



OFFICE OF THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Teri Takai
California Chief Information Officer

March 25, 2010

Mr. Larry Strickling, Administrator
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Agency
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast

Dear Mr. Strickling:

I am writing on behalf of the State of California to express our strong support for the Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast Project. This project will provide cost-effective broadband services to remote areas in California's Central Coast, which will open up large areas of San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties to fast and affordable broadband access.

If granted, the State of California intends to subscribe to broadband services provided by the Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast. This project will directly impact the following Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) by providing the necessary broadband technology for Next Generation 911 (NG9-1-1):

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monterey Emergency Comm. Center | Cal Fire Monterey |
| Canon Police Department | Presidio Monterey Police Department |
| Fort Hunter Liggett Fire | Santa Cruz Emergency Comm. Center |
| UC Santa Cruz | Scotts Valley Police Department |
| San Benito County Sheriff | California Highway Patrol Monterey |

This project will provide an opportunity for the PSAPs in the proposed service areas, and working with those in adjacent counties, to improve public safety and homeland security by providing an IP-capable backbone to support the new NG9-1-1 architecture.

Currently, 9-1-1 across the nation is at the crossroads of technology and the State of California supports this project, which will enable NG9-1-1 capability. Over the past 15 years, advancements in modern communications technology have created the need for a more advanced system to access emergency care. The existing landline based network has evolved and adapted, most recently to meet the requirements of wireless E9-1-1 and VoIP 9-1-1 callers.

While the existing 9-1-1 system has been a success story for more than 30 years, it has been stretched to its limit as communications technology advances. New wireless and IP-based communications devices are being developed at a rapid rate, offering the latest capabilities such as text and video messaging. Unfortunately, the current 9-1-1 system was never intended to receive calls and data from these new and emerging technologies. As a result, through cumbersome adaptations, the E9-1-1 network is being asked to perform functions it was never designed to handle. In short, the State of California's E9-1-1 systems are in need of a significant overhaul in a time of severe budget constraints.

Because of its large geographic footprint, California has very densely populated areas, as well as very remote and sparsely populated areas. In either case, it is the responsibility of the 9-1-1 Office to provide equivalent 9-1-1 services, in all cases, no matter where a citizen may reside. This has, in some areas, dramatically increased the cost to provide E9-1-1 service. In the current California E9-1-1 Network Tariffs, trunking products incorporate mileage-sensitive elements that make it very costly to bring 9-1-1 service to PSAPs that are not closely located to the Selective Router switches. Today, broadband networks do not include the mileage-sensitive elements associated with the traditional legacy 9-1-1 network. The State of California is looking for a next-generation network solution to help eliminate the need for the traditional 9-1-1 PSAP trunks, as well as the mileage-sensitive billing elements associated with those trunks. Projects such as the Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast will allow a more cost effective way to provide 9-1-1 service, while building the infrastructure for our NG9-1-1 platform.

If we are to meet the needs of the public safety community, in addition to those of schools, public libraries, colleges, and other key anchor institutions that are vital to California's success, we must invest now in our technology infrastructure.

The 9-1-1 Office believes that work can begin now to leverage NG9-1-1 technology and address critical issues, while at the same time laying the foundation for a true NG9-1-1 architecture by identifying projects, such as this one, that will make broadband more available and cost-effective. Broadband will lay the foundation for NG9-1-1 type architecture.

Standards work is still being conducted in organizations such as the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), Emergency Services Interconnection Forum (ESIF), and the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) for NG9-1-1. However, the State of California has begun building an open non-proprietary solution using new broadband technology to address the current issues facing California. By building an open architecture, and leveraging projects like this one, new standards can be incorporated in the design as they become available. Our strategy is to implement a broadband architecture that can help address the issues associated with 9-1-1 calls in California, provide a more robust disaster recovery mechanism and reduce network costs in remote areas, while providing a foundation for future 9-1-1 communications devices. The proposed Broadband Grid for California's Central Coast project allows us the opportunity to begin building that foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project, and if you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



Teri Takai
State Chief Information Officer