



Executive Committee Meeting

**Wednesday
February 21, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

**1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, California 95814**

**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Executive Committee Meeting
February 21, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County
Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County
Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County
Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County
Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County

**Additional Teleconference Locations 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/82625225938>

Enter Password: 155717

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:

Dial +1 (669) 444-9171

Enter meeting ID: 826 2522 5938

Enter password: 155717

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 Executive Committee members.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras 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. November 8, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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- 5. **GSCA Financial Reports** (Discussion and possible action relative to)
Milena De Melo, RCRC Finance Director
 - a. **Budget v. Actual Report (Period Ended December 31, 2023)** **Page 5**

- 6. **Advocacy Update** **Page 9**
 - a. **Legislative and Regulatory Update**
Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate

- 7. **Business and Administrative Matters** (Discussion and possible action relative to)
Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President
 - a. **Overview of Broadband Infrastructure Project Approval and Implementation Timeline** **Page 11**
 - b. **Resolution No. 24-02: Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept Loan Loss Reserve Assistance for Broadband Infrastructure Projects – ACTION** **Page 13**

- 8. **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 Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee 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)

Santa Barbara County 511 E Lakeside Parkway, Suite 47 Santa Maria, CA 93455	
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**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Executive Committee Meeting
November 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County
Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County
Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County
Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County
Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

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 12:45 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
David Griffith*	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
EJ Crandell	Lake
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Bob Nelson	Santa Barbara

Absent

Chris Lopez	Monterey
Matt Kingsley	Inyo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

a. August 16, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Budget v. Actual Report (September 30, 2023)

Milena De Melo presented the GSCA Statement of Revenues and Expenses which provided a summary of the budget to actual comparison for the period ended September 30, 2023.

*Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, departed the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

GSCA 2024 Proposed Budget

Milena De Melo reviewed the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for GSCA.

Recommendations

It was recommended that the GSCA Executive Committee approve the following recommendations and direct the Executive Director and RCRC Finance Director to make the same recommendations to the GSCA Board of Directors.

1. Approve the attached proposed 2024 GSCA Operating Budget.
2. Consider and approve the contract service fee to RCRC in the amount of \$1,540,500 which includes a prorated amount of the salaries for RCRC personnel who provide services to GSCA through the contract for services with RCRC, including those of the RCRC President/CEO, RCRC Finance Director and RCRC Senior Vice President as well as a contribution from RCRC in the amount of \$1,231,050.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, motioned to approve the above-listed recommendations. Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Santa Barbara County

Report and Endorsement of Federal Funding Account/Last Mile Program Submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, presented GSCA’s recent submission of 37 Federal Funding Account (FFA)/Last Mile Program applications. In August 2023, the GSCA Executive Committee granted the Executive Director authority to apply and accept FFA/Last Mile Program funding due to tight timelines, bypassing formal approval from the GSCA Board of Directors or GSCA Executive Committee between regular meetings.

Recommendation

The GSCA Executive Committee was requested to review the information, and endorse the applications as provided in Resolution No. 23-02.

Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, motioned to approve the above-listed recommendation. Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Santa Barbara County

Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided a brief update on RCRC's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts, including California Public Utilities Commission's rulemaking process. Notably, the proposal for the implementation of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program was on November 7, 2023.

GSCA Program Updates

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, presented an update on GSCA's priorities, including the Local Agency Technical Assistance Program, the FFA/Last Mile Program, and the Loan Loss Reserve Program.

Adjournment

GSCA Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Executive Committee at 1:24 p.m.



To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Milena De Melo, RCRC Finance Director
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: Budget v. Actual Report (Period Ended December 31, 2023)

Summary

The Statement of Revenues and Expenses for GSCA provides a budget to actual comparison for the period ended December 31, 2023.

GSCA's expenditures exceeded revenues by \$176.6 thousand resulting in a \$176.6 thousand unfavorable variance from the December 2023 year-to-date budget. Items of significance include:

- A favorable variance of \$477.7 thousand from contributions from RCRC, as GSCA presently has no resources coming in to pay RCRC for the contract service fee. An unfavorable variance of \$14.6 million from LATA grant revenues driven by the timing of LATA work. This variance is offset by the favorable \$14.1 million variance for consulting expenditures related to this work.
- An unfavorable variance of \$107.3 thousand for computer licenses and network design software. In December 2022, GSCA purchased licenses for software that allow on-going access to all the broadband network design and engineering plans developed under the LATA grants. These costs will be reimbursed by LATA funds as part of GSCA's allocation from the grant funds for administering the grant.

Attachment

- Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Budget vs. Actual, for the Period Ended December 31, 2023

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY
Statement of Revenues and Expenses - Budget v Actual
For the period ended December 31, 2023

	2023 Revised Budget	Period ended December 31, 2023 Budget	Period ended December 31, 2023 Actual	Variance favorable / (unfavorable)	Percent favorable / (unfavorable)
Revenue:					
Contribution from RCRC	\$ 1,070,800	\$ 1,070,800	\$ 1,548,535	\$ 477,735	44.6%
Grant - Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA)	17,100,000	17,100,000	2,457,580	(14,642,420)	-85.6%
Total Revenue	\$ 18,170,800	\$ 18,170,800	\$ 4,006,115	\$ (14,164,685)	-78.0%
Expenditures:					
Accounting and auditing	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 500	6.7%
Bank fees	-	-	190	(190)	-100.0%
Computer hardware / software	55,000	55,000	162,250	(107,250)	0.0%
Consultants	-	-	1,050	(1,050)	100.0%
Consultants - LATA	16,560,000	16,560,000	2,457,580	14,102,420	200.0%
Contract support service fee	1,534,600	1,534,600	1,534,600	(0)	300.0%
Dues, fees & subscriptions	-	-	3,053	(3,053)	400.0%
Insurance	1,700	1,700	1,810	(110)	500.0%
Legal fees	-	-	2,058	(2,058)	600.0%
Printing and publications	-	-	303	(303)	700.0%
Rent	12,000	12,000	12,000	-	800.0%
Travel - LATA	-	-	147	(147)	900.0%
Travel - board member reimbursements	-	-	693	(693)	1000.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 18,170,800	\$ 18,170,800	\$ 4,182,733	\$ 13,988,067	77.0%
Net Revenues over Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (176,618)	\$ (176,618)	-100.0%



To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update

Summary

A verbal update on legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts will be provided at the GSCA Board of Directors meeting.



To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: Overview of Broadband Infrastructure Project Approval and
Implementation Timeline

SUMMARY

An overview of the broadband infrastructure project approval and implementation timeline will be presented. Additionally, a request for Executive Committee review and action on Resolution No. 24-02 that grants the Executive Director authority to apply for and accept state and federal financial assistance for broadband infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile Program

On September 27, 2023, GSCA submitted thirty-seven applications to the CPUC FFA Last Mile Program requesting grant funds to deploy open access, last mile, fiber networks in 30 member counties and seven cities/towns within member counties. CPUC FFA Last Mile program staff are currently reviewing and rating the 484 applications that were received. Per FFA Last Mile Program Guidelines, the CPUC has six months to review and make decisions on applications. The six-month review period will conclude at the end of June 2024.

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Loan Loss Reserve Program

CPUC program staff have indicated that the CPUC Loan Loss Reserve Program application period may open in March 2024. As such, GSCA is working closely with the External Finance Team (GSCA Financial Advisors, Bond Counsel, Tax Counsel, Underwriters, and Underwriter's Counsel) to prepare Loan Loss Reserve program applications. GSCA plans to submit thirty-seven Loan Loss Reserve applications – one for each of the thirty-seven FFA Last Mile applications submitted.

Given that the CPUC has not announced the opening of the Loan Loss Reserve program application period, nor when the application period will close, it is presently impossible to know that the opportunity for GSCA Board or Executive Committee review and approval of Loan Loss Reserve program applications will be possible prior to submittal. It is, therefore, requested that the Executive Committee grant the Executive Director the authority to apply for and accept program funds, as was similarly done under GSCA Resolution 23-02 for FFA Last Mile applications.

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 CPUC FFA Last Mile program, which would not allow for timely review and approval by the full GSCA Board or Executive Committee. Resolution 23-02 expired in accordance with its terms on January 31, 2024.

In light of the impending Loan Loss Reserve application window, which will present similarly tight timelines, staff recommends renewing and extending the authorization previously provided under Resolution 23-02 until January 31, 2025. (As with the original Resolution 23-02, the proposed new resolution includes a requirement that "[s]uch actions shall be reported to and endorsed by the GSCA Board or Executive Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting. As a matter of practice, the Executive Director shall convene a meeting of the Chair of RCRC, Chair of GSFA and Chair of GSCA to inform them of pending major actions and decisions.")

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

- GSCA Resolution No. 24-02

GSCA RESOLUTION NO. 24-02

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 has identified multiple potential broadband infrastructure projects within GSCA member counties that are financially viable and otherwise meet GSCA's policy goals; and

WHEREAS, 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, between regularly scheduled meetings when timeline does not allow for approval of either the GSCA Board or the Executive Committee. Such actions shall be reported to and endorsed by the GSCA Board or Executive Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting. As a matter of practice, the Executive Director shall convene a meeting of the Chair of RCRC, Chair of GSFA and Chair of GSCA to inform them of pending major actions and decisions;

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.
4. The authorization provided by this Resolution shall expire on January 31, 2025, and shall thereafter be of no further force or effect.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of Golden State Connect Authority, the 21st day of February 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Golden State Connect Authority

2024 Chair of the Board

I certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of GSCA Resolution No. 24-02, approved by the governing board of the Golden State Connect Authority on February 21, 2024 in Sacramento, California.

Date: February 21, 2024

Secretary