



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Golden State Connect Authority Included in Grant Funding
Announcement for Rural Broadband Network in Mono County**

SACRAMENTO, CA – On July 22nd the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced the third round of grant award recommendations for the Federal Funding Account (FFA) program to fund last mile broadband infrastructure projects in unserved and underserved communities. Projects in the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) member counties of Mono, Nevada, and Placer counties are included in this third round, along with the counties of Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Mateo, and Riverside.

In all, 12 grants totaling over \$143 million are recommended for FFA funding. GSCA’s Mono County Broadband Network project is included in this third round for \$6 million and will provide service to 174 unserved locations within the county. GSCA’s Town of Mammoth Lakes Broadband Network project is also included for \$4.1 million and will provide service to 226 unserved locations within the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Following approval by the CPUC at their August 22nd meeting, the funding will be used to deploy broadband infrastructure aimed at increasing access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet. While deployment of these two GSCA projects are contingent upon also attaining supporting bond financing, these FFA awards represent a significant step forward towards construction of GSCA’s publicly owned open access networks serving rural communities.

"Access to high-speed internet is crucial for rural communities, as it bridges the digital divide, supports local businesses, enhances educational opportunities, and improves healthcare access," said Mono County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan. "This grant award from the CPUC for broadband deployment in Mono County is a significant milestone for our community. This investment will not only provide reliable internet access to our unserved and underserved

residents and businesses but also stimulate economic growth, attract new investments, and ensure that the community remains connected and competitive in today's digital world."

"We sincerely thank the CPUC for their grant award recommendation to bring high-speed broadband to the Town of Mammoth Lakes," said Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Rob Patterson. "Collaborating with Golden State Connect Authority on this publicly owned open access network guarantees affordable and adaptable high-speed internet for our community, thereby enhancing our quality of life and supporting future technological growth through this innovative model."

In September of 2023, GSCA submitted thirty-seven applications to the FFA program, covering proposed broadband project areas in thirty-seven jurisdictions. These areas include thirty GSCA member counties and seven cities, all focused on bridging the digital divide in rural California. All GSCA proposed projects will be open access, last mile, municipal fiber networks thus providing competition among providers, choice for residents and business, and the quality that a fiber-to-the-address network provides. The majority of these applications are still pending before the CPUC, with the commission anticipated to announce additional rounds of awardees on a rolling basis throughout the summer and fall. In the first and second award rounds, GSCA also received \$13.8 million for broadband deployment in Imperial County and \$6.9 million for Alpine County.

For additional information, resources, and updates about GSCA visit www.goldenstateconnect.org.

ABOUT GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) is a joint powers authority comprised of 40 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.

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