



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GSCA Contact:**  
Carolyn Jhaji  
Communications Director  
916-447-4806  
[cjhaji@rcrcnet.org](mailto:cjhaji@rcrcnet.org)

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

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced its eighth 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 Amador and Solano counties were included in this eighth round.

In all, five grants totaling over \$60 million are recommended for FFA funding. GSCA's Amador County Broadband Network is included in this eighth round for \$57 million and will provide service to 1,778 unserved locations within the county. Following approval by the CPUC at their November 7, 2024 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 Amador County Broadband Network project is contingent upon also attaining supporting bond financing, this FFA award recommendation represents a significant step forward towards construction of the project's publicly owned open access network serving rural communities.

"Access to reliable internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for rural communities like ours," said Amador County Supervisor Brian Oneto. "This grant represents a crucial turning point in enhancing digital access, linking both our residents and businesses, and positioning Amador County for success in today's connected world."

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 fall. In the first, second and third award rounds, GSCA also received \$13.8 million for broadband deployment in Imperial County, \$6.9 million for Alpine County, \$6 million for Mono County, and \$4.1 million for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

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 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](http://www.goldenstateconnect.org).*

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