Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday
August 19, 2026
9:00 A.M.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Board of Directors Meeting
August 19, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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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 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
a. June 5, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes — **Page 1**
b. Legislative and Regulatory Update — **Page 5**
Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate

4. GSCA Chair's Report
Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

5. Program Updates
Kyle Zimbelman, GSCA Chief Operating Officer
a. Broadband Program Update — **Page 11**

6. Adjournment

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. By request, alternative agenda document formats are available to persons with disabilities. To arrange an alternative agenda document format or to arrange aid or services to modify or accommodate persons with a disability to participate in a public meeting, please call (916) 447-4806 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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)

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Office 825 5th Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501	Siskiyou County Meeting Chambers 311 Fourth Street Yreka, CA 96097

Golden State Connect Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
June 5, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
1122 Highway 41
Fish Camp, CA 93623

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presided. Present were Executive Director Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and RCRC Director of Board Operations Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor	County
David Griffith	Alpine
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
Rusty Robinson	Kings
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Madeline Cline	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Rhonda Duggan	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Sue Hoek	Nevada
Shanti Landon	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Mindy Sotelo	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Bob Nelson	Santa Barbara
Chris Kelstrom	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Nancy Ogren	Siskiyou
Jeff Stephens	Sutter
Matt Hansen	Tehama
Jill Cox	Trinity

Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Mike Holland	Tuolumne
Gary Bradford	Yuba

<u>Absent</u>

Brian Oneto	Amador
Ryan Kelley	Imperial
EJ Crandell	Lake
Anne Cottrell	Napa
Mitch Mashburn	Solano
James Gore	Sonoma
Shiela Allen	Yolo

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- **a. March 25, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- **b. Legislative and Regulatory Update**
- **c. Broadband Program Update**

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

> **Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, seconded the motion, as amended. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."**

GSCA Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, welcomed supervisors to the June GSCA Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Lopez highlighted the April 30, 2026, GSCA groundbreaking event and shared a video from the occasion. Supervisor Lopez thanked RCRC Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, for hosting this year's County of the Chair event.

Approval of Audited Financial Statements – December 31, 2025

Milena De Melo, RCRC Finance Director, presented the GSCA 2025 audited financial statements. Ms. De Melo reviewed the financial statements, the performance for the year, the net position, and the performance compared to the budget. Due to timing considerations, the audited financial statements were presented to the GSCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

<u>Recommendation</u>

It was recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors review and approve the 2025 audited financial statements and communication letter as presented.

Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, motioned to approve the 2025 audited financial statements and communications letter as presented. Supervisor Daurice Smith, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Golden State Fiber Network Design and Construction Procurement

a. **Adopt a Finding That Competitive Bidding for Construction of the Outstanding Golden State Fiber Network Project Areas Would Be Unavailing and Impractical, and Would Not Produce Any Public Advantage.**
b. **Authorize the Executive Director to Negotiate a Single Design-Build Contract for the Outstanding Golden State Fiber Network Project Areas**

Kyle Zimbelman, GSCA Chief Operating Officer, presented the proposed design-build procurement approach for the remaining Golden State Fiber Network project areas and related authorization to negotiate a single design-build contract. The presentation included an overview of prior procurement efforts, cost challenges associated with the existing delivery model, and the potential benefits of transitioning to a design-build approach to improve cost certainty, reduce project delivery risks, and achieve greater efficiencies.

Mr. Zimbelman and GSCA staff further explained the multiple reasons for finding that competitive bidding would be unavailing and impractical, and would not produce any public advantage, as authorized by Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency (1980) 104 Cal.App.3d 631, including all of the following:

1. Multiple parties with experience constructing large broadband networks have advised that, due to the complexity of these projects and the variability of site conditions across hundreds of linear miles in rural areas, network design and construction methods must be revised continuously throughout the construction process. This level of flexibility cannot practicably be achieved in conventional competitively bid construction contracts.

2. GSCA's direct experience with the Glenn County Phase I bidding process demonstrates that entry into competitively bid contracts for separate phases of the project will likely result in an aggregate project cost well in excess of available funding, resulting in GSCA's inability to construct the network in compliance with its grant funding and bond commitments.

3. Integrating all aspects of design and construction into a single contract, awarded to the design-build partner who provides the best overall value, will provide the economies of scale necessary to allow completion of the project for a guaranteed maximum price that is within available funding

Piecemeal competitive bidding for the outstanding Golden State Fiber Network project areas would result in significant delay in project completion, putting the project in jeopardy due to a possible failure to comply with the timing requirements attending to grant funding and bond debt service obligations.

<u>Recommendation</u>
Staff recommended that the GSCA Board of Directors:

a. Adopt a finding that competitive bidding for construction of the outstanding Golden State Fiber Network project areas would be unavailing and impractical, and would not produce any public advantage.
b. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a single design-build contract for the outstanding Golden State Fiber Network project areas project areas, with the final contract to be brought to the Executive Committee for approval.

Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, motioned to approve the recommendations. Supervisor Monica Rossman, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Adjournment
Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, adjourned the meeting of the GSCA Board of Directors at 8:49 a.m.

golden state connect authority

To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors

From: Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate

Date: August 11, 2026

Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update – **Informational Item**

Summary

This memo provides an update on regulatory activities related to Loan Loss Reserve (LLR) funding.

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[1]. Through the Budget process in 2024, the LLR fund was decreased to $50 million[2] 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 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted three Resolutions: (1) aligning rules to the statute requiring awards of funding notwithstanding cycles and tracks outlined in the previous CPUC Decision[3]; (2) conditionally awarding the full LLR funding to GSCA for the thirty-seven projects pending the Federal Funding Account (FFA) funding[4]; and (3) awarding the $50 million to GSCA for the seven FFA funded projects[5].

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[6].

On December 12th, the CPUC released a Draft Resolution recommending over $21 million in second round FFA awards for projects in Inyo, Monterey, and Contra Costa counties[7]. 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

[1] Senate Bill 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021) and AB 164 (Chapter 84, Statutes of 2021)

[2] Senate Bill 109 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2024)

[3] Resolution T-17841, September 12, 2024

[4] Resolution T-17858, November 7, 2024

[5] Resolution T-17895, November 20, 2025

[6] Counties of Alpine, Amador, Glenn, Imperial, Mono, and Tehama as well as Town of Mammoth Lakes.

[7] T-17900, set for January 15, 2026

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.

Regulatory

On July 2, 2026, the CPUC adopted Resolution T-17925. This Resolution revises the LLR Program guidelines to allow a direct loan option for funding awards, in addition to the existing credit enhancement funding currently set forth in the program guidelines. This Direct Loan option could be utilized by eligible FFA awardees as short-term bridge financing for up to 25% of the project grant or for other non- FFA funded last mile projects that meet the conditions outlined in the guidelines.

Attachment

- RCRC Comments on Resolution T-17925 (May 27, 2026)

RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

May 27, 2026

Mr. Robert Osborn, Director
Communications Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Robert.Osborn@cpuc.ca.gov

RE: Comment to CPUC Draft Resolution T-17925, Updates the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Program (LLP) to Include a Direct Loan Option

Dear Mr. Osborn:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we must regretfully oppose the Communications Division's proposal to "update[] the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Program (LLP) to include a direct loan option." RCRC is strongly committed to the expansion of broadband access in unserved and underserved communities. Under appropriate circumstances, a well-designed and managed loan program for governmental and nonprofit agencies could be a useful tool in achieving this goal. However, the current proposal is legally unauthorized and contrary to statute, creating significant uncertainty regarding program implementation – and possible legal risk for potential borrowers.

Moreover, since the legislative authorization to award LLP funds has expired – and nearly five years have passed since these funds were originally set aside – the proposal to re-purpose these funds for a brand new direct loan program usurps the Legislature's role to determine how these funds should best be spent to promote broadband access *today*, based on California's *current* needs. We therefore urge the Commission to reject this proposal and consult with legislative leadership and local government stakeholders regarding the next steps for the former LLP funds.

As the Commission is doubtless aware, the $50,000,000 remaining in the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund, which the Division proposes to re-purpose for the direct loan program, was appropriated by Senate Bill 109 in 2024. (Stats. 2024, ch. 36, Item No. 8660-062-0001.) In making this appropriation, the Legislature was explicit regarding the limitations set upon the Commission's use of these funds, both substantive and temporal:

"The Commission shall award the funds appropriated for the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve program *as credit enhancements for bonds, loans, and letters of credit* related to financing local broadband infrastructure development in a *manner consistent with the parameters outlined in Decision 23-11-045* except that…Awards made from the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Program *shall be issued by December 31, 2024*..."

Substantively, the Legislature restricted use of these funds in two ways. First, "[t]he Commission shall award the funds...as credit enhancements for bonds, loans, and letters of credit," and second, any award of these funds must be "consistent with the parameters outlined in Decision 23-11-045." The proposed direct loan program complies with neither of these requirements.

- As the Draft Resolution itself recognizes, direct loans are not "credit enhancement." The Commission's own definition of "credit enhancement" (as originally set forth in Decision 23-11-045, and retained in the proposed resolution) is "[a] mechanism or arrangement that helps strengthen creditworthiness or reduce the credit risk associated with an eligible debt offering. It is designed to provide additional assurances to lenders or bondholders/lenders that their principal and interest payments will be made in the event of missed payments or default by the eligible debt issuer." This definition is consistent with numerous other provisions of state and federal law, and with the industry reference materials previously relied upon by the Commission.[1] Direct loans unconnected to any eligible debt offering (and without any "bondholders/lenders" to assure) do not constitute "credit enhancement" under any common meaning of that term. The Draft Resolution essentially concedes this, describing the new "direct loan option" as something separate and distinct from the "credit enhancement option" (i.e., the original LLP program).[2]

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[1] See, e.g., Gov. Code, §§ 6592.5, subd. (c)(2), 51603, subd. (b)(2.5); Cal. Code Regs,, tit. 4, § 6000, subd. (h); *In re Homebanc Mortg. Corp.* (3rd Cir. 2019) 945 F.3d 801, 808, fn. 9. See also James Chen, *Credit Enhancement*, Investopedia (May 12, 2026), https://www.investopedia.com/ terms/c/creditenhancement.asp.

[2] It is also questionable whether, even in the absence of this legislative limitation, direct loans would be authorized under the LLP's governing statute. (Pub. Util. Code, § 281.2.) Under that statute, monies in the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund "shall be available to fund costs related to the financing of the deployment of broadband infrastructure by a local government agency or nonprofit organization, including, but not limited to, payment of costs of debt issuance, obtaining credit enhancement, and establishment and funding of reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the debt." Even if direct loans could conceivably be described as "fund[ing] costs related to the financing of the deployment of broadband infrastructure," the specific items listed in the statute ("payment of costs of debt issuance, obtaining credit enhancement, and establishment and funding of reserves") make it abundantly clear that this phrase refers here to *third-party* financing costs, not direct loans. (Under applicable canons of statutory construction, when "specific words follow general words" in a statute "the general term or category is restricted to those things

- Additionally, the Legislature has directed that the appropriated LLP funds shall be awarded "in a manner consistent with the parameters outlined in Decision 23-11-045." The proposed direct loan program was plainly not contemplated or authorized by Decision 23-11-045, and represents a significant change from the LLP outlined in that Decision – as evidenced by the extensive red-lines necessary to insert this proposal into the former LLP Guidelines. (Nor can the legislation reasonably be interpreted to allow the Commission to end-run this limitation by the simple expedient of amending Decision 23-11-045 or the LLP Guidelines, which would render this provision a nullity.) While such a loan program might have promise, it simply is not within the scope of the Commission's current legal authority.

Perhaps more importantly, the temporal limitation on the Commission's use of these funds is wholly unambiguous. "Awards made from the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Program shall be issued by December 31, 2024." The appropriation contains no exceptions or qualifications, nor is there any language that the Commission could reasonably interpret as providing discretion to disregard this deadline. While the circumstances that resulted in LLP funds remaining unawarded after that date may not have been foreseeable when the appropriation was made in 2024, it is not the Commission's prerogative to extend that deadline – that is Legislature's role.

Administrative agencies, like the Commission, have no authority to disregard limitations upon the use of appropriated funds. The California Constitution provides that "[m]oney may be drawn from the Treasury only through an appropriation made by law,"[3] and monies "used for a purpose contrary to the appropriation" may be ordered returned to the fund from which they were "wrongfully diverted."[4] This creates significant uncertainty regarding whether the proposed direct loan program, even if approved by the Commission, is capable of being implemented at all – as that would require the Controller (among other officials) to similarly disregard the absence of a proper appropriation.

Additionally, even if such disbursements could be made, it would place any borrowers receiving these funds in legal jeopardy. Under current caselaw, the Commission, as a state agency, cannot be sued directly for illegally expending public

that are similar to those which are enumerated specifically." *Brown v. City of Inglewood* (2025) 18 Cal.5th 33, 43.) Regardless, the limitations upon the 2024 appropriation of these funds removes all doubt on the subject.

[3] Cal. Const., art. XVI, § 7.

[4] *National Asian American Coalition v. Newsom* (2019) 33 Cal.App.5th 993, 1022-1023

funds[5] – but their local government borrowers *could* face such litigation if any taxpayer (or competitor) might object to their use of these funds.[6]

Underlying all of these legal defects is the central problem with the Draft Resolution: The Legislature provided a limited appropriation of funds for the LLP. That appropriation – and those limits – met the state's policy needs in 2024. Since those funds cannot now be spent in accordance with those original directions, it is *the Legislature's* role to determine the best use of those funds to meet the state's broadband priorities *in 2026*. This may be a loan program, or some more direct use of the funds for broadband expansion – but that's the Legislature's call, not the Commission's. The legal limits on the Commission's authority reflect, and enforce, the need for guidance from the elected legislators ultimately responsible to the voters for the effective use of state funds.

For these reasons, we urge the Commission to reject Draft Resolution T-17925. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rhine

TRACY RHINE
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: Brady Borcherding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom
Samantha Omana, Consultant, Senate President Monique Limón
Nicole Restmeyer, Consultant, Senate President Monique Limón
Chase Hopkins, Consultant, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
CASF Distribution List
justin.fong@cpuc.ca.gov
angela.bean@cpuc.ca.gov
broadband.loanloss@cpuc.ca.gov

[5] *Taking Offense v. State of California* (2025) 18 Cal.5th 891.

[6] Code Civ. Proc., § 526a.

To: Members of the GSCA Board of Directors

From: Kyle Zimbelman, GSCA Chief Operating Officer
Craig Ferguson, RCRC Senior Vice President

Date: August 11, 2026

Re: Broadband Program Update

Summary

Staff will present an overview of Golden State Connect Authority's broadband program of work.

Background

GSCA continues to advance implementation of its regional broadband program through a combination of active construction in Glenn County and forthcoming execution of a design-build contract for execution of the remainder of the initial funded network. As we move toward project delivery, we are now focused on engineering refinement, stakeholder coordination, environmental review activities, and updated procurement and delivery strategies.

The commencement of Phase 1 construction activities in Glenn County in June 2026 was a significant milestone. We are on target to begin welcoming customers onto the Golden State Fiber network in the First quarter of 2027. Concurrently, we have identified new deployment strategies and procurement approaches to deliver the remainder of the network in Alpine, Amador, Glenn (Phase 2), Imperial, Mono, and Tehama Counties, as well as the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The Broadband Program remains focused on delivering reliable, scalable, and financially sustainable infrastructure while maintaining compliance with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) grant requirements and implementation timelines.

RFII Outcomes and Program Development

GSCA's broadband implementation strategy for the project areas outside of Glenn Phase 1 is rooted in the Request for Innovative Ideas (RFII) process, which was conducted to identify qualified partners, evaluate innovative delivery approaches, and establish a scalable framework for broadband deployment throughout the region.

The RFII process generated strong industry participation and provided GSCA with valuable insight regarding construction, engineering, operational, and service delivery models. Through this process, GSCA was able to evaluate innovative approaches to broadband deployment while identifying experienced partners capable of supporting the organization's long-term regional connectivity objectives. While we faced challenges delivering the network on time and on budget under traditional procurement methods, a quick pivot to a design-build methodology allowed us to leverage industry experience to ensure we could move forward and get customers in rural California onto fiber-optic internet.

One of the key outcomes of the RFII process was the development of GSCA's partnership with FiberTel. Through the RFII process, FiberTel demonstrated the technical expertise, deployment experience, and implementation capabilities necessary to support GSCA's evolving broadband program and long-term deployment goals.

The RFII process also helped inform many of the delivery strategies currently being implemented, including engineering refinement efforts, network architecture considerations, procurement modernization initiatives, open-access service delivery concepts, and regional deployment planning. These efforts have established the foundation for GSCA's transition from project planning into active implementation.

As GSCA advances construction and deployment activities, the strategic framework established through the RFII process continues to guide program development, implementation planning, and long-term network scalability in additional future project areas.

FiberTel Partnership and Delivery Strategy

Over the coming months, FiberTel will lead engineering refinement activities including final route validation and optimization, constructability reviews, network architecture standardization, utility coordination, design updates, and construction readiness planning.

Completion of these efforts will position multiple project areas to move efficiently into procurement, permitting, and construction activities. GSCA and FiberTel are developing a coordinated implementation strategy intended to support construction mobilization across multiple counties and project areas simultaneously.

Glenn County Phase 1 Construction

Construction of the Glenn County Phase 1 broadband project officially commenced in June 2026, marking GSCA's transition from broadband planning and development into active infrastructure deployment. Crews are in the County putting conduit in the ground and readying the community for fiber.

As GSCA's first construction-phase broadband project, Glenn County provides valuable insight into construction management, utility coordination, permitting processes, contractor mobilization, and deployment sequencing. Lessons learned through this effort will continue to inform future deployments throughout the GSCA service territory.

Progress as of July 21, 2026
Conduit Installed: 36,423 ft
Handholds Installed: 26
Construction Activity: Currently working within the City of Orland phase, focusing on conduit and handhold installation

As work progresses, staff continues coordinating with contractors, county representatives, utility providers, and project stakeholders to ensure successful completion of the project while maintaining schedule and budget objectives.

Jurisdictional Coordination and Procurement Modernization

GSCA has engaged participating jurisdictions regarding updated project delivery and evolving network deployment strategies. Discussions have focused on alternative construction methods, network architecture updates, construction sequencing, operational considerations, permitting coordination, and opportunities to contain costs and streamline project delivery.

ISP Procurement and Network Operations Readiness

In addition to construction and engineering activities, GSCA has continued advancing its operational readiness strategy through completion of an open-access Internet Service Provider (ISP) procurement process.

As part of this effort, GSCA solicited proposals from qualified service providers interested in delivering broadband services over GSCA-owned infrastructure. The procurement generated strong industry interest, resulting in **eight proposals** from prospective ISP partners. Selected providers will be onboarded and ready to serve customers once the first project footprints are completed. In short, when construction is finished customers will have ISPs ready to serve them and get them connected to the internet as well as modern Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone service and other options including lifeline services.

The response validates GSCA's open-access network approach and demonstrates significant market interest in serving communities throughout the GSCA service territory. The breadth and quality of proposals received provide GSCA with multiple potential partnership opportunities as the organization prepares for future network operations.

Over the next three to six months, staff will evaluate implementation strategies and work with selected ISP partners to establish a framework for service deployment as broadband infrastructure projects move closer to completion. These efforts will include:

- Finalizing partnership and operational frameworks.
- Defining service delivery and network access requirements.
- Coordinating marketing and customer acquisition strategies.
- Establishing rollout plans that align with construction schedules and network activation timelines.
- Identifying opportunities for community outreach and early customer engagement.

- Preparing for service launch activities as project areas become operational.

A key objective of this effort is to ensure that qualified providers are prepared to begin marketing, customer outreach, and service activation activities as infrastructure becomes available. Aligning provider readiness with construction and deployment schedules will help accelerate adoption and maximize the benefits of GSCA's broadband investments.

Implementation Roadmap

Over the next twelve months, GSCA's Broadband Program will continue its transition from project development into large-scale regional implementation. The organization's focus is on maintaining momentum across construction, engineering, environmental compliance, operational planning, and stakeholder engagement activities while ensuring alignment with CPUC requirements and project delivery timelines.

Key priorities include:

Continuing Glenn County Construction (3-6 months)

Construction activities in Glenn County will remain a primary focus as crews continue installing infrastructure and advancing the project's Phase 1 deployment. Progress achieved through this effort will continue to provide valuable lessons and best practices that can be applied to future broadband construction projects throughout the region.

Complete Engineering Refinements and Advance Project Readiness (6 months)

GSCA will continue working with FiberTel to finalize engineering refinements for previously developed Phase 1 projects. These efforts include route optimization, constructability reviews, utility coordination, network standardization, and construction readiness planning. Once completed, we will transition this work to permitting and construction.

Advance Environmental Review and Compliance Efforts (ongoing)

Environmental review activities will continue across current and future project areas to maintain project readiness and support timely implementation. These efforts include:

- Advancement of environmental documentation and technical studies.
- Coordination with regulatory agencies and resource stakeholders.
- Identification and mitigation of potential environmental constraints.
- Integration of environmental review milestones with engineering, permitting, and construction schedules.

Maintaining progress on environmental compliance activities remains critical to supporting future construction timelines and CPUC implementation requirements.

Continuing Jurisdictional Coordination and Procurement Implementation (ongoing)

GSCA will continue working closely with participating counties, cities, and partner agencies regarding project sequencing, permitting coordination, construction strategies, and deployment planning.

Ongoing jurisdictional engagement will help ensure local readiness and support successful implementation as projects advance toward construction.

Expand Marketing and Community Outreach (Ongoing)
As projects advance toward construction completion and service availability, GSCA will expand its marketing and community outreach efforts to increase awareness of broadband investments, educate residents and businesses about upcoming services, and encourage future adoption. Outreach activities during construction include participation in community and groundbreaking events, media and press engagement, direct mail campaigns (including door hangers, postcards, and utility bill inserts), and social media communications.

Following construction, marketing efforts will broaden to support service adoption and customer acquisition through targeted digital advertising, print and outdoor advertising (such as posters and billboards), email marketing campaigns, website-driven subscriber outreach, refer-a-friend programs, and welcome kits for new customers.

Throughout both the construction and post-construction phases, GSCA will work closely with local governments, elected officials, community organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure residents receive timely and accurate information about project progress, service availability, and enrollment opportunities. Outreach methods may include community newsletters, mailed notices, local government websites and social media channels, public presentations, and stakeholder-provided communications materials and talking points.

These ongoing efforts will strengthen stakeholder engagement, support community education, promote broadband adoption, and help residents and businesses prepare for and benefit from enhanced connectivity options.

Maintain CPUC Timeline Alignment (ongoing)
Throughout implementation, GSCA will continue coordinating engineering, environmental, procurement, ISP readiness, and construction activities to maintain compliance with CPUC grant requirements and project delivery milestones.

By strategically aligning these efforts, GSCA is building the framework necessary to support multiple concurrent deployments across several counties and project areas.

CONCLUSION
The Golden State Fiber network has reached an important inflection point. In just a few short years, we have taken the seed of an idea and some grant applications into active construction and imminent customer sign-ups. With active construction underway in Glenn County, FiberTel advancing engineering refinements across multiple projects,

environmental review activities continuing across future deployment areas, and jurisdictions engaged in ongoing deployment planning, GSCA is well positioned to accelerate implementation efforts throughout the region.

The focus for the remainder of 2026 and into early 2027 is to transform GSCA's broadband portfolio from a series of individual project development efforts into a coordinated regional construction program. The work completed over the past several years has established a strong foundation. The next phase of the program is focused on execution, construction, and delivering meaningful connectivity improvements to the communities GSCA serves.

Recommendation

This item is presented for information and discussion only. No action is requested.