



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CPUC Announces Technical Assistance Grant Awards:  
Critical Step in Advancing Rural Broadband Deployment**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – On Wednesday, October 26, Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) convened member counties and cities therein that applied for California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grants in partnership with GSCA, for a LATA Kick-Off meeting. The meeting was attended virtually and in-person by representatives from each of the thirty-five applicants/awardees that will be using their LATA awards to develop broadband network designs for priority unserved/underserved areas within their respective jurisdictions. CPUC Commissioner Darcie Houck provided the opening remarks, which highlighted the partnership between local government and the CPUC that will be critical to bridging the digital divide in rural communities.

Commissioner Houck has been a steadfast partner in supporting local governments as they take steps toward expanding broadband access in their communities. In a presentation given earlier this month, Commissioner Houck stated, “The relatively high cost of deployment in many rural areas has historically left these communities underserved by traditional providers. Technical Assistance grants will aid local agencies and Tribes in their efforts to fill the gaps left behind, helping to ensure economic opportunity and public safety for rural residents, businesses, and visitors.”

The lack of high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural California has exacerbated a digital divide, limiting rural Californians' opportunities to access the same economic, social, and educational opportunities as their urban and suburban peers. The LATA program provides up to \$500,000 per applicant to fund pre-broadband deployment projects that will ultimately advance broadband deployment across the entire state. Most GSCA member counties are utilizing LATA funds to develop construction-ready, low-level network designs for their communities' priority unserved/underserved project areas. In this effort, the LATA program is invaluable in providing access to the technical assistance and expertise needed to advance broadband deployment across the state, with the goal of expanding fast, reliable, and affordable broadband access to all Californians.

The LATA program was one of four established when SB 156 was signed into law in July 2021. The CPUC began delivering award notifications to LATA applicants in early October. Of the seventy-five

applications submitted since the program opened on August 1, more than half represent GSCA member counties and cities therein.

At the time of this press release, the following GSCA member counties and cities therein have received award notifications: the counties of Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Imperial, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba, and the cities of Chico, Fort Bragg, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Oroville, San Luis Obispo, Soledad, Susanville, Ukiah, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. GSCA member counties that have submitted applications but have not yet received award notification include: Amador, Del Norte, Inyo, Madera, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Sutter.

To view the CPUC's press release highlighting second-round LATA awards, see [here](#).

For additional information, resources, and updates about GSCA, visit [www.goldenstateconnect.org](http://www.goldenstateconnect.org).

#### ***ABOUT GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY***

***Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) is a joint powers authority comprised of 39 rural California counties designed for the purpose of increasing access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet for the residents and businesses of those counties. GSCA will assist rural counties in identifying pathways for development of internet infrastructure within their communities, including the construction of municipal-owned and/or operated internet systems, among other options. Get up to speed with GSCA at [www.goldenstateconnect.org](http://www.goldenstateconnect.org)***

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