

Date

CPUC Communications Division
Attn: CASF Consortia Grant Account
505 Van Ness Ave., Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Endorsement of a Regional Broadband Consortium in the Sacramento Region

To Whom It May Concern:

As business, government and nonprofit leaders of the greater Sacramento region we submit this joint letter to express our support of Valley Vision to serve as the host agency coordinating a Regional Broadband Consortium for the four-county Sacramento Region (Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties) to close gaps and leverage opportunities aimed at increasing broadband deployment, access and adoption.

Broadband – high-speed internet access - is considered an essential 21st Century infrastructure for economic competitiveness and high quality of life. Yet, despite California’s leadership in the creation and adoption of communications and information technologies, many gaps exist in both infrastructure and access to the uses of these important technologies, resulting in a persistent “Digital Divide” well evident in our region. While these infrastructure gaps are present in all regions of California, within the four-counties of the Sacramento region there exists sizeable pockets of rural or less urbanized areas, and access and adoption gaps are present in these communities, especially related to socio-economic, age and cultural factors. Closing these gaps requires a systematic and strategic approach to broadband access and investment that a multi-party collaborative, regional-scale approach can provide.

Valley Vision has managed on average 10-12 regional-scale collaborative projects annually since founded in 1994. Over the last five years, Valley Vision has successfully drawn on extensive first-hand experience from creating and managing more than 60 major community-change projects that have had a positive impact upon the business climate, environmental sustainability, and bettering the lives of the 2.1 million people who live in the Sacramento Region.

In fact, Valley Vision along with multiple stakeholders interested in developing a broadband regional consortium have already laid a foundation and applied much work in this area. A Sacramento Regional Broadband Consortium was formed in 2009 which released a “Business Plan” in October 2010 outlining an initial proposal of objectives and function. Over 100 people have participated in activities hosted by Valley Vision, representing 70 organizations.

The mission of the Sacramento Regional Broadband Consortium is “to identify and coordinate strategic broadband investments in the Sacramento Region aimed at improving broadband infrastructure, access and adoption.”

With the degree of work and accomplishment already achieved thus far, a committed Consortium comprised of public and private stakeholders, a community already focused and energized and Valley Vision’s distinguished expertise and reputable leadership, we the undersigned fully endorse the selection of Valley Vision to serve as the host agency coordinating a Regional Broadband Consortium.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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