



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 10/5/2021

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File #: 21-1383

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Libraries

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**SUBJECT:**

Agreement between Humboldt County Library and AT&T

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize AT&T to provide dedicated internet and ethernet access to the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial, and Willow Creek library branches;
2. Authorize the Board Chair to sign the AT&T E-rate Rider and Authorization to Order (ATO) to extend CALNET services;
3. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to execute extensions, modifications, and service changes under the CALNET agreement; and
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to return two fully executed original copies of the attached E-rate Rider and Authorization to Order to the Library for further processing.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Humboldt County Library Fund (1500), Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Humboldt County Library seeks to continue receiving public telecommunications services at the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial, and Willow Creek library branches through AT&T's California Network and Telecommunications (CALNET) contracts.

Ensuring the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial, and Willow Creek branches stay connected to the internet has never been more important. With the ongoing disruptions caused by COVID-19, public libraries serve as critical gateways to information. Libraries give people without internet access the ability to access remote learning as well as other essential services that help close the digital divide, including but not limited to, applying for jobs and unemployment online, attending telemedicine visits, and scheduling vaccine appointments. As reliance upon public libraries to provide broadband telecommunications services for their community increases, it becomes essential to have universal connectivity in libraries across the county and country.

The Humboldt County Library currently receives an 80% discount via reimbursement on T1 Dedicated Transport data services to support the legacy infrastructure at the three branches mentioned above and connects them to the main library in Eureka through the FCC's E-rate program.

The E-rate program was founded by the FCC and managed by the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) to assist schools and libraries with obtaining internet access and telecommunications services at an affordable rate. Eligible schools and libraries receive discounts between 20% and 90% based on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch at the district level.

The CALNET program is focused on providing services that meet the State's complex and critical telecommunications and network business needs. The CALNET Program accomplishes this through oversight, statewide policy, and a suite of statewide, competitively bid telecommunications contracts used by both state and local agencies. Since Mar. 2015, the Humboldt County Library system has received E-rate eligible services through CALNET3.

CALNET contracts provide robust, reliable, and high-availability telecommunications services at special rates. CALNET offers awarded contractors a more extensive customer base than any other qualified government purchasing vehicle in California, encouraging contractors to provide better services at lower pricing and more favorable terms, conditions

The existing CALNET3 contract with AT&T expires Dec. 31, 2021, and a new agreement will be needed to extend services until all branches have been successfully connected to the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) network, which is being used at all other county library branches for public telecommunications services.

The contract with AT&T (Attachment A) will extend CALNET3 services at these three branches until Jun. 30, 2025. Throughout the duration of this contract, staff will work with vendors to prepare the branches to transition to CENIC.

The approval of the agreement before your Board today allows for the continuation of existing services at the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial, and Willow Creek branches until each branch can be transitioned to CENIC.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The term of the agreement is from fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 through Jun. 30, 2025, with three optional extensions. CALNET contracts are treated as month-to-month agreements which enables Humboldt County Library to end service at a branch without incurring early termination fees.

The annual total pre-discount amount for services is \$19,125 with taxes and InterLATA (long distance data transport fees) included. Costs will decrease as each library branch transitions to CENIC.

The Library will receive discounts of 80% for monthly recurring costs through the E-rate program each year (approximately \$15,372 annually). Funding for this service has been included in the FY 2021-22 budget for 1500-621. There is no impact to the General Fund.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by providing for and maintaining infrastructure providing community-appropriate levels of service, managing our resources to ensure sustainability of services, and seeking outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County's needs.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

EdTechnologyFunds, Inc.: Humboldt County Library's Current E-rate Consultants  
Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)  
Califa Group  
Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC)

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board could choose to not approve the CALNET ATO and E-rate with AT&T. However, this not recommended as the CALNET ATO is a temporary telecommunication service solution as the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial, and Willow Creek libraries transition to CENIC and E-rate provides affordable rates for libraries to provide internet and telecommunications services that are vital roles for libraries.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A) CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Authorization to order (ATO)

E-Rate Rider

Invitation for Bid Business Request (BAFO)

Invitation for Bid Part I General Instructions

General Provisions for Electronic Vendors Application of Qualifications

State of California Department of Technology Statewide Tech Procedure (Standard Agreement Tech 213)

Attachment I List of Contractors Responsibilities Document Attached to This Agreement

Standard Agreement Amendment 1

Standard Agreement Amendment 2

Standard Agreement Amendment 04

Standard Agreement Amendment 05

Standard Agreement Amendment 06

Department of Technology Non-State Entity (NESPA Form)

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No.: C-12

Meeting of: March 17, 2015

File No.: 15-264

