



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/18/2019
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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jon Gjestvang - Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Services

REPORT BY: Shawn Smith, Supervising Staff Services Analyst - 707.259.8665

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 to Memorandum of Understanding No. 8496 for the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium

RECOMMENDATION

Chief Information Officer and Director of Library Services and Community Outreach request the approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding No. 8496 among the Counties of Sonoma, Marin, Mendocino and Napa as part of their participation in the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium, with a term of July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023 to improve broadband access to the underserved communities in the North Coast Region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 7, 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution endorsing Napa County's membership in the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC), which secured grant funding to expand and integrate broadband internet access to underserved communities in the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa. The consortium jointly submitted a grant application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund ("CASF") Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Grant Program, as the Consortium, to obtain grant funds for that purpose. Board approval of the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. 8219 authorized grant acceptance and fund distribution, formed the NBNCBC Oversight Committee, and defined the structure and roles of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee. On December 20, 2016, Napa County approved MOU No. 8496 to accept \$250,000 in grant funds and continued participation with NBNBNC for the period of January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

After successfully completing four years of work utilizing \$500,000 in grant funds from the CPUC Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account, the NBNCBC Oversight Committee has approved pursuing a new \$450,000 three-year grant from the CPUC Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account (up to \$150,000 per year) to enable Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties to

continue to work together as NBNBCB to implement the CPUC Decision 18-10-32 October 31, 2018 and the Project Plan included in this agreement. The goal of the CPUC is through this program is to provide funding for projects that will provide broadband access to no less than 98% of the California households in each of the consortia regions as identified by CPUC. Authorized parties will work to coordinate efforts to improve broadband access to the North Coast Region.

Today's request to approve Amendment No. 1 to MOU No. 8496 is required to authorize continued participation in the NBNBCB Oversight Committee from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023. There is no fiscal impact to Napa County as the Sonoma County Economic Development Board shall continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the parties for purposes of the grant.

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

On January 7, 2014, the Board approved a resolution endorsing Napa County's membership in the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNBCB), 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. The consortium jointly submitted a grant application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund ("CASF") Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Grant Program, as the Consortium, to obtain grant funds to gather data to: (1) identify immediate and future broadband needs and demands of residents and entities that are located in the North Coast Region; (2) assess reliability and accuracy of the regional broadband data compiled by CPUC and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA); and (3) assist broadband providers by giving providers access to this data so the providers can ensure that standard or broadband access is made available throughout the North Coast Region. CPUC adopted resolution T-17445 approving up to \$250,000 in a two-year grant of funds (up to \$125,000 per year) to enable Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties to work together to implement the CPUC approved NBNBCB Annual Work Plan, Project Schedule, and Budget for each year. The approval of the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. 8219 was required to authorize grant acceptance and fund distribution, form the NBNBCB Oversight Committee, and define the structure and roles of the NBNBCB Oversight Committee.

In December 2016, upon completing work on the \$250,000 two-year grant from CPUC Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account, CPUC staff recommended Resolution T-17544 to the CPUC Commissioners, who approved a new \$250,000 two-year grant of funds (up to \$125,000 per year) to enable Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties to work together as NBNBCB to implement the CPUC approved NBNBCB Action Plan and Budget for each year. On December 20, 2016, Napa County approved MOU No. 8496 to accept \$250,000 in grant funds and continued participation with NBNBNC for the period of January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

After successfully completing work on the \$500,000 four-year grant from CPUC Rural and Urban Regional

Broadband Consortia Grant Account, the NBNCBC Oversight Committee has approved pursuing a new \$450,000 three-year grant from the CPUC Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account (up to \$150,000 per year) to enable Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties to continue to work together as NBNCBC to implement the CPUC Decision 18-10-32 October 31, 2018 and the Project Plan included in this amended agreement. The goal of the CPUC is through this program is to provide funding for projects that will provide broadband access to no less than 98% of the California households in each of the consortia regions as identified by CPUC. Authorized parties will work to coordinate efforts to improve broadband access to the North Coast Region.

Today's approval to amend MOU No. 8496 is required to authorize County of Sonoma to accept grant funds from the CPUC Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account, as well as authorize the continuation of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. The amendment to the MOU authorizes the Sonoma County Economic Development Board to continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the Consortium and distribute the funds to each of the counties in accordance with the budget; hence there is no fiscal impact to Napa County. The MOU also outlines the roles of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee, comprised of a Board of Supervisors member from each county. The roles of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee are to:

- | Monitor the progress of the overall NBNCBC Action Plan;
- | Act as the common interface to the NBNCBC counties and their Boards of Supervisors; and
- | Provide unified representation of the interests of the four counties with the major incumbent and potential broadband/Internet providers.

The NBNCBC Oversight Committee does not have authority to set public policy. Public policy broadband issues and plans that affect a NBNCBC county are to be made by the appropriate county governing bodies within that county. When public policy broadband issues and broadband plans cross over NBNCBC counties, the four county Boards of Supervisors will work towards consensus. A majority of the Committee Members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee, except that less than a quorum may adjourn from time to time in accordance with law. Board members who are currently active in member county broadband efforts include Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon, Mendocino County Supervisor Ted Williams, and Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins.

The Consortium is run by the NBNCBC Management Team consisting of a Consortium Project Manager and four County Managers, one for each county. The Assistant Director of Library Services and Community Outreach has been serving in this role for Napa County. The team meets monthly via conference call or in person. The roles of the team are to:

- | Execute Work Plans;
- | Interface with the NBNCBC Oversight Committee on an ongoing basis;
- | Through the County Managers, interface and work with the community-based advisory groups and leaders in the respective counties;
- | Provide quarterly reports to the NBNCBC Oversight Committee and the CASF;
- | Formulate and present issues and opportunities that cut across the four counties to the NBNCBC Oversight Committee; and
- | Provide information to the public.

Any funding not covered in the new three-year grant from the CPUC Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account will be funded through Information Technology Services' budget.

Due to the nature of the project, the County Chief Information Officer has been working closely with the Assistant

Director of Library Services and Community Outreach on the related technical matters.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi