



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 11/2/2021

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File #: 21-1305

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Rex Bohn

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to join the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) for the purpose of expanding broadband access and quality in rural counties (Supervisor Rex Bohn)

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to execute the Golden State Connect Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement;
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the GSCA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement; and
3. Forward a copy of the signed resolution and GSCA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to Sarah Bolnik at Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC) - [sbolnik@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sbolnik@rcrcnet.org) <<mailto:sbolnik@rcrcnet.org>>

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**DISCUSSION:**

On Aug. 18, 2021, the Board of Directors of RCRC voted unanimously to approve the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), Golden State Connect Authority, for the purpose of expanding broadband access and quality in rural counties. Following approval by the RCRC Board, the next step in establishment of this entity is to provide the Golden State Connect Authority JPA to each RCRC Member County for review and approval by the Member County Boards of Supervisors.

Activities within Golden State Connect Authority will focus exclusively on broadband. All RCRC member counties are welcome and encouraged to join. There is no financial impact associated with joining the JPA, and no obligation for individual member counties to provide funds to the Authority, absent a separate agreement to participate in one (or more) of the specific programs. As with RCRC, the proposed new entity will be governed by delegate Supervisors from each member county, and day-to-day operations will be administered by RCRC staff.

The primary goals for the project structure are:

- To ensure that elected County Supervisors retain control of the program, with day-to-day administration provided by RCRC staff.
- To allow for partnership agreements between like-governmental entities for the operation and advancement of the program of work.
- To attract public and private investment in the program, as necessary and appropriate.

Initial areas of focus for broadband work on behalf of Member Counties will include:

- Foundational Readiness: Ensure all member counties have broadband strategic plans.
- Capacity Building: Equip rural counties with information and resources about innovative models and approaches to broadband deployment.
- Demonstration Projects: Implement open-access municipal broadband projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to joining the GSCA JPA, and there is no obligation for an individual member county to provide funds to the Golden State Connect Authority, absent a separate future agreement to participate in one (or more) of GSCA's specific programs.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by providing community-appropriate levels of service.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

- A. Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC)
- B. Golden State Connect Authority

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. RCRC Rural Broadband Initiative
- B. Golden State Connect Authority JPA Agreement
- C. Resolution Approving the GSCA JPA Agreement

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A