DEPARTMENT: Technical Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolve to support the USDA Grant application by BitStar Networks to provide high speed internet access to the Greeley Hill community.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has supported efforts to provide high speed internet access in the past.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

It is likely the grant application would be viewed negatively without Board support.

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Financial Impact? [ ] Yes [ ] No Current FY Cost: $ ____________________________
Budgeted In Current FY? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $ ____________________________
Additional Funding Needed: $0
Source: ____________________________

Internal Transfer ________ 4/5's vote
Unanticipated Revenue ________ 4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds ________ 4/5's vote
Contingency ________ 4/5's vote
[ ] General [ ] Other

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CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 280 Ord. No. ______
Vote – Ayes: ______ Noes: ______
Absent: ______
Approved ______
( ) Minute Order Attached [ ] No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: ______
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: ______
Deputy

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
[ ] Requested Action Recommended
[ ] No Opinion
Comments: ____________________________________________________________

________________________
CAO: [Signature]

Revised Dec. 2002
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

BRAD ABORN, CHAIR
JANET BIBBY, VICE CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN
KEVIN CANN
JIM ALLEN

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT V

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICK PERESAN, Technical Services Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Approval of Consent Agenda (See End of Summary of Proceedings)

RESOLUTION 09-280

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 16, 2009

ACTION AND VOTE:

BOARD ACTION: Rick Benson advised that item 16 consists of economic stimulus/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Supervisor Bibby pulled item 4. Jim Rydingsword and Janet Gass/Human Services, responded to questions from Supervisor Cann relative to item 16. Rick Peresan, Technical Services Director, and Ken Pulvino responded to questions from Supervisor Bibby relative to item 4. (M)Bibby, (S)Allen, all of the items were approved, with the note that item 16 consists of economic stimulus/ARRA funding/Ayes: Unanimous.

CA-4 Support the USDA Grant Application by BitStar Networks to Provide High Speed Internet Access to the Greeley Hill Community (Technical Services Director); Res. 09-280

Cc: File
June 3, 2009

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Margie Williams  
Re: Request for BOS Agenda for June 16, 2009

Dear Mariposa County Board of Supervisors,

The Greeley Hill Community Center seeks a position on the June 16th agenda to request a resolution of support from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors regarding the submission of a USDA Community Connections grant application by BitsStar Networks under the 7 CFR – 1739 guidelines for the development of high speed internet service to the center and the community of Greeley Hill.

This Community Connections grant program provides for USDA funding to rural communities for access to high speed internet that will be provided according to the following guidelines: 1) Free access and use by county critical services ( sheriff substation/fire/library/school/emergency health care clinic) for a period of two years, 2) remodeling improvements for the GH community center building ( up to $100,000 ) to accommodate BB transmission and public access, pre/post and normal business hour operations – including Saturday, and at least 10 computer access points for community use within the proposed service area, 3) staffing to include an operations manager, technical manager and support personnel, 4) the technical infrastructure required to receive and deliver the BB transmission, 5) the cost of bandwidth expenses, not exceed $25,000 per year ( in aggregate operating expenses cannot exceed $250,000 and no other operating expenses are eligible for grant funding or to be considered as matching funds).

The grant also requires matching funds of at least 15% be provided to the project. The county will not be responsible for any matching funds. Matching funds are the sole responsibility of BitsStar Networks and will not be requested as a commitment by Mariposa County.

This request presentation will be delivered by Ken Pulvino, the grant developer, and Rick Peresan

Best regards,

Ken Pulvino  
Co-Chairman, Central Sierra Connect
June 3, 2009

Mr. Kenneth Kuchno  
Director, Broadband Division  
Rural Development  
STOP 1599, Room 2868  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1599

Dear Mr. Kuchno,

As Director of Human Services for Mariposa County, I would like to comment on our enthusiastic support of the grant application submitted by the Greeley Hill Community Club and BiStar Networks for funding through the USDA Community Connection grant program 7 CFR-1739.

A USDA Community Connection program in Greeley Hill will provide needed connectivity to remote residents of Mariposa County with County services. Specifically, such a connection will allow us to pursue teleconferencing services that will permit local residents to make applications online and make and conduct appointments with staff in Mariposa for needed services.

Additionally, it will connect those residents to the existing Mariposa Network of Care (www.mariposa.networkofcare.org), an online resource service that has been in operation in Mariposa County since March, 2008. Currently, more than 3000 sessions per month take place on Mariposa Network of Care and the average length of each session is fourteen minutes. These statistics demonstrate that this online resource is a valuable tool to residents in researching and finding resources for a wide variety of health and human service needs. Expansion of this particular resource to North County residents will give them a personal resource for their individual needs.

We also have an online learning capacity for people in Mariposa County. It is called eLearning and is located at http://elearning.networkofcare.org/cahsmariposa. This site can be used to provide online learning opportunities to residents of Mariposa County at low or no cost. A USDA Community Connection program will allow us to extend eLearning to residents of North County.

Finally, we currently use a tele-psychiatric service (TelePsych) with clients in Mariposa County. That site is located in our Mariposa office. A USDA Community Connection program will allow us to extend that service to residents in North County. The current system is providing in excess of 1000 hours per year of psychiatric service to residents in Mariposa County. North County residents who need such service now need to come to Mariposa. Expansion of this service to Greeley Hill will provide an alternative local resource to North County residents.

The Mariposa County Human Services Department looks forward to the opportunity to expand needed capacity to North County residents through the Greeley Hill Community Connection program. We enthusiastically support this application.

Thanks for listening,

James A. Rydingsword  
Director

2

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview
Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service [RUS].
Funding Opportunity Title: Community Connect Grant Program.
Announcement Type: Initial announcement.
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.683.

Dates: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:
- Paper copies must carry proof of shipping no later than June 19, 2009, to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.
- Electronic copies must be received by June 19, 2009, to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

APPLICATIONS: You may obtain application guidelines and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program via the Internet at http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm. You may also request application guidelines and materials from RUS by contacting the appropriate individual listed in section VII of this notice.

Submit completed paper applications for grants to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2870, STOP 1399, Washington, DC 20250–1399. Applications should be marked “Attention: Director, Broadband Division, Rural Utilities Service.”

Submit electronic grant applications at http://www.grants.gov (Grants.gov), following the instructions you find on that Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kenneth Kuczynski, Director, Broadband transmission services based on the criteria contained herein.

Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband transmission service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis. The “community-oriented connectivity” concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband facilities by cultivating the deployment of new broadband transmission services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals. Please see 7 CFR 1739, subpart A for specifics.

This notice has been formatted to conform to a policy directive issued by the Office of Federal Financial Management (OFRM) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), published in the Federal Register on June 23, 2003. This Notice does not change the Community Connect Grant Program regulation (7 CFR 1739, subpart A).

II. Award Information

A. Available Funds

1. General. The Administrator has determined that the following amounts are available for grants in FY 2009 under 7 CFR 1739.2(a).

2. Grants:
   a. $13,406,000 is available for grants. Under 7 CFR 1739.2, the Administrator has established a minimum grant amount of $60,000 and a maximum grant amount of $1,000,000 for FY 2009.

   b. Assistance instrument: Rural Development will execute grant documents appropriate to the project prior to any advance of funds with successful applicants.

   c. Community Connect grants cannot be renewed. Award documents specify the term of each award. Applications to extend existing projects are welcomed (grant applications must be submitted during the application window) and will be evaluated as new applications.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Who is eligible for grants? [See 7 CFR 1739.10,]

1. Only entities legally organized as one of the following are eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance:
   a. An incorporated organization,
   b. An Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 460b(b) and (c),
c. A State or local unit of government,
d. A cooperative, private corporation or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.
2. Individuals are not eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance directly.
3. A project must have the legal capacity and authority to own and operate the broadband facilities as proposed in its application, to enter into contracts and to otherwise comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations.

B. What are the basic eligibility requirements for a project?

1. Required matching contributions.
   Please see 7 CFR 1739.14 for the requirement. Grant applicants must demonstrate a matching contribution, in cash or in kind (new, non-depreciated items), of not less than fifteen (15) percent of the total amount of financial assistance requested. Matching contributions must be used for eligible purposes of Community Connect grant assistance (see 7 CFR 1739.12).

2. To be eligible for a grant, the Project must (see 7 CFR 1739.11):
   a. Serve a Rural Area where Broadband Transmission Service does not currently exist, to be verified by Rural Development prior to the award of the grant;
   b. Serve one Community recognized in the latest U.S. Census or the latest version of the Rand McNally Atlas;
   c. Deploy Basic Broadband Transmission Service, free of all charges for at least 2 years, to all Critical Community Facilities located within the proposed Service Area;
   d. Offer Basic Broadband Transmission Service to residential and business customers within the proposed Service Area; and
   e. Provide a Community Center with at least one (1) Computer Access Points within the proposed Service Area, and make Broadband Transmission Service available therein, free of all charges to users for at least 2 years.

C. What is a completed application?

See paragraph IV.B of this notice for a discussion of the items that make up a completed application. You may also refer to 7 CFR 1739.15 for completed grant application items.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Clarifications to Requirements for FY 2009

1. Rural Development clarifies that the definition of "Critical Community Facilities" includes the mandatory Community Center.

2. For all funding commitments, including all matching fund commitments and commitments made by the applicant, that are required to complete the Project in addition to the Rural Development grant, evidence must be submitted demonstrating that funding arrangements have been obtained. If the appropriate funding commitments are not included in the application, the application will be deemed ineligible for consideration. This evidence must:
   a. Clearly state the name of the entity that is making the commitment;
   b. The amount of the commitment, and
   c. The purpose of commitment.

3. Rural Development clarifies that in order to qualify as eligible costs for grant coverage or matching fund contributions, operating expenses incurred in providing Broadband Transmission Service to Critical Community Facilities for the first 2 years of operation and in providing training and instruction must be for the following purposes subject to the specified maximum amounts:
   a. Salary for operations manager, not to exceed $30,000 per year.
   b. Salary for technical support staff, not to exceed $30,000 per year.
   c. Salary for community center staff, not to exceed $25,000 per year.
   d. Bandwidth expenses, not to exceed $25,000 per year.
   e. Training courses on the use of the Internet, not to exceed $15,000 per year.

   The operating costs to be funded by the grant or used as matching contributions cannot exceed in the aggregate $250,000. No other operating expenses are eligible for grant funding or to be considered as matching funds.

4. Community means any incorporated or unincorporated town, village, or borough recognized in the latest decennial census as published by the Bureau of the Census or in the most recent edition of a Rand McNally Atlas that is located in a Rural Area.

5. Rural Development clarifies that the economic need of the applicant's service territory will be based on the median household income (MHI) for the Community serviced and the state in which the Community is located, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census at http://factfinder.census.gov. If the community was qualified using the Rand McNally Atlas, the applicant must use the MHI contained in the latest decennial census, of the county in which the Community resides as the Community MHI. The economic need will no longer be based on the Per Capita Personal Income of the community.

B. Where to Get Application Information

The application guide, copies of necessary forms and samples, and the Community Connect Grant Program regulation are available from these sources:


2. The Rural Utilities Service Broadband Division, for paper copies of these materials: (202) 690-4675.

C. What constitutes a completed application?

1. Detailed information on each item required can be found in the Community Connect Grant Program regulation and the Community Connect Grant Program application guide. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read and apply both the regulation and the application guide. This Notice does not change the requirements for a completed application for any form of Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance specified in the Community Connect Grant Program regulation. The Community Connect Grant Program regulation and the application guide provide specific guidance on each of the items listed in the Community Connect Grant Program application guide provides all necessary forms and sample worksheets.

2. Applications should be prepared in conformance with the provisions in 7 CFR 1739, subpart A, and applicable USDA regulations including 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019. Applicants must use the Rural Utilities Service Application Guide for this program containing instructions and all necessary forms, as well as other important information, in preparing their application. Completed applications must include the following:
   b. An executive summary of the Project. The applicant must provide a Rural Development with a general project overview.
   c. Scoring criteria documentation. Each grant applicant must address and provide documentation on how it meets each of the scoring criteria detailed in 7 CFR 1739.17.
   d. System design. The applicant must submit a system design, including narrative specifics of the proposal, associated costs, maps, engineering design studies, technical specifications and system capabilities, etc.
   e. Scope of work. The scope of work must include specific activities and services to be performed under the
Federal Register / Vol. 74, No. 74 / Monday, April 20, 2009 / Notices 17943

proposal, who will carry out the activities and services, specific timeframes for completion, and a budget for all capital and administrative expenditures reflecting the line item costs for all grant purposes, the matching contribution, and other sources of funds necessary to complete the project.

f. Community-Oriented Connectivity Plan. The applicant must provide a detailed Community-Oriented Connectivity Plan.

g. Financial information and sustainability. The applicant must provide financial statements and information and a narrative description demonstrating the sustainability of the Project.

h. A statement of experience. The applicant must provide a written narrative describing its demonstrated capability and experience, if any, in operating a broadband telecommunications system.

i. Evidence of legal authority and existence. The applicant must provide evidence of its legal existence and authority to enter into a grant agreement with RUS and to perform the activities proposed under the grant application.

j. Funding commitment from other sources. If the Project requires additional funding from other sources in addition to the Rural Utilities Service grant, the applicant must provide evidence that funding agreements have been obtained to ensure completion of the Project.

k. Compliance with other federal statutes. The applicant must provide evidence of compliance with other federal statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to the following:

(i) 7 CFR part 15, subpart A—Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Agriculture—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

(ii) 7 CFR part 3015—Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations.

(iii) 7 CFR part 3017—Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement).

(iv) 7 CFR part 3018—New Restrictions on Lobbying.

(v) 7 CFR part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance).

(vi) Certification regarding Architectural Barriers.

(vii) Certification regarding Flood Hazard Precautions.

(viii) An environmental report, in accordance with 7 CFR 1794.

(ix) Certification that grant funds will not be used to duplicate lines, facilities, or systems providing Broadband Transmission Service.

[x] Federal Obligation Certification on Delinquent Debt.

3. DUNS Number. As required by the OMB, all applicants for grants must now supply a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying. The SF-424 contains a field for you to use when supplying your DUNS number. Obtaining a DUNS number costs nothing and requires a short telephone call to Dun and Bradstreet. Please see the Community Connect Web site or Grants.gov for more information on how to obtain a DUNS number or how to verify your organization’s number.

C. How Many Copies of an Application Are Required?

1. Applications submitted on paper:

Submit the original application and two (2) copies to Rural Development.

2. Electronically submitted applications: The additional paper copies are not necessary if you submit the application electronically through Grants.gov.

D. How and Where to Submit an Application

Grant applications may be submitted on paper or electronically.

1. Submitting applications on paper:

a. Address paper applications for grants to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2858, STOP 1599, Washington, DC 20250–1599. Applications should be marked “Attention: Director, Broadband Division, Rural Utilities Service.”

b. Paper applications must show proof of mailing or shipping consisting of one of the following:

(i) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark;

(ii) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the USPS; or

(iii) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.

c. Due to screening procedures at the Department of Agriculture, packages arriving via the USPS are irradiated, which can damage the contents. Rural Development encourages applicants to consider the impact of this procedure in selecting their application delivery method.

2. Electronically submitted applications:

a. Applications will not be accepted via facsimile machine transmission or electronic mail.

b. Electronic applications for grants will be accepted if submitted through the Federal government’s Grants.gov initiative at http://www.grants.gov.

c. How to use Grants.gov:

(i) Navigate your Web browser to http://www.grants.gov.

(ii) Follow the instructions on that Web site to find grant information.

(iii) Download a copy of the application package.

(iv) Complete the package off-line.

(v) Upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site.

d. Grants.gov contains full instructions on all required passwords, credentialing and software.

3. RUS encourages applicants who wish to apply through Grants.gov to submit their applications in advance of the deadline.

4. If a system problem occurs or you have technical difficulties with an electronic application, please use the customer support resources available at the Grants.gov Web site.

E. Deadlines

1. Paper applications must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than June 19, 2009 to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2006 grant funding.

2. Electronic grant applications must be received by June 19, 2009 to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

F. Funding Restrictions

1. Eligible Grant Purposes

Grant funds may be used to finance:

a. The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, including spectrum, to deploy Broadband Transmission Service to all participating Critical Community Facilities and all required facilities needed to offer such service to residential and business customers located within the proposed Service Area;

b. The improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a Critical Community Center that furnishes access to broadband Internet service, provided that the Community Center is open and accessible to area residents before, during, and after normal working hours and on Saturday or Sunday. Grant funds provided for such costs shall not exceed the greater of five percent (5%) of the grant amount requested or $100,000;

c. End-User Equipment needed to carry out the Project;

d. Operating expenses incurred in providing Broadband Transmission Service to Critical Community Facilities for the first 2 years of operation and in providing training and instruction; and
Development determines that the project is technically or financially
feasible, Rural Development will notify the applicant, in writing, and
the application will be returned with no further action.

C. Selection Process
Grant applications are ranked by final
score. Rural Development selects
applications based on those rankings,
subject to the availability of funds.

VI. Award Administration Information
A. Award Notices
Rural Development recognizes that
each funded project is unique, and
therefore may attach conditions to
different projects’ award documents.
Rural Development generally notifies
applicants whose projects are selected
for awards by faxing an award letter.
Rural Development follows the award
letter with a grant agreement that
contains all the terms and conditions for
the grant. An applicant must execute
and return the grant agreement,
accompanied by any additional items
required by the grant agreement.

B. Administrative and National Policy
Requirements
The items listed in paragraph IV.B.2.k
of this notice, and the Community
Connect Grant Program regulation,
application guide and accompanying
materials implement the appropriate
administrative and national policy
requirements.

C. Reporting
1. Performance reporting. All
recipients of Community Connect Grant
Program financial assistance must
provide annual, performance activity
reports to Rural Development until
the project is complete and the funds are
expended. A final performance report is
also required; the final report may serve
as the last annual report. The final
report must include an evaluation of the
success of the project. See 7 CFR
1739.19.

2. Financial reporting. All recipients
of Community Connect Grant Program
financial assistance must provide an
annual audit; beginning with the first
year a portion of the financial assistance
is expended. Audits are governed by
United States Department of Agriculture
audit regulations. Please see 7 CFR
1739.20.

VII. Agency Contacts
maintains up-to-date resources and
contact information for the Community
Connect Grant Program.

B. Phone: 202–690–4673.
C. Fax: 202–690–4389.
D. Main point of contact: Kenneth
Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division,
Rural Development Utilities Program,
U.S. Department of Agriculture.


James R. Nowby,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. E0–9006 Filed 4–17–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Glenn/Colusa County Resource
Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Glenn/Colusa County
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
will meet in Willows, California.
Agenda items covered include: (1)
Introductions, (2) Approve Minutes, (3)
Public Comment, (4) Project
Presentations, (5) Project Voting by RAC
Committee Members, (6) General
Discussion, (7) Next Agenda

DATES: The meeting will be held on
April 27, 2009, from 1:30 p.m. and end
at approximately 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at
the Mendocino National Forest
Supervisor’s Office, 825 N. Humboldt
Ave., Willows, CA 95988. Individuals
who wish to speak or propose agenda
items send their names and proposals to
Eduardo Olmedo, DFO, 825 N.
Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt
Ellis, Committee Coordinator, USDA,
Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone
Range District, 825 N. Humboldt Ave.,
Willows, CA 95988. (530) 934–3316; e–
mail matthewellis@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
meeting will be open to the public.
Committee discussion is limited to
Forest Service staff and Committee
members. However, persons who wish
to bring matters to the attention of the
Committee will file written statements
with the Committee staff before or after
the meeting. Public input sessions are
provided and individuals who made
written requests by April 20, 2009 have
the opportunity to address the
committee at those sessions.


Eduardo Olmedo,
Designated Federal Official.
[FR Doc. E9–9006 Filed 4–17–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–15–M