



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Golden State Connect Authority Awarded \$97.1 Million in Grant Funding for Rural Broadband Networks in Glenn and Tehama Counties

SACRAMENTO, CA – On December 19th, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved its tenth 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 Glenn and Tehama counties were included in this tenth round for a total award of \$97.1 million.

GSCA's Glenn County Broadband Network was awarded approximately \$22.3 million and will provide service to 1,233 unserved locations within the county. GSCA's Tehama County Broadband Network was awarded \$74.8 million and will provide service to 3,996 unserved locations within the county. This funding will be used by GSCA to deploy broadband infrastructure aimed at increasing access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet. While deployment of GSCA's projects in these counties are contingent upon also attaining supporting bond financing, these FFA awards represent a significant step forward towards construction of publicly owned open access networks serving rural communities.

"Reliable broadband access is no longer a luxury, but a necessity in our 21st century economy," said Glenn County Supervisor Monica Rossman. "The awarding of these funds from the CPUC represents a crucial milestone in advancing digital equity in Glenn County, ensuring that our residents are connected to essential services and improving overall quality of life in our community."

"Thank you to the CPUC for this critical investment, helping to bridge the digital divide in Tehama County," said Tehama County Supervisor Matt Hansen. "This funding will significantly benefit our rural communities by expanding economic opportunities, improving telehealth outcomes, and enhancing educational opportunities for our residents."

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 reducing 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 businesses, and the quality that a fiber-to-the-address network provides. Several of these applications are still pending before the CPUC, with the commission anticipated to announce additional rounds of awardees on a rolling basis over the coming months. In the first, second, third, and eighth 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, \$4.1 million for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and \$57 million for Amador 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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