reserve Program when the Budget Act was signed at the end of June, GSCA is working closely with the CPUC Loan Loss Reserve program team to ensure that the value of these scarce dollars is maximized. By using program funds to support bond issuances for GSCA-awarded projects where need is highest, financials will be strengthened by the lower interest rates, and thereby lower debt service, provided with Loan Loss Reserve program securitization.

The first Resolution (T-17841) in a three-step Resolution process that will align LLR program dollars for award was passed by the CPUC Commissioners on September 12, 2024. It is anticipated that the two remaining Resolutions will be issued later this fall and winter, making Loan Loss Reserve dollars available for use in early 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

With Round 1 of FFA Last Mile awards estimated to be closing at the end of 2024 and the Loan Loss Reserve funding expected to be available in early 2025, the year ahead will be one where GSCA enters a new phase – that of securing bond financing and system deployment.

It is anticipated that the following efforts will be undertaken relative to initializing construction of the GSCA open access, last mile network:

- Issuance of Pre-Qualification and Bid Packages in selection of construction partner(s).
- Development of bond documents, marketing, and issuance of bonds
- Working closely with local governments in which GSCA has received an FFA Last Mile award to ensure project coordination and required permits are filed.
- Marketing of GSCA open access services within GSCA-awarded communities as construction commences.

In addition to network deployment, the following will take place:

- Preparation and application to FFA Last Mile - Round Two and California BEAD (Broadband Equity and Deployment) program.
 - FFA Last Mile - Round Two will include dollars remaining for infrastructure deployment projects in each county after Round One awards have been made – could be upwards of \$700 million
 - BEAD - \$1.86 billion the state will receive from the federal government under Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act for network deployment
- Implementation of digital equity grant(s), if awarded. GSCA will be applying for funds on behalf of 40 member counties for digital equity and literacy services, as defined by and implemented within each member county.

ATTACHMENT

- FFA Awards in GSCA Member Counties – Tracking Sheet

FFA Last Mile Awards In GSCA Member Counties
As of August 27, 2024

Member Counties	CPUC Resolution	Staff Recommend.	Commission Meeting	Awardee	Award	Balance Remaining
Imperial County	T-17826	7-Jun	11-Jul	GSCA	\$ 13,834,949	\$ 118,202
Lassen	T-17826	7-Jun	11-Jul	PST	\$ 14,567,629	\$ 10,339,170
Plumas	T-17826	7-Jun	11-Jul	PST	\$ 15,722,087	
	Ministerial	7-Jun	11-Jul	PST	\$ 16,748,652	\$ 9,811,828
Sierra	T-17829	7-Jun	11-Jul	PST	\$ 12,315,278	\$ 191,097
Alpine County	T-17833	28-Jun	22-Aug	GSCA	\$ 6,985,978	\$ 3,076
Modoc	T-17833	28-Jun	22-Aug	Tribe	\$ 23,900,190	\$ 31,051
Santa Barbara	T-17833	28-Jun	22-Aug	Tribe	\$ 4,707,693	\$ 11,163,053
Tulare	T-17833	28-Jun	22-Aug	Varcomm	\$ 10,055,847	
	T-17833	28-Jun	22-Aug	Comcast	\$ 26,577,050	\$ 8,495,528
Town of Mammoth Lakes	T-17835	22-Jul	22-Aug	GSCA	\$ 4,158,014	
Mono County	T-17835	22-Jul	22-Aug	GSCA	\$ 6,074,134	\$ 366,470
Nevada	T-17835	22-Jul	22-Aug	PST	\$ 8,061,025	
	T-17835	22-Jul	22-Aug	Banner Mt	\$ 6,679,247	\$ 60,125,926
Placer	T-17835	22-Jul	22-Aug	Foothills	\$ 23,752,674	\$ 6,504,136
<i>Mendocino</i>	<i>T-17839</i>	<i>8-Aug</i>	<i>12-Sep</i>	<i>Tribe</i>	<i>\$ 35,172,662</i>	
	T-17839	8-Aug	12-Sep	Ft. Bragg	\$ 10,300,000	
	T-17839	8-Aug	12-Sep	Ukiah	\$ 5,587,154	\$ 6,370,996
San Benito	T-17839	8-Aug	12-Sep	Hankins	\$ 10,436,024	\$ -
Sutter	T-17839	8-Aug	12-Sep	Comcast	\$ 13,804,241	\$ 6,593,313
Del Norte	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	Tribe	\$ 4,799,149	\$ -
Humboldt	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	Tribe	\$ 27,445,463	
	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	Vero	\$ 4,396,296	
	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	ATT	\$ 2,156,000	
	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	ATT	\$ 775,000	
	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	ATT	\$ 531,021	\$ 10,123,827

<i>Siskiyou</i>	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	Sisk. Tele.	\$ 11,730,137	\$ 34,059,018
<i>Multiple Counties (DN & Humboldt)</i>	T-17846	22-Aug	26-Sep	Tribe	\$ 19,602,036	\$ -
<i>El Dorado</i>	T-17845	22-Aug	26-Sep	Placerville	\$ 20,198,943	
	T-17845	22-Aug	26-Sep	County	\$ 4,692,838	
	T-17845	22-Aug	26-Sep	County	\$ 25,227,011	
	T-17845	22-Aug	26-Sep	County	\$ 30,766,152	
	T-17845	22-Aug	26-Sep	County	\$ 5,636,823	\$ 25,334,330

GSCA Awards

Recommendation Pending Commission Action

Italics
PST - Plumas Sierra Telecomm