

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking into the
Review of the California High Cost
Fund B Program

Rulemaking 06-06-028

(Filed June 29, 2006)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING PROVIDING NOTICE OF
WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL
STIMULUS FUNDS FOR BROADBAND**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the assigned Commissioner will be holding a workshop on July 10, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Commission's Auditorium, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California, to discuss the application process as described by the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Broadband Technology Opportunity Program and Broadband Infrastructure Program grants to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for Federal Stimulus Funds for broadband and California's role in the process. A second workshop with a similar agenda is tentatively scheduled for July 13, 2009, at Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602, with details to be announced later.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Pub. Law No. 111-5, was signed by the President on February 17, 2009. ARRA is a supplemental appropriation from the federal government designed to provide stimulus to the economy in response to recent contractions in the U.S. economy. ARRA includes an appropriation to NTIA and RUS of \$7.2 billion to be used for

grants and loans related to broadband service deployment and adoption.¹

Governor Schwarzenegger designated the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) with responsibility to coordinate the state's role in evaluating broadband ARRA grants for California. The CIO asked the Commission to assist in gathering and prioritizing applications for ARRA grants to bring broadband infrastructure to unserved or underserved areas. The CIO has asked the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to perform a similar gathering and prioritizing of applications that will stimulate the adoption and demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation, and assist in rural broadband infrastructure demand aggregation. On March 23, 2009, the Commission held a meeting to consider how to leverage California's existing broadband programs to assist applicants seeking federal funding available under the ARRA related to broadband.

On July 1, 2009, NTIA and RUS issued a joint Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), which sets forth, among other things, deadlines for applying for federal stimulus funds; the application criteria, process, and guidelines; and the state's role in the application and review process. This workshop will allow California entities to learn more about how to apply for federal stimulus funding for broadband projects under ARRA in light of the NOFA. This workshop will also provide guidance to potential applicants for ARRA funding given the short time

¹ Of the total \$7.2 billion, RUS is responsible for \$2.5 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and grants. NTIA is responsible for \$4.15 billion for broadband deployment, adoption, and mapping, and another \$650 million related to the digital television transition.

period for applications. The window for applications for ARRA funding opens July 14, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. (EST) and closes August 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. (EST).

The workshop will provide key dates for applications under the NOFA and an overview of the ARRA NOFA requirements with regard to applications seeking funds to build infrastructure. This presentation will be followed by a question and answer session, where members of the Chief Information Office, CPUC and CETF will be available to answer questions. Please note that interpretive questions regarding the NOFA should be directed to the NTIA and RUS contacts listed in the NOFA.

The second session of the workshop will begin with a presentation on the criteria for applications focused on broadband adoption programs. The second session will also have a question and answer session for attendees.

The third and final session of the day will include an overview of mapping issues and the NOFA released by NTIA on the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA); a summary of California's role in the grant process and requirements for matching funds from existing California broadband programs; and any additional procedural issues related to applying for ARRA funds. The workshop will close with a final question and answer session.

The tentative agenda for the July 10 meeting follows:

TIME	AGENDA
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Introduction
10:15-11:00 a.m.	Session I: Overview of the ARRA NOFA with regard to infrastructure
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Session I: Question and Answer
12:00-1:10 pm.	Lunch
1:10-1:40 p.m.	Session II: Adoption criteria in applications

	for funding subscribership/adoption programs
1:40-2:20 p.m.	Session II: Question and Answer
2:20-2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30-3:15p.m.	Session III: Overview of mapping, California review and recommendation role, and procedural issues.
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Session III: Question and Answer

IT IS RULED that a workshop is hereby scheduled for July 10, 2009, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the Commission's Auditorium, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California. The agenda for the workshop is set forth above. A second workshop is tentatively scheduled for July 13, 2009 at Whittier City Hall, with a similar agenda. Details for the second workshop will be issued shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Haga, Chief of Staff to Commissioner Chong, by electronic mail at rwh@cpuc.ca.gov, or telephone (415) 703-2538.

Dated July 2, 2009, at San Francisco, California.

INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICE

I have provided notification of filing to the electronic mail addresses on the attached service list.

Upon confirmation of this document's acceptance for filing, I will cause a Notice of Availability of the filed document to be served upon the service list to this proceeding by U.S. mail. The service list I will use to serve the Notice of Availability of the filed document is current as of today's date.

Dated July 2, 2009, at San Francisco, California.