

THOMAS D. ALLMAN
Sheriff-Coroner



Captain Randy Johnson
Administrative Services
Captain Kurt O. Smallcomb
Field Services
Captain Tim Pearce
Corrections
Lieutenant Shannon Barney
Office of Emergency Services

County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

March 18, 2013

Mr. Michael Amato
Interim Director, California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

RE: Letter of support for the Golden Bear Broadband LLC Regional Middle Mile Project

Dear Mr. Amato and the CASF Review Team,

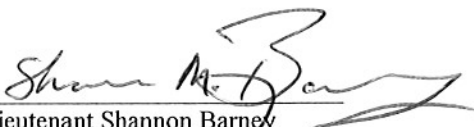
The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services is in full support of the approval of the Golden Bear Broadband LLC Regional Middle Mile Infrastructure application. Mendocino County is a rural, mountainous county where many of our residents are without basic broadband connectivity. This poses all sorts of problems for the economic viability of our county as a whole, the quality of life for our residents, and most importantly for our office, the ability to provide life-saving and comprehensive emergency public safety services, including; planning, warnings, and dissemination of information during times of natural disasters or emergencies.

Disasters or emergencies, whether natural or manmade, are unexpected but must never catch us unprepared. Events such as landslides, earthquakes, floods, storms, fires, tsunamis and hazardous materials releases all require coordinated effort both within and across county boundaries to protect the public. Public safety is our primary mission, but without a robust and reliable telecommunications system we cannot do our job effectively and the safety of our residents is jeopardized. The RMMI proposes to interconnect all sixteen of northern California's counties via a diverse, redundant, multi-loop fiber-based network, creating opportunities for increased broadband coverage both within our county and connectivity to all the surrounding counties. Currently the situation is such that one natural disaster can take out communications over large areas of our county; we must look at the big picture and plan accordingly, with redundancy, reliability, and access key principles in building and improving our infrastructure. We believe the Golden Bear Broadband project can do just that and strongly endorse CPUC approval.

Thank you for your consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

THOMAS ALLMAN
SHERIFF CORONER

By: 
Lieutenant Shannon Barney
Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services

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