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Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: CPUC Approves Grants for Rural and Urban Broadband Consortia: CPUC Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE**

PRESS

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov
Docket #: Res T-17349

CPUC APPROVES GRANTS FOR RURAL AND URBAN BROADBAND CONSORTIA

SAN FRANCISCO, December 1, 2011 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved seven California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Broadband Consortia grants in order to bring broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas.

In a previous decision (D.11-06-038) the CPUC approved the implementation of the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia grant program and the funding of activities promoting broadband deployment, access, and adoption. The CPUC today approved Year 1 budgets amounting to \$1,669,895 for seven consortia applicants as well as a three-year budget allowance subject to conditions, as follows:

APPLICANT	CASF FUNDED YEAR 1 BUDGET	CASF FUNDED TOTAL BUDGET
Central Coast Broadband Consortium	\$150,000	\$450,000
East Bay Broadband Consortium	\$150,000	\$450,000
Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium	\$770,000 ¹	\$2,310,000 ¹
Northeastern California Connect Consortium	\$149,997	\$449,991
Redwood Coast Connect	\$150,000	\$450,000
San Joaquin Valley Regional	\$150,000	\$450,000

Broadband Consortium		
Upstate California Connect Consortium	\$149,898	\$448,184
TOTAL GRANT AWARDS	\$1,669,895	

“These organizations are taking concrete steps in closing the digital divide. I believe it is best that we make a strong push now, not later, to accelerate the closing of the digital divide. Our decision today provides additional funds in order to get broadband access to underserved communities, including low income and minorities,” said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey.

CASF promotes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas by providing grants representing 40 percent of the total construction costs to eligible broadband projects.

The proposal voted on is available at http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/WORD_PDF/AGENDA_RESOLUTION/154401.pdf.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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