



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889
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August 8, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission
Local Agency Technical Assistance Program
Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Bragg is eager to participate in the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) program and the Fort Bragg City Council supports the submission of application. Today, broadband is as essential as electricity or water to the effective functioning of business, the success of our students, and the ability to respond in emergencies. Broadband connectivity will likely determine our community's ability to develop a vibrant and resilient economy, prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow and deliver the social, public safety, and healthcare services that our community desires. Providing this digital infrastructure is a priority for the City, and as such, we have set aside American Rescue Plan Act funds to invest in broadband deployment, providing a funding source to support LATA reimbursement.

The City of Fort Bragg Digital Infrastructure Plan (2021) provides a high-level overview for a fiber-to-the-premise broadband deployment project (underground conduit, fiber, and electronics), as well a potential path for operating and servicing customers over the network. LATA funding will allow the City to refine network design, complete environmental review and engineering studies, secure necessary entitlements, and develop a business plan, marketing plan and financing strategy. Our objective is to cover all pre-construction costs and have a bid-ready project that would enable the City to pursue construction dollars.

The City is coordinating with other entities in the region pursuing broadband deployment - City of Ukiah, Mendocino County and North Bay/North Coast and Golden State Connect Authority. LATA funds will be used to bring others into the conversation including, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and the many local special districts that serve our community, such as the Fire Department, Hospital District, School District, and Noyo Harbor.

We appreciate the opportunity to request funding and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bernie Norvell
Mayor

Jessica Morsell-Haye
Vice Mayor

Teresa K. Albin-Smith
Councilmember

Lindy Peters
Councilmember

Marcia Rafanan
Councilmember