



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 1/7/2014
Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lawrance Florin - Director
Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs

REPORT BY: Michael Karath, STAFF ASSISTANT - BOS - 299-1477

SUBJECT: Resolution endorsing Napa County's Membership in the proposed North Bay / North Coast Broadband Consortium

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs, Director of Information Technology Services and Director of Library Services and Community Outreach request adoption of a resolution endorsing Napa County's membership in the proposed North Bay / North Coast Broadband consortium, which seeks to secure grant funding to expand and integrate broadband internet access to underserved communities in the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2013, Napa County was approached by representatives from the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin to join the proposed North Bay / North Coast Broadband Coalition.

The Consortium seeks to secure grant funding to expand broadband internet service to underserved communities in the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa. Specifically, the consortium plans to apply by January 15, 2014, for a three-year \$450,000 grant from the California Advanced Services Fund, which is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission. There are two issues the grant funding will seek to address: access, which is building the infrastructure to make broadband available where it currently is unavailable; and adoption, which is making people aware that they have broadband access available to them already and suggest they adopt the system.

If the application is successful, Napa County would be eligible for about \$30,000 per year for three years to survey and document the broadband needs of the residents, businesses, educational institutions, libraries, public safety entities, other government agencies, health care providers, community and non-profit organizations, local businesses, and census designated places, starting with those known to be unserved and underserved. The

County would then compile the data into a comprehensive Napa Countywide Broadband Plan, which would be integrated with the plans of the three other Consortium members into an overall North Bay-North Coast Regional Broadband Plan. The regional plan would then set the stage to pursue implementation of projects to meet the priority demands; identify potential deployment funding sources; work with service providers to make use of funding sources to deploy broadband; and develop and implement meaningful adoption programs.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Staff reports.
2. Public comment.
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In December 2013, Napa County was approached by representatives from the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin to join the proposed North Bay / North Coast Broadband Coalition. After several meetings, including a conference call with members of the Coalition, Napa County staff decided to endorse Napa County's participation in the consortium and to bring a resolution to join the Consortium to the Board of Supervisors.

The Consortium seeks to secure grant funding to expand broadband internet service to underserved communities in the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa. Specifically, the consortium plans to apply by January 15, 2014, for a three-year \$450,000 grant from the California Advanced Services Fund, which is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission. There are two issues the grant funding will seek to address: access, which is building the infrastructure to make broadband available where it currently is unavailable; and adoption, which is making people aware that they have broadband access available to them already and suggest they adopt the system.

If the application is successful, Napa County would be eligible to receive about \$30,000 per year for three years to survey and document the broadband needs of the residents, businesses, educational institutions, libraries, public safety entities, other government agencies, health care providers, community and non-profit organizations, local businesses, and census designated places, starting with those known to be unserved and underserved. The County would then compile the data into a comprehensive Napa Countywide Broadband Plan, which would be integrated with the plans of the three other Consortium members into an overall North Bay-North Coast Regional Broadband Plan. The regional plan would then set the stage to pursue implementation of projects to meet the priority demands; identify potential deployment funding sources; work with service providers to make use of

funding sources to deploy broadband; and develop and implement meaningful adoption programs.

The proposed draft agreement among the counties to enter into the Consortium is attached to this board letter. It includes the mission statement, goals, and deliverables of the proposed consortium. The document will be finalized once Napa County has determined whether it will join the Consortium.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . North Bay/ North Coast Consortium draft proposal
- B . Board Resolution for membership in Broadband Consortium

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi