



County Administrative Office

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2021

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| Public Hearing Required | N/A |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | N/A |
| Published Notice Required | N/A |
| Advertised Published Notice | N/A |
| Meet & Confer Required | N/A |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | N/A |
| Personnel Resolution attached | N/A |
| Agreement(s) attached | Yes |

CONTACT PERSON: Alex Cruz PHONE: 5596365005

SUBJECT: Approve a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Golden State Finance Authority

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Golden State Finance Authority's for the development of a Broadband Strategic Plan for the County of Tulare, effective as of the date signed by both parties, and shall remain in effect until preparation of the draft Broadband Strategic Plan for County is complete; and
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

SUMMARY:

On Thursday, March 11, 2021 President Joseph Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) into law. This historic and sweeping legislation provides additional relief to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

The ARP allocates \$3 billion to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist communities nationwide in advancing their coronavirus recovery and resiliency strategies.

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) is a subsidiary of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). It works to assist economic development matters in their member counties and provide programs for various real estate financing efforts to the public.

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RCRC has proposed, with encouragement from their EDA representative, that GSFA submit a single grant application on behalf of RCRC member counties to develop broadband strategic plans for each County (and cities/towns therein). The goal would be to equip the member counties with a countywide broadband strategic plan. A countywide broadband strategic plan would enable counties to apply for broadband project implementation funds from various federal agencies - USDA Reconnect and EDA.

RCRC had requested all interested counties to submit a letter of support to be included in GSFA application. The County Administrative Office submitted the letter on May 6, 2021 and on June 8, 2021 requested the Board of Supervisors to authorize and ratify the letter of support to the GSFA for the submission of the Broadband Strategic Plan Grant, approve the matching funds of \$25,000, and Direct the County Administrative Officer to form a local task force.

The County Administrative Office requests the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GSFA to formally confirm the County's obligations to the grant. If the grant application submitted by GSFA is not approved, this MOU shall terminate upon GSFA's receipt of notice of disapproval.

In the event that the application is approved, GSFA will provide all grant administration including required project and fiscal reporting, as well as project management support for grant activities.

The EDA Grant would provide 80% of the cost for each countywide broadband plan, with member counties committing the remaining 20% to the GSFA as the matching funds. The MOU provides that each county plan would cost approximately \$120,000. Therefore, the County would provide a match of up to \$25,000.

In the event the application is approved, the County will be responsible for identifying and coordinating a local broadband task force to provide input for the Broadband Strategic Plan, and will cooperate with GSFA's selected consultant in development of the Plan. The County will further be responsible for presenting the final draft Broadband Strategic Plan to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and possible adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Funding of the matching funds will be housed out of the Miscellaneous Administrative Budget. There is no additional Net County Cost as a result of this request.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Tulare County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative to promote public health and welfare educational opportunities, natural resource management, and continued improvement of environmental quality. The approval of this request will allow communities to strategically expand broadband investments into unserved and under-served areas where it is most needed.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/Jason T. Britt _____

Jason T. Britt
County Administrative Officer

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Memorandum Of Understanding