



**County Administrative
Office
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
PHILLIP A. COX
District Three
J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four
MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: March 23, 2010

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: [Click here & type] PHONE: [Click here & type]						

SUBJECT: Approve a letter of support for Broadband Infrastructure Plan.

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Authorize the Chairman to send a letter of support for the Corporation of Education Network Initiatives' application for stimulus funds to implement the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan.

SUMMARY:
The Corporation of Education Network Initiatives' (CENIC) proposal seeks a federal stimulus grant to build a 500+ mile multi-wavelength fiber optic broadband network spanning nearly a third of California's land mass that will provide gigabit network and Internet connectivity to anchor institutions throughout local communities within their project area. Tulare County is one of the 14 counties in this project area, the CENIC plan proposes to add a loop of fiber optic lines that will provide main broadband connections in Porterville, Tulare and Visalia that can be accessed by libraries, government facilities and schools, in addition to other community services. The CENIC proposal also would provide access points in the rural communities of Ducor, Earlimart Strathmore and Terra Bella, in addition to points in Exeter, Farmersville and Lindsay. The latter access points could be used to facilitate future broadband services in those areas.

CENIC is a non-profit 501c3 corporation founded in August of 1997 by the California Community Colleges, California K-12 System, California State University System,

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Private Universities, and the University of California System. CENIC serves these K-20 educational institutions by providing cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking to serve the nearly 10 million faculty, students, and staff engaged in the work of these California research and education communities. The organization currently owns and operates CalREN, a network infrastructure consisting of more than 2,900 miles of CENIC-owned fiber extending from the Mexican border to Corning and from San Diego into Arizona, plus more than 300 managed circuits leased from commercial telecommunications carriers that connect institutions to CalREN.

The goals of the CENIC plan are to:

- Directly fiber eighteen (18) county offices of education, eleven (11) community colleges, four (4) Community College Districts, four (4) universities and eighteen (18) county libraries as anchor institutions;
- Expand fiber-based infrastructure for future connections to other community anchor institutions, including other public libraries, schools, hospitals and central public safety sites, to enhance their existing high speed networking capability;
- Enable CENIC to use the new network infrastructure to facilitate businesses, residences and government agencies to have access to high speed networking capacity; and
- Forge strategic relationships with existing local Internet providers enabling them to provide Internet services at more reasonable costs, one of the largest broadband adoption obstacles faced by most rural or underserved communities.

CVIN estimates the requested grant funds will generate approximately 500 direct/indirect jobs and greatly enhance the local economies in the fourteen (14) county project areas.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

CENIC is not seeking grant match funding from Tulare County.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative to promote natural resource management strategies that ensures environmental preservation, and economic development. The CENIC Broadband Infrastructure Plan helps fulfill this initiative by ensuring County residents have greater access to the Internet.

ALTERNATIVES:

Choose not to support the proposed broadband infrastructure plan

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

County Information Technology

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Eric Coyne CB

Eric Coyne
County Media/Tourism Manager

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)
Information Technology

Attachment

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF approve a letter)
of support for Broadband Infrastructure)
Plan)

RESOLUTION NO. _____
AGREEMENT NO. _____

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Authorized the Chairman to send a letter of support for the Corporation of Education Network Initiatives' application for stimulus funds to implement the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan.



County of Tulare

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Allen R. Ishida
District One

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District Two

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District Three

J. Steven Worthley
District Four

Mike Ennis
District Five

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BOARD STAFF

Jeff Forbes

Jed Chernabaeff

*

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Michelle Baldwin
Chief Clerk

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Administration Bldg.
2800 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
FAX: (559) 733-6898

March 23, 2010

Mr. Jim Dolgonas
President and CEO
Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)
16700 Valley View Avenue, Suite 400
La Mirada, CA 90638

Dear Mr. Dolgonas:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is writing to show its support for CENIC's **Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan** to expand and improve broadband options in Tulare County, an area rich in history and the second-leading producer of agricultural commodities in the United States.

The CENIC proposal seeks to build a 500+mile fiber optic broadband network spanning nearly a third of California's land mass that will provide gigabit network and Internet connectivity throughout local communities within the project area. Tulare County is one of the 14 counties in this project area, and thus residents stand to gain much from the CENIC proposal.

The CENIC proposal intends to directly connect the Tulare County Office of Education, the Visalia branch of the Tulare County Library and other local anchor institutions to this fiber optic network. This infrastructure will dramatically help bridge the digital divide that exists in the 14 county project area.

With one of the highest percentages of people living in poverty within California, Tulare County and its residents need the tools and resources a robust broadband network could provide. From job search engines and critical online job training to the improved delivery of healthcare services, broadband access is vital to reenergize county job growth and help our communities grow and thrive.

This robust network and the programs it will support once built will have a significant impact on many areas of community development and will dramatically change the ways in which our communities work and learn together. For these reasons the Tulare County Board of Supervisors registers its support for the CENIC **Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Plan**.

Sincerely,

Steve Worthley, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors