



**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)**

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Wednesday  
January 21, 2026  
11:00 A.M.**

**(or thereafter, as determined by the Chair)**

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



**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 21, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.**  
**1215 K Street, Suite 1650**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**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/82323466025>

Enter Password: 652643

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:

Dial +1 (669) 444-9171

Enter meeting ID: 823 2346 6025

Enter password: 652643

**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.

## **AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

*Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey 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**

<b>a. December 12, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>b. GSCA Resolution 26-01: GSCA Board Travel Policy</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<i>Milena De Melo, RCRC Finance Director</i>	
<b>c. Appointment of the GSCA 2026 Chair and Vice Chair; and</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Confirmation of the 2026 GSCA Executive Committee</b>	
<i>RCRC Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County</i>	
<i>Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director</i>	

**4. GSCA Chair's Report**

*Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County*

**a. Recognition of Service: Barbara Hayes****5. Advocacy Updates****a. Legislative and Regulatory Update**

*Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate*

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**6. Program Updates**

*Kyle Zimbelman, Operations Lead*

**a. Broadband Program Update**

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**7. GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project – ACTION**

*Kyle Zimbelman*

- a. Request approval of the plans and specifications for the GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project.
- b. Request authorization for the Executive Director or designee to advertise for bids for the project, with the bid opening to be held on April 13, 2026, in the GSCA Offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California.

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**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 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)**

Siskiyou County Siskiyou County Meeting Chambers 311 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Yreka, CA 96097	Mariposa County Mariposa County Government Center 5100 Bullion Street Floor 2, Administration Mariposa, CA 95338
Mendocino County Seaside Conference Room 778 S. Franklin Street Fort Bragg, CA. 95437	

**Golden State Connect Authority**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 10, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**1215 K Street, Suite 1650**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Determination of Quorum**

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. Vice Chair Griffith called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Bill Connelly	Butte
Amanda Folendorf	Calaveras
Daurice Smith	Colusa
Darrin Short	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Monica Rossman	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Jen Roeser	Inyo
Doug Verboon	Kings
EJ Crandell	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Rhonda Duggan	Mono
Anne Cottrell	Napa
Sue Hoek	Nevada
Shanti Landon	Placer
Tom McGowan	Plumas
Mindy Sotelo	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Bob Nelson	Santa Barbara
Kevin Crye	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Nancy Ogren	Siskiyou
Wanda Williams*	Solano
Mike Ziegenmeyer	Sutter
Matt Hansen	Tehama

Jill Cox	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Mike Holland	Tuolumne
Gary Bradford	Yuba

**Absent**

Ryan Kelley	Imperial
Ted Williams	Mendocino
Chris Lopez	Monterey
James Gore	Sonoma
Sheila Allen	Yolo

\*Attendance via Zoom

**Public Comment**

None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. **September 19, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **GSCA 2026 Proposed Budget**

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 Sue Hoek, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Santa Barbara County**

**GSCA Chair’s Report**

Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, welcomed supervisors to the December GSCA Board of Directors meeting.

**Broadband Program Update**

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an update on broadband priorities, including pre-deployment activities for seven projects across Imperial, Alpine, Mammoth Lakes (Mono), Mono, Amador, Tehama, and Glenn Counties, as well as the anticipated bid package timeline. Ms. Hayes also discussed the upcoming community marketing plan for Golden State Fiber.

Ms. Hayes noted that the California Public Utilities Commission’s award recommendations for Monterey and Inyo Counties under the Federal Funding Account Last Mile Program Round 2 are pending, with the first 2026 voting meeting scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bond Issuance Update**

Barbara Hayes and Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President, provided an update on GCSA's bond issuance for the funding of seven initial GSCA project areas, located across Imperial, Alpine, Mammoth Lakes (Mono), Mono, Amador, Tehama, and Glenn Counties. Ms. Hayes highlighted the unsecured bond option, covering sources and uses, cost of issuance, interest rate, tax status, and investor eligibility.

### **Proposed Line of Credit/Loan from Golden State Finance Authority in an Amount up to \$15M to Support the Series 2025 Revenue Bonds**

Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director, presented the proposed line of credit/loan from the Golden State Finance Authority, GSCA's affiliated entity, in an amount of up to \$15 million to support the seven project areas.

#### **Recommendation**

It was requested that the GSCA Board of Directors approve the proposed line of credit/loan agreement with GSFA.

Agenda items 6.b. (Proposed Line of Credit/Loan from Golden State Finance Authority in an Amount up to \$15M to Support the Series 2025 Revenue Bonds) and 6.c. (GSCA Investment Policy Amendment) were considered concurrently and approved by the RCRC Board of Directors as a single action, as detailed below.

### **GSCA Investment Policy Amendment**

Patrick Blacklock presented a proposed amendment to the GSCA Investment Policy, last revised and approved by the GSCA Board of Directors in January 2025. The proposed Investment Policy amendment would allow the use of Guaranteed Investment Contracts for certain bond proceeds in support of the Series 2025 revenue bonds.

#### **Recommendation**

It was recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors review and approve the GSCA Investment Policy.

**Supervisor Matt Hansen, Tehama County, motioned to approve the proposed line of credit/loan agreement with GSFA, and amended investment policy. Supervisor Monica Rossmann, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**Not Voting: Shasta County**

### **GSCA Amador County Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project**

- a. Request approval of the plans and specifications for the GSCA Amador County Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project.
- b. Request authorization for the Executive Director or designee to advertise for bids for the project, with the bid opening to be held at 2:00 on February 9, 2026 in the GSCA Offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California.

Barbara Hayes presented the plans and specifications for the GSCA Amador County Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project and requested authorization to advertise for bids.

**Recommendation**

It was recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors:

- a. Approve the plans and specifications for the GSCA Amador County Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project.
- b. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to advertise for bids for the project, with the bid opening to be held at 2:00 on February 9, 2026 in the GSCA Offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the recommendations. Supervisor Monica Rossman, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Shasta County**

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors at 11:50 a.m.



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Milena De Melo, RCRC Finance Director  
**Date:** January 13, 2026  
**Re:** GSCA Resolution 26-01: GSCA Board Travel Policy- **ACTION**

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### **Background**

GSCA has prepared a Travel Expense Policy for consideration and approval by the Board of Directors. Proposed changes to maximum reimbursement rates are highlighted below.

The Travel Policy has been updated to clarify travel by GSCA Delegates by commercial charter aircraft or by private aircraft owned or rented by Delegates, when such travel is determined to be necessary, subject to required approvals, safety, insurance, and cost-reasonableness requirements.

### **Policy Highlights**

Lodging: The lodging maximum reimbursement rate is based on the official government per diem rates for Sacramento County as set by the General Services Administration (GSA) and remains at \$250 per night. GSCA staff will provide a list of hotels nearby that often publish rates below \$250 / night.

Meals: In addition, Section VI, “Meals,” contains the following proposed meal allowance maximum reimbursements. These rates are also based on the official total \$86.00 per diem rates for Sacramento as set by the GSA:

MEAL to be REIMBURSED	PROPOSED RATE
Breakfast	\$22.00
Lunch	\$23.00
Dinner	\$41.00
Total Maximum Reimbursable by GSCA	\$86.00

Mileage: Each year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sets a rate for reimbursement of mileage for personally owned vehicles. For 2025, the standard mileage rate has been set at \$0.725, up from \$0.70 in 2025. The policy indicates that reimbursement will be at the prevailing IRS rate. If the IRS publishes any update, GSCA will revise the rate to reflect the current IRS published rate.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that GSCA Board of Directors approve and adopt the proposed Board Travel Expense Policy, Resolution 26-01.

**Attachment**

- GSCA Resolution 26-01 – Travel Expense Policy for the Golden State Connect Authority Delegates and Alternates

## **GSCA RESOLUTION 26-01**

### **TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY FOR THE GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY DELEGATES and ALTERNATES**

WHEREAS, the Golden State Connect Authority Board of Directors needs to establish rules and regulations concerning travel, lodging and meals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) that unless otherwise provided by law, the following rules and regulations shall govern GSCA business travel by GSCA delegates.

#### **STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY**

- A. It is recognized that members of Boards of Supervisors are reimbursed for business expenses by their respective counties. It is the intention of GSCA to encourage involvement in GSCA business by reimbursing GSCA delegates for certain GSCA-related expenses, as described herein. Such a policy is intended to augment county reimbursement, not fully replace it.
- B. Travel is limited to only those purposes which enhance the efficient and effective operation of GSCA.
- C. GSCA Delegates traveling on GSCA-related business shall do so by the most reasonable means available, both in terms of financial costs as a primary focus and productive utilization as a secondary consideration. It is also recognized that circumstances such as the distance to be traveled and the time necessary to travel, emergency situations, inclement weather conditions, etc., are all factors which may have significant impact in determining the allowance for the cost of travel.
- D. Authority to travel and reimbursements for customary and reasonable costs incurred for such travel including meals, transportation, registration, lodging, parking, and other related costs shall be in accordance with policy and procedures delineated herein.
- E. Only one voting member (either the Delegate or Alternate) representing each County per meeting will be reimbursed for Board Meeting attendance.
- F. All travel reimbursement claims must be submitted utilizing the GSCA Delegate travel claim form.

- G. In no case will a Delegate be reimbursed in an amount greater than provided in this resolution without approval of the Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer.
- H. Reimbursement for commercial air travel will be at "coach" class cost, except where the Executive Director determines, in advance, that other travel arrangements are reasonable and necessary. (For purposes of this policy, "coach class" may include one checked and one carry-on bag, seat selection, and additional legroom, if offered as upgrades to a standard coach or economy class seat.)
- I. Travel by commercial charter aircraft or private aircraft owned or rented by Delegates will require prior authorization by the GSCA Executive Director. Generally, but not exclusively, such approval should be based on the relative benefit to GSCA and/or because other types of travel for a particular trip are not reasonable, appropriate or best suited to the circumstances, as determined by the GSCA Executive Director. Such travel, when approved by the GSCA Executive Director, is subject to the specific provisions set forth in Section III.
- J. Reimbursement associated with a GSCA Board Meeting or Executive Committee Meeting, attendance at the full meeting is required to be reimbursed.

### **I. TRAVEL DEFINITIONS**

Travel in this policy is defined as travel that is necessary to complete GSCA business required by the organization in the performance of its primary function and/or in the course of the assigned duties. Travel for Delegates consists of roundtrip travel from their place of residence or office to attend such required events/activities.

Such travel events include, but are not limited to:

- Meetings or conferences required in the implementation or administration of new or ongoing GSCA program areas.
- Meetings, appearances, or other travel necessary to conduct GSCA business requested by the Board of Directors, Chair of the Board, or GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer.

### **II. REIMBURSABLE TRAVEL ACTIVITIES**

GSCA and its Board recognize the importance of GSCA Officers and Delegates actively participating on behalf of GSCA in certain activities on GSCA business.

GSCA will reimburse for travel expenses, including transportation, meals and lodging at the levels approved in this policy, for such activities in the following circumstances:

1. The activity is either a GSCA Board or Executive Committee meeting and the attending person is an official Delegate or designated representative of GSCA.
2. The activity is official GSCA business and participation has been approved by the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer for legislative or policy meetings with State Legislators, Administration, Committees, and Agencies, members of Congress, federal agencies, or similar governmental bodies. Travel outside of California will require the approval of the GSCA Officers, the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer.
3. The activity is a conference or a necessary meeting in which GSCA has been invited to participate and relates to subjects of interest to GSCA, as determined by the GSCA Board, the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer and the person designated to attend makes a report to GSCA regarding his or her activities on behalf of GSCA.
4. The participation of the GSCA Officers and Delegates is designated as official GSCA business by the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer.
5. The travel, lodging, and meal expenses are in connection with the activities described above, and are not for personal or non-official purposes, such as entertainment or tourist related activities organized as part of a conference.

**Reimbursements shall be made only upon supporting invoices, receipts, and bills consistent with appropriate GSCA policies.**

Notwithstanding the above, in no event shall GSCA make reimbursement for lavish expenses for travel, lodging or meals; provided, however, that if the prevailing levels of lodging expenses exceed prevailing per diem levels, GSCA may reimburse for such expenses upon a determination of the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer that the location, prevailing costs of lodging, or business necessity required more expensive lodging or meals.

### **III. LICENSE, INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF TRAVEL**

**Licenses** - All GSCA Delegates operating any vehicle used in the performance of GSCA-related business must possess a valid driver's license.

**Insurance Requirements** - Any Delegate who uses their personal vehicle, rental vehicle, or government vehicle for travel on GSCA-related business shall carry insurance for personal injury or property damage at or above state mandated minimum levels at that time. Delegates not in compliance with these minimum standards shall not be authorized to drive their personal vehicle, rental vehicle, or government vehicle on GSCA business. If requested, Delegate is required to provide proof of licensing and insurance.

**Chartered Aircraft** - Travel by commercial charter aircraft shall be limited to instances in which travel by scheduled airline is impractical or more expensive. Delegates may be eligible to use charter flights if the cost of the charter is less than the cost of commercial airfare for travelers essential to the trip. Travelers are encouraged to investigate the use of charter aircraft if three or more persons are traveling from the same origin to the same destination within California. If approved, chartered flights may only be obtained from an FAA certificated charter operator.

**Private Aircraft** - Private aircraft owned or rented by a GSCA Delegate and flown in the performance of GSCA-related business must have current "Standard" airworthiness certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the pilot in command must hold a currently effective pilot's certificate issued by the FAA and must have a current rating for the aircraft flown. Before any private aircraft owned by a GSCA Delegate is flown on GSCA business, a current certificate of insurance covering the aircraft in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 must be filed with the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer. GSCA's General Liability and Excess Liability policies exclude aircraft.

#### **IV. MILEAGE CALCULATION AND REIMBURSEMENT**

**Mileage Calculation** - Roundtrip mileage is to be calculated from the Delegate's principal place of employment or home to the destination. Any special circumstances which inflate the normal mileage should be accompanied by an explanation in the expense claim and are subject to denial.

**Mileage Reimbursement Rate** - Authorized private vehicle usage for GSCA business travel will be reimbursed at the rate allowed under prevailing Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations as maintained by GSCA.

**Aircraft Travel** - Approved commercial charter flights will be reimbursed at the actual cost of the service as supported by validated receipts. Reimbursement to Delegates for use of private aircraft owned or rented and flown to travel destination, if approved, will be on the basis of actual cost as supported by validated receipts, or hourly rates approved in advance by the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer. For purposes of these rules, landing and tie down fees are defined as reimbursable expenses.

**Other Forms of Travel** - GSCA Delegate's choosing to utilize another form of travel, such as train or other transit, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if travel occurred as addressed in the Statements of General Policy. Item C. states GSCA Delegates traveling on GSCA-related business shall do so by the most reasonable means available, both in terms of financial costs as a primary focus and productive utilization as a secondary consideration. Item H states that Reimbursement for commercial air travel will be at "coach" class cost, except where the Executive Director determines, in advance, that other travel arrangements are reasonable and necessary. (For purposes of this policy, "coach class" may include one checked and one carry-on bag, seat selection, and additional legroom, if offered as upgrades to a standard coach or economy class seat.)

## **V. LODGING**

**Hotel Allowance** - Delegates should seek the lowest cost accommodation reasonably available for the intended travel. For lodging in the Sacramento area, GSCA will reimburse lodging expense, inclusive of room rate, occupancy tax and other fees, up to a maximum of \$250 per night. If GSCA has arranged a block of rooms for the event and the cost of the room within that block is greater than \$250, GSCA will reimburse the cost of the room at the block rate. Delegates are charged with using reasonable care and judgment regarding whether overnight accommodations are required for their participation.

Guidelines regarding the need for overnight accommodations are as follows:

- For a two-day meeting/event when one-way travel from place of residence or office to the meeting/event is more than 75 miles or if travel will take more than 1 to 1 ½ hours;
- For a one-day meeting/event when one-way travel from place of residence or office is more than 150 miles or if travel will take longer than 2 hours; or
- In circumstances when the delegate needs to remain in Sacramento to participate at a GSCA associated event that will end later than 6:30 pm or in an early meeting the following morning.
- When participation in GSCA business requires arrival the night before for a meeting in Sacramento that begins at 8:00 am or earlier.

For accommodation reimbursement associated with a GSCA Board Meeting or Executive Committee Meeting, attendance at the full meeting is required to be reimbursed.

**Transient Occupancy Tax** - Occupancy tax can sometimes be waived by the motel/hotel dependent upon local regulation. Delegates traveling should always inquire about an exemption when appropriate.

## **VI. MEALS**

**Meal Allowances**- Meal allowances (total of \$86.00 per day) will be reimbursed at the following rate, however receipts must be provided:

• Breakfast	\$22.00
• Lunch	\$23.00
• Dinner	\$41.00

**Delegates will not be reimbursed for meals if the cost of a meal is included in the conference fee either reimbursed or paid directly by GSCA. Delegates will not be reimbursed for meals that are provided at GSCA events or meetings.**

**Meal Times** - Delegates are charged with using reasonable care and judgment regarding reimbursements. Reasonable times are generally considered to be departure prior to 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and return to residence after 6:00 p.m. for dinner.

**Meal Limitations** - Reimbursement will not include alcoholic beverages regardless of meal type or captive nature. Gratuities are capped at 15% of the cost of the meal.

**Captive Meal** - Captive refers specifically to those instances where a Delegate must/should participate in a dining event as part of an agenized event. Required group meetings, gatherings or functions for which meal allowances will be claimed for breakfasts, luncheons or dinners and which are of a captive nature shall be reimbursed at actual cost even though it exceeds those amounts set forth under Meal Allowances. Expense claims for meals at such meetings, gatherings, or functions (captive meals) will state the captive nature of the meal for which the expense claim is being presented.

**Fixed Prices** - When attendance at official meetings or conventions forces fixed prices, the claimant must list the items separately on the claim form as "Official Banquet" or other such language and the amount thereof. In this event, all such items will be supported by receipts verifying such charges. If supporting documents are not obtainable, then a statement to this effect will be made by the claimant. The GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer reserves the right to deny any undocumented expenses.

## **VII. EXPENSE DOCUMENTATION**

**Receipt Requirements** - Receipts must be provided for reimbursable expenses including the following:

- All lodging expenses paid at actual cost. There is \$250 per night maximum in the Sacramento area, inclusive of room rate, taxes, and fees.

- All meal expenses.
- Registration fees (only if not prepaid by GSCA).
- Telephone calls related to GSCA business in excess of \$2.50 per trip.
- Fax charges for GSCA related business in excess of \$2.50 per trip.
- Taxi/Ride-share/Bus fare in excess of \$5.00 per travel period.
- Car Rental.
- Commercial Air Travel (use ticket stub or electronic itinerary).
- Other common carrier (use ticket stub).
- Commuter bus fare (i.e., Airporter service).
- Toll Charges in excess of \$6.00.
- “Captive Meal” and “Fixed Prices” as described in Section VI (a written explanation of circumstances and approval by the GSCA Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer).
- Parking, at standard parking rates for City visited.

#### **VIII. NON-REIMBURSABLE PERSONAL EXPENSE**

**Personal Expense** - Any and all expenses that are for the direct personal needs of the Delegate, except as otherwise identified as reimbursable under this document, are not reimbursable by GSCA. Examples of such non-reimbursable items are listed below. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

- Personal telephone calls, internet charges and personal fax transmissions
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Entertainment (including related transportation costs)
- Violations of legal requirements

## **IX. CLAIM PROCESS**

**Completed claim forms are to be submitted to GSCA within thirty (30) days after the completion of the trip/expense. Failure to adhere to the filing deadline may result in the denial of the reimbursement claim**

The claim form must include the purpose of the trip/expense, and the inclusive dates. All expenditures must be itemized, and all claims will include receipts for expenses as detailed earlier under the section titled **EXPENSE DOCUMENTATION**.

The claim information must include all expenses of the trip whether or not they were paid directly to a vendor. The claim form is intended to be a recap of the complete trip as a reconciliation of all expenses and a central location for all receipts. Those items paid in advance or by credit card should be duly noted.

### Secretary's Certificate

*I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate description of action taken at a properly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors of the Golden State Connect Authority on January 21, 2026.*

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Secretary's Signature



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors

**From:** RCRC Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County  
Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director

**Date:** January 13, 2026

**Re:** Appointment of the GSCA 2026 Chair and Vice Chair; and  
Confirmation of the 2026 GSCA Executive Committee – **ACTION**

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### **Summary**

#### **GSCA Chair and Vice Chair:**

Under Section 9.a of the GSCA JPA, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) are to be elected annually from among the GSCA Delegates. Traditionally for similar RCRC-affiliated JPAs (i.e., GSFA), the RCRC Chair will nominate or recommend the individuals to serve as the Chair and Vice Chair. Following the nomination, the JPA Board then considers approving the nominations by election of those individuals to the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

The RCRC Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, has nominated the following RCRC Board Members to serve as GSCA Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair	Chris Lopez	Monterey County
Vice Chair	David Griffith	Alpine County

#### **GSCA Executive Committee:**

Additionally, the GSCA JPA Agreement, (Section 10.a) provides that:

*The Authority shall have an Executive Committee comprised of no fewer than nine (9) and no more than eleven (11) members of its Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:*

- (1) *The Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority.*
- (2) *Any members of the Executive Committee of RCRC who are presently serving on the Board of the Authority.*
- (3) *If there are fewer than nine (9) members serving on the Executive Committee under subsections (1) and (2), the Board shall appoint one or more additional Delegates to the Executive Committee at-large, so that the Executive Committee has nine (9) members.*

As there is considerable overlap between the memberships of RCRC and GSCA, it appears likely that the eligible members of the RCRC EC (i.e., those members also serving on the GSCA Board), combined with the GSCA Chair and Vice Chair, will satisfy the nine-member minimum for the GSCA Executive Committee. However, if this is not the case, the GSCA Board will need to appoint one or more additional at-large members to the Executive Committee to meet the nine-member minimum.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors:

1. Elect the 2026 GSCA Chair and Vice Chair per the nomination of the RCRC Chair.
2. If necessary, take the steps necessary to establish the 2026 GSCA Executive Committee, including appointment of any required at-large members.



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate  
**Date:** January 14, 2026  
**Re:** Legislative and Regulatory Update

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### **Issue**

Language included in the 2024 State Budget specifically required the \$50 million Loan Loss Reserve (LLR) fund to be encumbered by December 31, 2024. The CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) implemented this statutory requirement through adoption of a Commission Resolution that tentatively allocated the full amount of the fund to GSCA for its originally proposed Federal Funding Account (FFA) projects (from September 2023). Because GSCA ultimately did not use the LLR funding to secure bond financing, statutory changes are now required to make the funds available. This memo summarizes staff efforts to pursue legislation enabling GSCA access to the LLR funding for projects in the Salinas Valley.

### **Background**

The LLR Fund was established through legislation in 2021, with a multi-year planned appropriation of \$750 million, intended to provide credit enhancement for local governments, tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to finance broadband infrastructure<sup>1</sup>. Through the Budget process in 2024, the LLR fund was decreased to \$50 million<sup>2</sup> and language was added to the LLR provisions requiring that “awards made for the BLLR program shall be issued by December 31, 2024, irrespective of cycles or tracks.” To implement this requirement, the CPUC adopted three Resolutions: (1) aligning rules to the statute requiring awards of funding notwithstanding cycles and tracks outlined in the previous CPUC Decision<sup>3</sup>; (2) conditionally awarding the full LLR funding to GSCA for the thirty-seven projects pending FFA funding<sup>4</sup>; and (3) awarding the \$50 million to GSCA for the seven FFA funded projects<sup>5</sup>.

After evaluating the terms of the LLR award and discussion with the external financing team, GSCA ultimately proceeded with a bond sale that did not utilize the LLR, closing the transaction of over \$110 million in financing on December 16, 2025. With this additional funding, GSCA is moving forward with the seven FFA funded projects, with construction expected in spring of this year<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021) and AB 164 (Chapter 84, Statutes of 2021)

<sup>2</sup> Senate Bill 109 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2024)

<sup>3</sup> Resolution T-17841, September 12, 2024

<sup>4</sup> Resolution T-17858, November 7, 2024

<sup>5</sup> Resolution T-17895, November 20, 2025

<sup>6</sup> Counties of Alpine, Amador, Glenn, Imperial, Mono, and Tehama as well as Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the CPUC released a Draft Resolution recommending over \$21 million in second round FFA awards for projects in Inyo, Monterey and Contra Costa counties<sup>7</sup>. GCSA applied for funding through FFA for Inyo and Monterey counties to partially finance over 150 miles of fiber in those areas. However, GSCA was not selected by the CPUC. Stimulus Technologies was awarded over \$2.7 for its project in Inyo County and the California Broadband Alliance was awarded \$3.2 million for its project in Monterey County. The CPUC has awarded (including this last round of recommendations for awards) over \$1.2 billion in last mile funding, spread over all 58 counties. No future rounds of FFA funding have been announced, though it is estimated that there is a remaining balance available of over \$100 million.

### **Proposal**

In order to utilize the \$50 million currently appropriated for the LLR program to support GSCA projects, RCRC staff has proposed legislative language for inclusion in the State Budget that would directly allocate the full funding to GSCA for broadband deployment in Monterey County. This proposal would fund projects in King City, Gonzales, Greenfield, Soledad, and unincorporated Monterey county, as outlined in GSCA's original FFA applications. This funding would support broadband deployment to more than 14,000 locations and GSCA may further be able to leverage these funds for expanded deployment in additional project areas.

Draft budget language to make the direct allocation to GSCA has been provided to the Legislature and the Administration, and discussions are ongoing.

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<sup>7</sup> T-17900, set for January 15, 2026



**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Kyle Zimbelman, Operations Lead  
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President  
**Date:** January 13, 2026  
**Re:** Broadband Program Update

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## **SUMMARY**

An overview of Golden State Connect Authority's (GSCA) broadband infrastructure program of work will be presented.

## **BACKGROUND**

Following the approval of bonds, work is actively progressing to close out Phase I of GSCA's FFA Last Mile program awards. Concurrently, Phase II activities have commenced, ensuring continued momentum in advancing network construction. These efforts reflect GSCA's commitment to expeditious implementation and the timely achievement of project milestones:

- **Bid Package Development**

Glenn County successfully closed its bid process on January 9, 2026, with the formal bid opening occurring on January 12, 2026. Staff are currently reviewing submitted bids for completeness and accuracy. Additionally, Amador County is scheduled to open bids on February 9, 2026. These milestones represent continued progress in advancing towards Phase II of the project and maintaining momentum across awarded jurisdictions.

In addition to bid packages included in this GSCA Board of Directors packet, bid packages are in final stages of quality review for the remaining area. The complete bid package for Tehama County has been used to submit an Encroachment Permit in Tehama County. Once county staff have reviewed and approved the design/permit package, the Tehama County bid package will be presented to the GSCA Governing Body for review and approval to release for bid.

In all cases noted above, these bid packages will be released and bids will be received over the course of December to February, on a staggered basis following GSCA Governing Body approval. The Board will be asked to approve recommendations for awards on these projects as the respective bid periods close and bids are reviewed. This will allow construction to begin immediately upon award.

- **Permits**  
Encroachment permits have been submitted to several of the awarded jurisdictions and Caltrans and are currently in-house for review, with additional filings to follow as bid packages continue to receive approval from the GSCA Governing Body. Where required, additional specialty permits are also being prepared and submitted to ensure full compliance with regulatory requirements.
- **Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for Engineering Design, Environmental Engineering, Construction Inspection; and Internet Service Provider (ISP) Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
RFQs for Design Engineering services and Environmental Engineering Services have been released, the response period closed, and respondents qualified. There are seven qualified design engineering firms and twelve qualified environmental engineering firms that are available to GSCA to select for project work.

The Construction Inspection RFQ closed on January 6<sup>th</sup> and is in the evaluation phase.

Review of the draft ISP RFP is underway by UTOPIA Fiber. It is anticipated that ISPs invited to participate on the Golden State Connect Authority network will be selected via RFP on a regional basis – North Region (Tehama and Glenn counties), Central Region (Alpine, Amador, Mono, and Town of Mammoth Lakes), and South Region (Imperial County). This RFP will be released approximately six months prior to the first customer connections, at roughly the same time that construction commences in each project area. It is anticipated that preference points will be given to providers that offer to provide Lifeline Services (via voice over internet) as well as a bundled Lifeline offering with broadband. This is a requirement of GSCA's FFA Last Mile grant awards. Preference points will also be given to local providers (by region) that respond to the RFP.

- **Final Approvals by Local Governments and CPUC (CEQA)**  
In November 2025, GSCA received the final project letter acknowledging GSCA's satisfactory completion of CEQA and providing authorization to construct. All seven GSCA FFA Last Mile projects have now cleared CEQA review.
- **Marketing Plan**  
On January 12, 2026, the UTOPIA Fiber Marketing Team, in collaboration with GSCA Communications Director Carolyn Jhajj, presented the Golden State Fiber Marketing Strategic Plan to the GSCA Governing Body. The plan outlines overarching strategies applicable across all project areas, as well as tailored approaches for individual jurisdictions. Implementation steps are scheduled to commence in Q1 2026, aligned with key project milestones, including the bid opening for Glenn County, which also occurred on January 12. Engagement with community representatives and local government leaders continues to ensure localized outreach and effective execution.

- **Coordination with State Program Partners**

Monthly project team meetings continue with program staff from the CPUC FFA Last Mile program and the GSCA project team (GSCA staff, UTOPIA Fiber, and ITG) to coordinate project implementation and reporting over the term of the project.

On-going meetings with the California Department of Technology (CDT) have also been occurring to plan and coordinate connection points where the State Middle Mile Broadband Network and the Golden State Connect Authority last mile network will connect. This is critical to the success of GSCA's network as the State Middle Mile Broadband Network connection to GSCA's last mile network is necessary for service delivery.

- **Ongoing Reminder: New CPUC California Lifeline Pilot Program**

The CPUC has introduced a new 3-year California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program that will begin in 2026. The pilot program will help close the broadband affordability gap with a \$20 monthly subsidy for standalone broadband service, \$30 for broadband bundled with voice from the same provider, and up to \$39 annually for the cost of a new connection.

Internet service providers (ISPs) can file to participate in the pilot program on the California Lifeline webpage.





**To:** Members of the GSCA Board of Directors

**From:** Kyle Zimbelman, Operations Lead

**Date:** January 13, 2026

**Re:** GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project – **ACTION**

- a. Request approval of the plans and specifications for the GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project.
- b. Request authorization for the Executive Director or designee to advertise for bids for the project, with the bid opening to be held on April 13, 2026, in the GSCA Offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California.

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### **Summary**

In July 2021, the California Legislature unanimously passed, and the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 156. SB 156 allocated \$6 billion into broadband investments in California across four newly created programs:

California Open Access Middle Mile	\$3.25 billion
Local Agency Technical Assistance Grants	\$50 million
Federal Fund Account Last Mile Grants	\$2.0 billion
Loan Loss Reserve Program	\$750 million <sup>1</sup>

Together with thirty-two Golden State Connect Authority's (GSCA) member counties and seven cities therein, GSCA assisted with the writing, submitting, administering, and managing of more than \$18 million in Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant awards. All the awards under GSCA administration were used to develop high-level jurisdiction-wide fiber broadband designs and forty miles of low-level fiber broadband designs.

The information gleaned from the LATA grants was used by GSCA to apply for thirty-seven Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile grants for projects in thirty member counties and seven cities therein. FFA Last Mile Round 1 awards were announced by the California Public Utilities Commission over the course of calendar year 2024 and early 2025. GSCA received \$185.4 million in grant awards from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for deployment of open access, last mile fiber networks across project areas in seven awarded jurisdictions – Alpine County, Amador County, Glenn County, Imperial County, Mono County, Tehama County, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes – under the Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile Program. An additional approximately \$100 million will be brought into the project to cover construction costs via the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by GSCA. Together, the grant awards and the bond proceeds will comprise the

<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 109 was signed into law on June 26, 2024 and revised previous Loan Loss Reserve appropriations to reduce the amount appropriated for the Loan Loss Reserve program to \$50 million.

total project funds for construction of all proposed project areas across the seven GSCA-awarded FFA Last Mile projects.

This bid package presented today for the Board's approval is "Phase 1" for GSCA's Town of Mammoth Lakes project. The total Town of Mammoth Lakes project area includes a total of Ninety-Six linear miles of broadband fiber installation. Phase 1 consists of the first forty miles of the total project area, for which low level design was completed under the CPUC's Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) program. (There will be subsequent and separate bid packages issued for construction of the remainder of the project area.) The Town of Mammoth Lakes Phase 1 project represents approximately \$8 million of the nearly \$38 million in total project expenditures for the Town of Mammoth Lakes project, as estimated by project engineers.

Once low-level designs have been completed for the remaining miles in the total project area an additional (or multiple additional) bid packages will be presented for review and Governing Body approval prior to release for bid. In each case, an engineer's estimate for the costs associated with the project mileage included in that specific phase of the project will be included in the bid package. The engineer's estimate in each bid package represents the associated costs for construction of the specific miles included in that bid package as a portion of the total project cost.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Phase 1 bid package will be released shortly after receiving approval from the Board, with bids due on April 10, 2026. It is anticipated that the final bid award for Town of Mammoth Lakes Phase 1 (to the lowest responsible bidder) will be brought to the Executive Committee (or full Board) in late May.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors:

- a. Approve the plans and specifications for the GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project.
- b. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to advertise for bids for the project, with the bid opening to be held on April 13, 2026 in the GSCA Offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California.

### **Attachment**

- [Plans and Specifications for the GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant \(OSP\) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project](#)