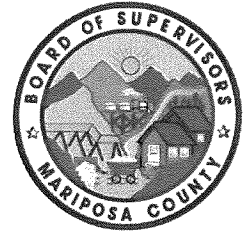


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-696

MEETING: December 21, 2021  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor  
RE: Central Sierra Broadband Utility Zone Consortium

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Adopt a Resolution of Intention to Form the Central Sierra Broadband Utility Zone Consortium.

Mariposa County is not currently a member of any California Broadband Consortium. The California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account was established by Senate Bill (SB) 1040 on September 25, 2010. Since that time and until December 31, 2018, Tuolumne County was included in the Central Sierra Connect (CSC) Broadband Consortium, consisting of 5 contiguous counties (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa) and sponsored by Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency. That sponsorship has ended, and it is incumbent upon our counties to re-form if we wish to be considered for regional CASF funding for broadband infrastructure, outreach, digital literacy and any other goals that CASF may want to achieve to close the Digital Divide.

When contacted earlier this year, CASF staff advised us that we needed a Resolution or Memorandum of Understanding among the counties to be considered as a Consortium and therefore eligible for CASF funding. Included in this packet is the Resolution that will begin the process to become certified once again as an authorized Broadband Consortium. We expect that the other counties formerly in the CSC Broadband Consortium will take this same Resolution to their respective Boards.

So as not to be confused with the former consortium, we have agreed to name this new consortium the Central Sierra Broadband Utility Zone Consortium, or Central Sierra BUZ.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Mariposa Board of Supervisors approved an item on February 12, 2008 in support of the CSC grant to the California Emerging Technology Fund that initiated the regional collaboration.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Mariposa County will not be eligible for certain funding otherwise available from the California Advanced Services Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Resolution CS BUZ Mariposa (PDF)**

**Resolution 2008-050 - Central Sierra Connect (PDF)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

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

**SECONDER:** Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisor

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-21-696**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO FORM THE CENTRAL SIERRA "BROADBAND UTILITY ZONE" CONSORTIUM**

**WHEREAS** broadband or high-speed internet services are not available equally throughout our county or region; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past, Mariposa County joined with the counties of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne ("Central Sierra Counties") to form the Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortium ("CSC Consortium") a program of the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency; and

**WHEREAS** the goal of the CSC Consortium was to make ubiquitous broadband available to the Central Sierra Counties through the aggregation of users, engagement of providers and potential users, simplification of county and municipal policies and outreach to the unserved and underserved members of the region; and

**WHEREAS** the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency no longer sponsors the CSC Consortium; and

**WHEREAS** the Central Sierra Counties desire to continue the work of the CSC Consortium and close the Digital Divide in our region; and

**WHEREAS** the Central Sierra counties wish to continue as a broadband consortium in order to accept grant funding and other broadband opportunities as a region; and

**WHEREAS** this re-formed consortium shall be known as the Central Sierra Broadband Utility Zone ("Central Sierra BUZ") and shall undertake the work necessary to achieve the goal of the CSC Consortium and any other goals the Central Sierra Counties may define and agree upon; and

**WHEREAS** it is agreed by the Central Sierra Counties that the counties shall develop an agreement stipulating the terms under which the Central Sierra BUZ shall operate, including powers and limitations, governing board structure and limitations of liability.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors hereby pledges its support for the Central Sierra BUZ and affirms its endorsement to apply for grant funding to facilitate the spread of ubiquitous high-speed internet service to the region.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 21st day of December 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, SWEENEY, LONG, FORSYTHE, MENETREY

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

  
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Marshall Long, Chair of the Board

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel