



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2024

GSCA Contact:
Carolyn Jhaji
Communications Director
916-447-4806
cjhaji@rcrcnet.org

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

SACRAMENTO, CA – On June 28th the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced the second 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 Alpine, Modoc, Santa Barbara, and Tulare counties are included in this second round, along with the County of Riverside.

In all, 10 grants totaling over \$95 million are recommended for FFA funding. GSCA's Alpine County Broadband Network project is included in this second round for \$6.9 million and will provide service to 818 unserved locations within the county. Following approval by the CPUC at their August 1st meeting, the funding will be used to deploy broadband infrastructure aimed at increasing access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet. While deployment of GSCA's Alpine County Broadband Network project is contingent upon also attaining supporting bond financing, this FFA award represents a significant step forward towards construction of the project's publicly owned open access network serving rural communities.

"Broadband is the backbone of modern society, enabling everything from remote learning to telehealth services," said GSCA Vice President and Alpine County Supervisor David Griffith. "On behalf of both GSCA and Alpine County, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for this grant award. These funds will enable us to provide high-speed internet to residents who have been without this essential service for far too long, which will have a profound and lasting impact on our community's future."

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 round of awards, GSCA also received \$13.8 million for broadband deployment in Imperial 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.

###