

Ms. Clover Sellden
Sr. Regulatory Analyst
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Sellden and CPUC Communications Division Staff;

Congratulations on the excellent progress that has been made in expanding broadband services in Northern California rural areas. Our community of Las Cumbres, in the Santa Cruz Mountains has eagerly anticipated the opportunity to join the ranks of those with contemporary levels of technical capability. For two years, we have pursued the installation of fiber optic cable to be part of our community infrastructure. As you are aware, the service capability which we currently receive through our phone lines is severely limited.

In pursuit of improved capability, we have partnered with Surfnet. Surfnet has developed a comprehensive project plan to serve our 120 families. To facilitate the project plan, via a loan through CPUC, Las Cumbres has raised over one hundred thousand dollars. Those funds have been in escrow while the loan application has been in the queue for review and approval.

Las Cumbres is aware of the complexities of the approval process and has been patiently waiting for progress. We worked diligently with Surfnet to make timely submittal and expected to wait our turn in line. The recent white letter appears to change the rules of the application and review process and seems to now remove us from the consideration which we felt the system would provide.

Please take the measures which will honor the process in which we originally enlisted.

Respectfully,
Bill Hult
chairperson Las Cumbres Fiber Optic Committee