

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION State of California 505 Van Ness Avenue I San Francisco, California 94102 300 Capitol Mall I Sacramento, California 95814

February 16, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

To: California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Service and Distribution Lists

## Re: Postponement of the Deadline for Action on Pending CASF Infrastructure Applications and 2024 CASF Infrastructure Application Deadline

By this letter, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) postpones until June 30, 2024, the deadline for approvals of currently pending CASF Infrastructure applications and provides updates regarding the deadline for publication of the Broadband Availability Map and the 2024 CASF Infrastructure application deadline.

In Decision (D.) 22-11-023, the CPUC established the CASF Infrastructure Account timeline, including a date by which the Broadband Availability Map is published and a date by which pending applications are "deemed denied" if an application is not approved or a draft Resolution published.<sup>1</sup>

On June 1, 2023, the CPUC received 74 applications<sup>2</sup> requesting approximately \$527 million from the CASF Infrastructure Account, which exceeded the remaining authorized CASF budget allocation in <u>Resolution T-17782</u>. Three of the referenced projects have been awarded to date. On September 29, 2023, the CPUC received 484 Federal Funding Account applications. The objection process for these applications began on October 23, 2023, and closed on December 18, 2023. Many CASF Infrastructure projects overlap with Federal Funding Account projects.

Postponing the "deemed denied" review deadlines for the 70 pending Infrastructure applications until June 30, 2024, will provide the time necessary to complete coordination with the Federal Funding Account and enable the CPUC to award grants for reliable and affordable networks to communities that need it most. The CPUC will continue to review pending applications. The postponement of the deemed denied date is anticipated to have an effect on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> D. 22-11-023 Attachment 1 at A-27, available at available at <u>https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M498/K965/498965038.PDF</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> One applicant inadvertently sent its CASF Broadband Adoption Account project summary.

the timelines for the availability of the Broadband Map and the 2024 CASF Infrastructure application deadline, both of which depend on the finalization of the CPUC's current application review. After new funds have been authorized for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the CPUC will provide an update on the timing for the Broadband Map and the 2024 CASF Infrastructure application deadline via an email to the CASF Service and Distribution Lists.

Pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, I authorize the deadlines for action on pending CASF Infrastructure Grant applications to be postponed from February 29, 2024 to June 30, 2024. The timing for the Broadband Map and the 2024 CASF Infrastructure application deadline will be addressed in a future letter.

This letter is being served on the CASF Distribution List and the Service List for Rulemaking 20-08-021 via email.

Sincerely,

Rachel Peterson

Rachel Peterson Executive Director