

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Charter Communications Operating, LLC

CASF APPLICATION

Los Alisos and Los Robles Mobile Estates
Westminster, California
(Orange County)

1. PROJECT SUMMARY (Distributed Publicly)

Applicant's Name:	Charter Communications Operating, LLC (on behalf of its affiliated entities Spectrum Pacific West, LLC; Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC ("Charter Fiberlink") (U-6878-C); and Time Warner Cable Information Services (California), LLC ("TWCIS") (U-6874-C)). (hereafter referred to as "Charter")
Contact Person:	Deborah Picciolo Senior Vice President, Field Operations Charter Communications 550 North Continental Boulevard, Field Operations El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 647-5778 In addition to the above-identified key contact, questions concerning this application may be addressed to Charter's Vice President State Regulatory Affairs: Torry R. Somers Charter Communications 550 North Continental Boulevard, Suite 250 El Segundo, CA 90245 torry.somers@charter.com (310) 765-2185
Location:	Westminster, Orange County, California.
Project Type:	Last Mile
Funding Requested & Project Cost:	\$1,299,530.13 (Funding requested for 100% of project costs)

Project Area Map

Below is a depiction of the twenty census blocks to be served by the proposed project, encompassing Los Alisos Mobile Home Estates located at 5772 Garden Grove Blvd., Westminster, Orange County, CA and Los Robles Mobile Home Estates located at 13100 Melanie Ln., Westminster, Orange County, CA. See also the map at **Attachment H** and **Attachment I**, the corresponding .kmz mapping file included in the electronic submission of this application.



Description of the Project

Charter Communications Operating, LLC (on behalf of its affiliated entities Spectrum Pacific West, LLC; Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC (U-6878-C); Time Warner Cable Information Services (CA) LLC (U-6874-C) (hereinafter “Charter” or “Applicant”) is applying for a grant of **\$1,299,530.13** from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account. The proposed project, as described below, will enable High Speed Internet services as well as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to a total of 334 CASF-eligible households (representing a population of 932 as of 2019) in Los Alisos and Los Robles. The project will include approximately 0.13 miles of aerial fiber to connect to the tie-in and approximately 5.80 miles of underground coax and fiber facilities. The **\$1,299,530.13** represents 100% of the projected cost of delivering service to these CASF-eligible households.

Currently, residents of Los Alisos and Los Robles Mobile Home Estates in twenty census blocks qualify as unserved households with no service. According to the Broadband Map, the Median Household Income for the census block group encompassing Los Alisos is \$53,636, and the Median Household Income for the census block group encompassing Los Robles is \$92,344.

With Charter’s proposed project, the 334 CASF-eligible households will be able to choose between Spectrum products with speeds up to 940 Mbps download and 35 Mbps upload. Consumers will also be able to elect services at 400/20 or 200/10 speeds, and qualifying customers will be eligible for Spectrum Internet Assist with speeds of 30/4. The proposed project will serve only residential units with the exception of one potential small business customer. There are no anchor institutions or other public facilities that will be served as part of the project.

The project will entail 13.19 total miles of new plant, 0.12 miles of which will be aerial and 13.07 miles of which will be underground. Plant refers to linear plant extension mileage along a trench route or aerial strand; it describes both the infrastructure to connect the community to the tie-in point as well as the mainline through the community and may entail both fiber and coaxial cable in parallel. The project will entail 13.42 miles total of coaxial cable, and .5 miles total of fiber. The tie-in point is located 0.14 miles from the community to be served and is a fiber optic enclosure. One new underground will be added at the end of the fiber ties.

Within the community, Charter will deploy 13.04 total miles of new plant. Laterals to the households to be served will total approximately 6.68 miles. Charter expects to be able to install aerial facilities using existing power poles in the area. Charter believes, however, that it will be required to avoid some older poles as a result of CPUC safety standards.

Other necessary infrastructure enhancements include the power supplies to support the build-out, as well as hub upgrades including fiber optic transmitter and receiver, a CMTS port and all cabling and combiner equipment needed to connect to the system.

Charter does not have existing broadband facilities in the project area but has installed fiber/coax systems at the management office for the community at 5880 Garden Grove Blvd, which has an existing business class dedicated business fiber circuit. Charter does not have facilities to the north or south of the project area.

Charter does not believe that there are any other providers offering service in the project area above 6/1 speeds and with infrastructure that could be shared for the purpose of deploying broadband services. First, there is limited, if any, other provider infrastructure in the area other than satellite services. Second, Charter believes that while Frontier may have phone lines on the utility poles in the project area, Frontier does not offer broadband services meeting the applicable thresholds for the area to be considered served.

The most conservative estimate of the project timeline is 316 total days. This does not account for overlapping of the design and private property approval stages, or several construction phases. Accounting for these overlapping phases, the project timeline could be 295 days or fewer. There is a risk factor associated with pole engineering and permitting. To the extent that some utility poles may be unable to be utilized, it is possible that some facilities will need undergrounding - the potential for undergrounding is included in the project costs as a contingency item.

Funding Request:

- **Baseline for Eligible Project (60% of total construction costs).**
- **Presence of Dial-up Only (40%):** The proposed build resides within an area that is currently not served by any form of wireline or wireless facilities-based broadband with speeds above 6/1. The only available service that may be offered in the project area is DSL service at speeds below the statutory threshold to be considered served.
- **Uses Existing Infrastructure (10%):** The project will connect to existing Charter nearby infrastructure thus avoiding additional costs for infrastructure outside of the project area. Charter expects to be able to install aerial facilities using existing power poles in the area
- **Makes a Significant Contribution to the Program Goal (10%):** The project is within a Broadband Consortium region that has not yet reached the goal of deploying broadband service at speeds of 6/1 to 98 percent of households.

Census Blocks Covered:

060590999051015	060590999051017	060590999051026
060590999051021	060590999051013	060590999051019
060590999051025	060590999051035	060590999051024
060590999051033	060590999051016	060590999051011
060590999051012	060590999051020	060590999051018
060590999051034	060590999051022	060590999052003
060590999051010	060590999051023	

Zip Codes Intersected:

92683

Other Issues:

Charter requests a waiver of the CASF Program requirements that a provider set fixed rates for a 24-month period and waive installation fees during that pricing commitment. Charter instead commits to offering rates for services in the project area that are the same as those offered to all other Charter customers in California. Charter further notes that grant of these waivers is a necessary condition to its ability to participate in the CASF program thereby helping to achieve the Commission’s and Statute’s goal of bringing broadband to 98% of California subscribers. Charter justifies its request for waiver by demonstrating that a separate billing operation would need to be established just for the project areas.

The Commission has authority to grant the waivers. The Commission made clear that it retains the authority to determine funding on a case-by-case basis, citing PU Code sec. 281(f)(13).¹ The Commission has exercised such discretion in numerous instances and has broad discretionary powers.² Such discretion in this case is wholly appropriate. Charter employs national pricing, which means that subscribers in the most rural of Charter’s service areas in California already get the benefit of the same prices that are offered to customers in Charter’s most competitive areas, including for installation.

Charter has worked hard to identify projects suitable for the CASF funding, which will not be developed absent funding, and appreciates the efforts of the Communications Division and the Commission to grant minor waivers necessary to make the projects viable for a company like Charter with standard prices for all California consumers within its footprint. Accordingly, consumers in the Project Area will be protected from rate increases to the same extent as customers in Charter’s highly competitive areas and benefit from promotions by having the same rates as those available to all of Charter’s California customers.

¹ D.18-12-018, p. 7.

² See e.g., Resolution G-3543; Resolution SX-126 in which the Commission granted waivers on a case-by-case basis as warranted by the specific circumstances presented.

With regard to the requirement that installation fees be waived during a 24-month period, Charter also seeks a waiver of such requirement and instead Charter proposes that the installation fee waiver be applied during the first three months following completion of construction during which most customers are likely to sign up for services. Following that three-month period, customers in the project area would be charged the same installation fee as all other Charter California customers.

Charter previously requested and was granted these waivers for its 2019 applications in Resolution T-17680. In that resolution, the Commission granted the waivers in light of Charter's national pricing plan and commitment to offer a low-income Internet plan known as Spectrum Internet Assist and to serve traditionally lower income segments of the population in the project areas. Resolution T-17680, pp. 6-7.