



Legislation Text

File #: 21-470, Version: 1

Memorandum

Date: May 25, 2021

To: The Honorable Bruno Sabatier, Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

From: Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer

Subject: Approve Letter of Support to Opt-in and Support Golden State Financing Authority to Submit an Application on Behalf of Rural County Representatives of California and Authorize Chair to sign.

Executive Summary: (include fiscal and staffing impact narrative):

A time sensitive opportunity has presented itself as a result of additional funding allocated to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to create or update existing Broadband Strategic Plans.

EDA has received an additional \$3B ARPA allocation, most of which will be distributed via competitive grant awards under their Economic Adjustment Program. This program is among the most inclusive in funding for projects ranging from planning grants to dollars for project implementation.

Golden State Financing Authority plans to submit a single grant application on behalf of Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) member counties for the purpose of developing and updating their broadband strategic plans for each county (and cities/towns therein). EDA would provide funding for 80% of the cost of each countywide broadband plan, with member counties committing the remaining 20%. For budget purposes, it is estimated that each county plan would cost approximately \$120,000. Therefore, each county that participates in the grant would be required to commit approximately \$25,000.

RCRC's goal would be to have every one of our 37 member counties equipped with a complete plan at the end of the project period. Having an updated and comprehensive countywide broadband strategic plan would enable Lake County to apply for broadband project implementation funds from various federal agencies - USDA Reconnect and EDA among them.

Opting-in would require the following in the next couple of weeks:

- Expression of interest
- Commitment of matching funds, as described above
- Providing a Letter of Support for the GSFA EDA application
- Commitment to forming a local task force that will interact with consultants in the development of your countywide plan

Staff supports this first step in developing an updated comprehensive Broadband strategic plan.

If not budgeted, fill in the blanks below only:

Estimated Cost: \$25,000 (Grant Match) Amount Budgeted: ____ Additional Requested: \$25,000 Future Annual Cost: ____

Consistency with Vision 2028 and/or Fiscal Crisis Management Plan (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well-being of Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Technology Upgrades</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Process Efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Revenue Generation</i> |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cost Savings</i> |

If request for exemption from competitive bid in accordance with County Code Chapter 2 Sec. 2-38, fill in blanks below:

Which exemption is being requested?

How long has Agreement been in place?

When was purchase last rebid?

Reason for request to waive bid?

Recommended Action: Approve letter of support to opt-in and support Golden State Financing Authority to submit an application on behalf of Rural County Representatives of California and authorize Chair to sign.