

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Date: November 13, 2020

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

Re: **CASF 2020 Projects without Draft Resolution or Ministerial Letter Will be Deferred until March 31, 2021**

In Decision (D.) 18-12-018, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) established timelines for applications submitted to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Infrastructure Grant Account. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health emergency, the original deadlines for approvals under Ministerial Review and for publishing Draft Resolutions were changed to November 3, 2020 and November 13, 2020, respectively. This announcement was conveyed in a [letter](#) sent March 20, 2020 to the CASF Distribution and Service Lists.

On May 4, 2020, the Communications Division (CD) received 54 applications requesting funding from the CASF Infrastructure Grant Account, for a total amount that was nearly three times the remaining fund balance. On June 5, the Director of CD sent a [letter](#) to the CASF Distribution List urging CASF infrastructure applicants to apply for funding from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I Auction 904. The federal RDOF program provides an opportunity for eligible areas of California to receive up to \$16 billion in financial support over a ten-year period for construction and operation of broadband networks in unserved areas.

On June 29, 2020, Governor Newsom signed AB 82 into law, amending Public Utilities Code § 281 to authorize leveraging of CASF Infrastructure grant funding to supplement the costs of broadband infrastructure by the federal RDOF. In order to effectively utilize and possibly combine state and federal funding to meet the goal of the CASF program and thereby secure broadband deployment for more California residents, staff has recommended that project applications that include RDOF-eligible areas be deferred until after the results of the RDOF Phase I (Auction 904) have been published.<sup>1</sup> The Commission will notify the CASF Distribution and Service Lists once the revised timeline becomes available.

Pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, I authorize that any CASF application submitted on May 4, 2020 and not awarded through Ministerial Letter or Resolution by the deadlines of November 3 and November 13, 2020 is not automatically deemed denied. Such applications continue to be eligible for consideration for CASF funding until March 31, 2021, either in full or in combination with FCC RDOF funding.

Pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, the CASF Distribution List, including the Service Lists for R.12-10-012 and R.20-08-021 are notified via electronic email of this revision to the CASF Application Review Deadlines.

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<sup>1</sup> "Staff Proposal on State-Federal Broadband Infrastructure Funds Leveraging"  
<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M347/K810/347810144.PDF>

Sincerely,

*Rachel Peterson*

Rachel Peterson  
Acting Executive Director  
California Public Utilities Commission