

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-5

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE March 9, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Authorization for the Chairman to Sign a Letter of Support on behalf of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan as part of an Application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Funding

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter of support for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan as part of the Application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact directly associated with this item, however opportunities will exist for Stanislaus County, including public sector entities such as schools and libraries, local business, and residents to access reduced cost high-speed network services if the Federal funding is approved.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-116

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Grover

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Authorization for the Chairman to Sign a Letter of Support on behalf of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan as part of an Application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Funding

DISCUSSION:

The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California ("CENIC") is a 501c3 non-profit agency that manages the California Research and Education Network ("CalREN"), a high-bandwidth network connecting 109 California Community College sites, the K-12 school systems in all 58 California counties as well as over 35 colleges and universities in California.

CENIC is pursuing Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") funds to build upon the CalREN network. This will provide opportunities to extend services outside of the education and research arena and provide high-speed Internet services to underserved areas in the California Central Valley, including Stanislaus County.

The CENIC strategy plans to provide Internet access through private service provider partnerships that will utilize the underlying network buildout envisioned in the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan. Local service providers will have the opportunity to contract with CENIC and partners to deploy higher-speed and lower-cost Internet services to the public. Increased competition and lower cost options will assist in making broadband Internet access in Stanislaus County more accessible, more useful, while significantly enhancing economic development efforts on multiple levels from business retention and expansion to attracting new business opportunities.

The Plan proposes connecting 14 Central Valley Counties (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Placer, Tuolumne, Tulare, San Joaquin and Stanislaus) with over 36,000 square miles of fiber optic cabling. By supporting this plan there is no direct cost to Stanislaus County. However, if the Federal funding is approved, the benefits to our communities could be substantial. Schools, libraries, emergency services and the consumer public could all benefit from the services that are anticipated.

Additionally, opportunities may exist for such capabilities as agreements with other California counties to collaboratively host Stanislaus computer systems for disaster recovery purposes. Today, these types of agreements are cost-prohibitive.

By supporting the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan, Stanislaus County will be actively encouraging the Federal government to invest in high-speed network connectivity in the California Central Valley, which will ultimately create substantial economic, educational and social benefits for the citizens of Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUES:

An increased availability of affordable high-speed Internet services for public and private sector entities, including citizens, supports the opportunity for e-government services, community technology outreach, and developing a diversified local economy. Each of these potential outcomes serve the Board's priorities of Efficient Delivery of Public Services and Promoting a Strong Local Economy.

Authorization for the Chairman to Sign a Letter of Support on behalf of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan as part of an Application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Funding

STAFFING IMPACTS:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Paul Gibson, Chief Information Officer, 525-6529



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William O'Brien, 1st District
Vito Chiesa, 2nd District
Jeff Grover, 3rd District
Dick Monteith, 4th District
Jim DeMartini, 5th District

1010 10th Street, Suite 6500, Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: 209.525.4494 Fax: 209.525.4410

March 9, 2010

Mr. Jim Dolgonas
President and CEO
Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)
16700 Valley View Avenue, Suite 400
La Mirada, CA 90638

Dear Mr. Dolgonas:

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is writing this letter of support for CENIC's *Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan* to expand and improve broadband options in 14 counties within the California Central Valley area, including Stanislaus County.

We believe that this project, developed by CENIC in partnership with selected private firms, will significantly impact many areas of our community's development and will dramatically change the ways in which our residents learn, work and live together. Connectivity is vital for counties to remain competitive in today's business world. Without access to high speed Internet, our community's businesses cannot take advantage of the wide range of broadband applications available online to help maintain or grow their businesses, nor train or retain the highly skilled workers they need for success. Furthermore, without this connectivity, communities are unable to provide the best educational opportunities, respond effectively in disasters or provide adequate telemedicine care to its residents.

Through successful implementation of this plan we believe that CENIC and its partners can enable local businesses, residences and governmental agencies access to cost-effective higher-speed broadband Internet capabilities not currently available in our region of California. Stanislaus County is ranked 142nd in the nation in broadband penetration by the Federal Communications Commission; 15% of Stanislaus County residents live below the poverty line and the area has an unemployment rate as of December 2009 of 17.5%. Now more than ever, this underserved group, and the communities in which they live, require the tools, resources and potential job growth a robust network infrastructure built in the rural parts of Stanislaus County could provide.

We realize few initiatives have the ability to positively impact the delivery of education, health care and safety services as well as enhance businesses and economic development and the overall quality of life of our citizens as does increased broadband capabilities and services. We are pleased to add our county's name to the list of supporters and look forward to working with CENIC and its private partners to make this exciting vision a reality.

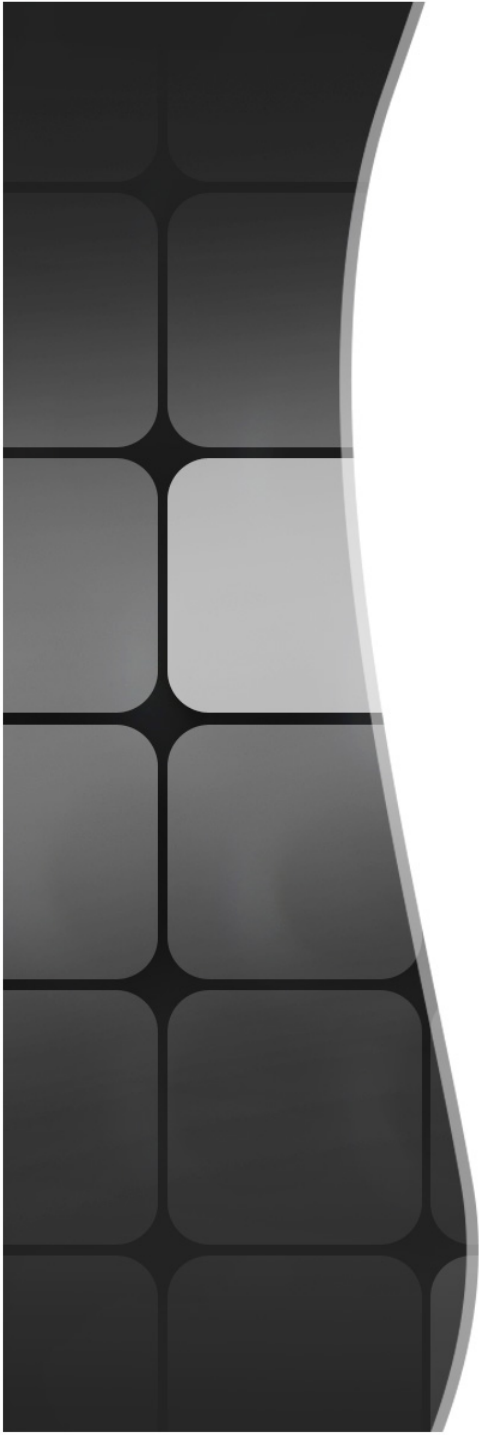
Sincerely,

Jeff Grover
Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors



Approval for the Chairman to Sign a Letter of Support of the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan

PowerPoint Presentation



"Broadband is the new dial tone of the 21st-century. Internet access is as important to our communications infrastructure today as reliable telephone service was a century ago."

Georgia Governor
Sonny Perdue

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”)

On Feb. 13, 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 . The Act has three goals:

Create new jobs and save existing ones

Spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth

Foster accountability and transparency in government spending

ARRA Broadband Grants

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is providing \$7.2 billion in stimulus funds to increase broadband network access, particularly in rural and underserved areas

\$4.7 billion through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and \$2.5 through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS)



NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded at \$4.7 billion, BTOP provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.



Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan

The Plan proposes a project that would cover:

Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Nevada, Placer, Tuolumne, Tulare, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, and Yuba (over 39,530 square miles, or 24% of the state)



Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan

The Plan proposes a project that
would:

Potentially serve a population of
4,077,365 million, or over 11
percent of the state's population

Reach 1,973 communities within the
18 counties

The Plan's Sponsors

Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (“CENIC”) is a 501c3 created to leverage the buying power of California’s K-20 educational institutions in order to obtain cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking (broadband)

CENIC owns and operates the CalREN network consisting of over 2,900 miles of CENIC owned-and-operated fiber supplemented by 300 leased telecommunications circuits

The Plan's Sponsors

Central Valley Independent Network, LLC (CVIN). CVIN was organized in 1995 and its membership consists of eight rural independent telecommunications companies including: Sebastian, Ponderosa, Sierra, Calaveras, Volcano, Ducor, Cal-Ore and Siskiyou. CVIN was selected to provide telephony and Internet services under the plan

The Plan's Goals

Install new fiber optic network to directly connect anchor tenants: 18 county offices of education, 9 community colleges and 3 universities, 18 county libraries

Assist major hospitals and public safety entities to obtain or enhance their existing high speed networking capability

Assist local communication providers enabling them to connect their customers to Internet services at lower costs

The Plan's Goals

Create jobs/stimulate economy of counties as tens of millions of dollars are spent over the next two to three years

Enhance the ability to reach the economic development goals of the 18 counties by having the required network capacity available for new businesses that might locate in these counties

Existing CENIC-managed network (“CalREN”)



Network Infrastructure Design Overview

To build, operate and maintain three rings of fiber infrastructure that will traverse over 600+ miles of rural Central Valley area and directly connect:

- 18 K-12 County Offices of Education, including Stanislaus County Office of Education

- 9 Community Colleges

- CSU Stanislaus, CSU Fresno, CSU Bakersfield & Stockton Multi-campus Ctr.

- 18 County Libraries, including the Modesto Main Branch of the Stanislaus County Library



Network Infrastructure Design Overview

To ensure there is an advanced wireless infrastructure that will connect other community anchor institutions (hospitals, key public and emergency service entities), government agencies, businesses and residences to the fiber infrastructure

Overall Benefits of the Plan

Provide access to internet services at reasonable costs

Have the network infrastructure in place to build, attract, and retain competitive businesses, entrepreneurs, and residents

Provide online access to job search engines, information on regional recreational and global entertainment outlets and social networking capabilities for local residents

Immediate economic stimulus to the area via the infusion of grant funds to build the network infrastructure

Overall Benefits of the Plan

There are no direct cost commitments for Stanislaus County

County departments, business and citizens would benefit from having lower-cost options for broadband service

Inter-County arrangements could be worked out using the CVNGB backbone for improved business continuity/disaster recovery

Recommended Action

Authorize the Chairman to Sign a Letter of Support on behalf of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan as part of an Application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Funding