

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

(GSCA)

Executive Committee Meeting

**Friday
January 21, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

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

**Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA)
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 21, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) (Assembly Bill 361), the January 21, 2022 GSCA Executive Committee meeting will be held virtually.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON

The January 21, 2022 GSCA Executive Committee Meeting will be facilitated virtually through Zoom. 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://rsrcnet.zoom.us/j/88009767190?from=addon>

Enter Password: 168407

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:

Dial +1 (669) 900-9128

Enter meeting ID: 880 0976 7190

Enter password: 168407

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 mdemelo@rsrcnet.org before or during the meeting. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all GSCA Executive Committee members.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative means to assist you in attending, observing, or commenting on this meeting, or an alternative agenda document format, please contact GSCA at (916) 447-4806 or by email at mdemelo@rsrcnet.org by 9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 20th to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County

Vice Chair, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County

2. Public Comments

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** **Page 1**
 **a. GSCA Resolution TC001-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid
 Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Executive Committee
 Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 – ACTION**
 Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel
- 4. Lobbying and Advocacy Update** **Page 5**
 Project Team
- 5. Financial Model Development Update** **Page 6**
 Project Team
- 6. Project Area(s) Review Process Update** **Page 7**
 Project Team
- 7. Foundational Readiness and Innovative Approaches Update** **Page 8**
 Project Team
- 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>

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee

From: Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel

Date: January 17, 2022

Re: GSCA Resolution TC001-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Executive Committee Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 – **ACTION**

Summary

The proposed resolution will allow the current GSCA Executive Committee meeting to be held remotely, in accordance with the practices developed over the past two years.

Background

Meetings of the GSCA Executive Committee are subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Brown Act has traditionally placed significant restrictions on teleconferenced meetings, including requiring that each teleconference location be accessible to the public (i.e., participation of Executive Committee members from homes or private offices has not been permitted).

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued a series of Executive Orders temporarily suspending the restrictions on teleconferenced meetings, under which most meetings of RCRC-affiliated legislative bodies have been conducted during the last year-and-a-half. These Executive Orders terminated on September 30, 2021. In their place, the Legislature has enacted Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas), which permits legislative bodies to continue holding teleconferenced meetings without the traditional Brown Act restrictions (through December 2023) under any of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

To continue to continue holding teleconferenced meetings in the manner to which Executive Committee members have become accustomed, each RCRC-affiliated legislative body will need to make one of the determinations required by Assembly Bill 361. The "imminent risk" determinations are factually supportable, as the continued rates

of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, including the Omicron variant, can indeed present imminent risks to the health and safety of some in-person attendees, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions.

If the proposed resolution making these determinations is approved, the current GSCA Executive Committee meeting may be held as a remote and hybrid in-person/remote meeting, in substantially the same manner as previous meetings during the past 18 months. (Assembly Bill 361 includes several additional requirements for teleconferenced meetings, including providing an opportunity for “real time” public comment, and suspending the meeting in the event that remote connectivity is lost; however, these are all consistent with RCRC's existing practices.)

Assembly Bill 361 generally requires that the requisite determinations must be reconsidered every thirty days. Since GSCA Executive Committee meetings typically will not occur that frequently, a new resolution making these determinations will be required at the start of each meeting.

Recommendation

It is recommended that proposed Resolution Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the GSCA Executive Committee Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 be approved.

Attachment

- Proposed GSCA Resolution TC001-22

GSCA RESOLUTION NO. TC001-22

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING REMOTE AND HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE GSCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361

WHEREAS, Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of GSCA's legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the "reopening" of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the continued rates of transmission of the virus and variants causing COVID-19 within GSCA member counties are such that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of some attendees of public meetings, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions;

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

1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

2. A proclaimed state of emergency exists and as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of some attendees, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions.
3. The Executive Committee is hereby authorized and directed to conduct open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
4. This Resolution is intended to enable the Executive Committee to meet via teleconference in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 of 2021 (Statutes 2021, Chapter 165), whether solely by teleconference or via a "hybrid" combination of physical location and teleconference.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective for a period of thirty (30) days thereafter, unless extended pursuant to Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3). Expiration of this resolution shall not prejudice any subsequent action to adopt another resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e) during the present or any future state of emergency.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Executive Committee of the Golden State Connect Authority, the 21st day of January 2022.

I certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of Resolution TC001-22, approved by the Executive Committee of the Golden State Connect Authority on January 21, 2022 in Sacramento, California.

Date: _____

Assistant Secretary

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Analyst
Date: January 18, 2022
Re: Lobbying and Advocacy Update

SUMMARY

The enactment of SB 156 in July 2021 allocated an historic \$6 billion towards broadband in California and solidified the ability of local governments to be involved in broadband deployment. The \$6 billion was allocated into many programs that included hard infrastructure (middle and last mile), digital equity, technical assistance, and the establishment of a loan loss reserve fund. In advance of becoming available for use, the program allocations must progress through the public rule-making process at the California Public Utilities Commission. RCRC is a Party to CPUC Proceedings and with support from and on behalf of our member counties, provides comment throughout the process.

An update will be provided on several key program components of SB 156 which are at various stages of the rule-making process:

- Last Mile/Federal Funding
- Loan Loss Reserve
- Technical Assistance
- State Middle Mile Project Map

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Date: January 18, 2022
Re: Financial Model Development Update

SUMMARY

Although formally established on December 9, 2021, much work on laying the foundation for Golden State Connect Authority and making strides toward improving the access to robust broadband in rural California began before then. The thirty-seven rural California counties comprising the membership of Golden State Connect Authority will now benefit from past and future efforts that will be undertaken to extend and improve broadband access and quality, increase engagement of local governments in broadband deployment, and consider innovative solutions and partnerships to leverage existing efforts and infrastructure.

To that end, Golden State Connect Authority will be undertaking a new and innovative approach to broadband deployment that will focus on establishing an open access, public benefit municipal broadband system. Golden State Connect Authority will finance and construct the infrastructure that will convey broadband to residents and businesses in member counties; incumbent service providers will be invited on the network to deliver services to the residents and businesses; and every opportunity to incorporate public benefit will be considered (public health and safety applications, WiFi in public spaces, etc.). While this model is new to California, it is in place in many other states.

An important component of this new model is the financing associated with it. During the meeting the following will be covered:

- An introduction to the strong team of external financial professionals. Each team member has experience with financing open-access, public benefit municipal broadband networks
- A review of the proposed financing model

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Date: January 18, 2022
Re: Project Area(s) Review Process Update

SUMMARY

How the initial project demonstration area(s) will be selected is a multi-step process that is centered on business-based evaluative criteria. The selection of project area(s) falls within a larger process that includes:

- Identify Financial Model and Assemble Financial Expertise
 - *Model and team have been identified*
- Identify Initial Project Area(s)
 - *Analysis in-progress*
- Financial Review and Project Structuring
 - *Pending identification of initial project area(s)*

With the understanding that the initial project area(s) must be financially sustainable and scalable, a multi-step analysis is currently in-progress to narrow and identify potential first area(s) of investment for Golden State Connect Authority. The review process includes:

First Level Review

- Identification of unincorporated areas with specific densities
- Addition of areas with high unserved/underserved populations (unincorporated and incorporated areas)

Second Level Review

- Analysis of cost per address passed
 - Density, ground conditions
 - Project size – number of addresses served
- Current service availability
- Access to existing fiber backbone with connectivity to regional data center/carrier hotel (required)
- Business/anchor institution mix

Third Level Review

- Local government partnership (required)

An overview of the analysis to-date will be provided.

GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

"Reducing the Digital Divide"

To: Members of the GSCA Executive Committee
From: Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Date: January 18, 2022
Re: Foundational Readiness and Innovative Approaches Update

SUMMARY

Although formally established on December 9, 2021, much work on laying the foundation for Golden State Connect Authority and making strides toward improving the access to robust broadband in rural California began before then. The thirty-seven rural California counties comprising the membership of Golden State Connect Authority will now benefit from past and future efforts that will be undertaken to extend and improve broadband access and quality, increase engagement of local governments in broadband deployment, and consider innovative solutions and partnerships to leverage existing efforts and infrastructure.

Previously approved by the Golden State Finance Authority Board of Directors, efforts to advance access to quality broadband in member counties focused on three key areas:

Level One: Foundational Readiness

Level One is designed to assist member counties in achieving “foundational readiness” relative to accessing and inviting broadband investment into counties in a strategic manner that ultimately delivers broadband for all residents and businesses.

Update: A grant for development of broadband strategic plans for 27 member counties was submitted on September 3, 2021 to the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) by Golden State Connect Authority affiliate, Golden State Finance Authority. The grant application is currently being reviewed by EDA.

Level Two: Information and Resources About Innovative Approaches

Level Two includes information-sharing and capacity-building that will result in increased awareness and involvement of local governments in broadband investment and access for their residents and businesses.

Update: With the launch of the Golden State Connect Authority website planned for March/April 2022, it is anticipated that a “Resource Center” will exist on the site to allow for sharing of documents and papers relating to innovative approaches to broadband deployment, broadband funding opportunities, and other beneficial resources. Additionally, a quarterly webinar series featuring speakers from within and outside California sharing information about approaches, unique partnerships, funding opportunities, etc., will begin in Q2 2022.

Level Three: Demonstration Project(s)

Level Three involves the launching of Demonstration Project(s) modeled on an open-access, public-benefit, municipal model.

Update: Work is underway to arrive at the initial demonstration project area(s).

Innovative Approaches

Going forward, this program of work will occur largely under Golden State Connect Authority. The establishment of Golden State Connect Authority brings with it many opportunities that could benefit its members in the advancement of this program of work. These benefits could include:

- Partnerships with state/federal agencies to leverage and extend broadband investments
- Partnerships with private entities to leverage and extend broadband investments
- Ability to partner with other JPA entities
- Ability to apply for program dollars (federal, state) on behalf of members
 - Planning/feasibility grant opportunities
 - Infrastructure deployment
- Deployment of open-access, public benefit municipal broadband system