



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009**

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STEVE BENNETT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

July 23, 2013

Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Authorize the Chair to Sign Attached Letter to the CPUC Encouraging Funding for Regional Broadband Consortia Grants

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to Sign the Attached Letter to the CPUC Encouraging Funding for Regional Broadband Consortia Grants

DISCUSSION:

On May 7th, our Board approved actions supporting the formation of a multi-county broadband consortium. The Ventura County IT Director, Mike Petit, has made excellent progress in pursuing a regional consortium with the EDC-VC, and counterpart agencies in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has in recent years made grant funds available for regional broadband consortia. These grants fund planning and other activities to increase the availability of broadband technology throughout the region in a coordinated fashion. Unfortunately, previous rounds of grant funding have closed, and a new round of funding would need to be opened to enable our region to apply for these funds. Many other California regions have already received these ratepayer-funded grants through previous rounds of the CPUC's California Advanced Services Fund.

The attached letter to the Chair and Members of the CPUC requests that a new round of grants be opened in the California Advanced Services Fund. Our region will be prepared to respond to this funding opportunity, and to move forward with plans and programs to improve the availability of broadband technology in our region. In turn, the

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increased availability of broadband technology will enhance the economic competitiveness of our region, increase the ability of citizens to obtain information and services, and improve the services and function of the governmental, educational, healthcare, and military facilities of our region.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District



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July 23, 2013

Michael R. Peavey, President and Members
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Request for Additional Funding Round of Broadband Consortia Grants

Dear President Peavey and Commissioners:

The CPUC's Broadband Consortia Grants through the California Advanced Services Fund have enabled regions across California to plan for and implement the development and expansion of broadband technology in a planned and coordinated fashion within their regions. The Central Coast region of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties is now ready to put your successful program to work in our region.

In order to proceed with our regional broadband consortium, our Board of Supervisors joins with business, government, healthcare, and educational leaders throughout our region to respectfully encourage the CPUC to open another round of grants in the California Advanced Services Fund, Broadband Consortia grants.

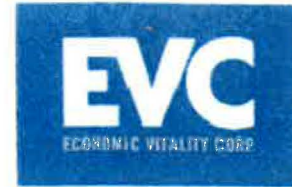
The Central Coast region is home to over 1-million residents, thousands of businesses large and small, several leading universities, and multiple military bases, all of which need broadband technology. In fact, business leaders in our region have identified broadband technology as one of the key business needs affecting economic development prospects in our region.

The availability of a CPUC Broadband Consortia grant will enable us to address broadband development in a coordinated and efficient regional manner. Such a regional approach will maximize broadband development, minimize utility and customer expense, and best support our region's contribution to the expansion of the California economy. We look forward to partnering with the CPUC in this vital endeavor.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Foy", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter C. Foy
Chair, Board of Supervisors



June 6, 2013

Michael R. Peevey, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Petition for PUC to Release Funding for Additional Regional Broadband Consortia Grants

Dear President Peevey,

We are writing on behalf of an emerging consortium of central coast (Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo) economic development leaders, county and city information technology professionals, and local businesses whose competitiveness is dependent upon an effective broadband infrastructure.

In reviewing the PUC's information on the California Advanced Services Fund, we recognize that our three county central coast area is one of only a few pocket areas of the state *not* funded to promote broadband deployment, access and adoption in California.

We stand ready to remedy that gap, and are moving on the process of developing a regional consortium. Among our priorities are establishing a database of existing broadband resources, identifying gaps in infrastructure and last mile connectivity, and the development of regional priorities and solutions for closing the gaps.

While we are late to participate in the consortium opportunities, we can assure you that there is no greater economic development issue than broadband development and deployment for our regional economic prosperity.

Economic competitiveness in our region may only be secured by supporting and accelerating the growth of our high tech, research and development and communication sectors, all of which are increasingly dependent on connectivity to the global economy. We benefit from high-tech job generators through UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Ventura County's 101 tech corridor and our proximity to Los Angeles, though are disadvantaged for mid-price job and career growth owing to our high cost of housing and living. What sustains our region are innovators in the technology sector, creating high wage jobs. These firms are particularly dependent upon a robust broadband infrastructure.

As the Presidents of our region's two leading economic development corporations—both driven by public/private partnership—we are petitioning the PUC to make available another round of consortium funding, proving us the opportunity to compete and to join the broader effort of assuring California's economic competitiveness long into the future.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stenslie, President/CEO
Economic Development Collaborative
Ventura County
805-384-1800 x24, bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com
www.edc-vc.com

Michael Manchak, President/CEO
Economic Vitality Corporation
of San Luis Obispo County
805-788-2013, mmanchak@sloevc.org
www.sloevc.org