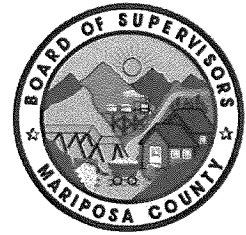


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-288

MEETING: May 18, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: RCRC Broadband Grant

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter of Support for the Golden State Finance Authority's (GSFA) Grant Application to the Economic Development Authority (EDA); Commit to Contribute Approximately \$25,000 in Matching Funds; and Commit to Forming a Task Force to Help Develop a Countywide Broadband Plan.

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) has proposed to submit a single grant application on behalf of member counties, through GSFA, for the purpose of developing broadband strategic plans for each county (and cities/towns therein). The grant, which would be funded through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), would cover 80% of the cost of each countywide broadband plan (approximately \$120,000) with the County covering the remaining 20% or approximately \$25,000. In this case, the American Rescue Plan Act dollars could be used as match, despite also being federal funds.

Objective 4.3 of the Mariposa County Strategic Plan directs staff to, "work with partners in private industry to expand access to cellular service and business-speed broadband countywide." A countywide broadband strategic plan would enable the County to apply for broadband project implementation funds from various federal agencies including USDA Reconnect and EDA. It could also direct more targeted efforts with private partners interested in particular regions of the County.

Opting in to the grant through RCRC does not prevent the County from participating in the Central Sierra Broadband Roadmap. This project, which covers a five-county region from Alpine to Mariposa, will work as a complement with a countywide broadband strategic plan. Staff understands that other counties working on the Roadmap project, including Tuolumne County, are considering this item today as well.

Participation in this program could limit the impact of individual private companies with interests in Mariposa. The County has been approached by firms interested in designing and building private infrastructure with a combination of public and private funds. These efforts would likely be at least postponed until a plan expressing the

County's priorities and interests could be developed.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

Resolution 2020-336 ratified a letter of support for the Central Sierra Broadband Roadmap. Grant funding was later awarded through the federal Economic Development Administration to create a regional plan for five counties from Alpine to Mariposa.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve. Mariposa County will not participate in the RCRC Broadband Planning Grant program.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**\$25,000 would need to be allocated for this project in the FY22 budget**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**2021 Letter of Support for GSFA EDA Broadband Grant Application (PDF)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

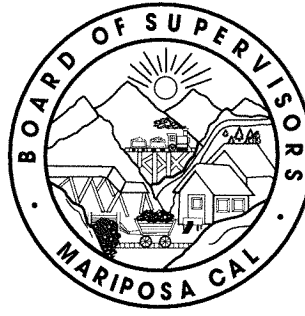
**MOVER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE  
District 2 ..... TOM SWEENEY  
District 3 ..... MARSHALL LONG  
District 4 ..... WAYNE FORSYTHE  
District 5 ..... MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE  
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE  
Clerk of the Board

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Malinda Matson, Economic Development Representative  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890  
Seattle, WA 98174

May 18, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Mariposa Board of Supervisors wishes to express its support for the Golden State Financing Authority's grant application for countywide broadband strategic plans. The application meets the EDA's stated desire for programs that create future policies, permitting standards, priorities, business access and social economics for broadband infrastructure and would deliver a valuable guiding document for the County of Mariposa leading to future grants and construction of infrastructure.

Mariposa County has historically lacked affordable, quality, and large-bandwidth internet service. Many households in our region remain completely unserved, while the inconsistency and inequality of services in other areas continue to affect our economy, educational access, social capacity, use of telemedicine, and the safety of our first responders. Additional investment in this area, while desired, has been challenged by long distances, difficult topography and the effects of fifteen (15) local emergencies that have affected our area in the last five years.

Even so, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of broadband infrastructure, and an understanding of the new technologies that may be more accessible for rural areas, to the future of our communities. We are committed to finding the required (20%) match funding for this project and working closely with professionals consulting on the development of a broadband strategic plan.

With appreciation for the EDA's consideration of our application, we join with many of our fellow California counties in supporting this application to fund countywide broadband strategic plans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Long, Chair