

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider)
Modifications to the California Advanced) Rulemaking No. 12-10-012
Services Fund.)

**COMMENTS OF CENTRAL SIERRA CONNECT
ON PHASE I ISSUES**

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March 16, 2018

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Central Sierra Connect (covering Amador, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Mariposa counties), and Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency, work within the Central Sierra region to provide access to tools and services that residents of these communities need. In 2017 alone, ATCAA handled over 3,100 walk-ins and phone calls - thousands of residents reaching out for a hand to help them overcome struggles in their households.

In our region, in all aspects of our community work, we see the need for broadband internet access. Schools without a reliable internet connection aren't able to provide students (from pre-kindergarten all the way through college) with the education that their peers in other communities are receiving. Businesses without access to broadband are seeing their productivity suffer. Communities are stagnating, losing residents and employees to other places in the hopes of finding more opportunity in areas that can offer reliable broadband internet.

In the distribution of grants to expand adoption, it is important for the CPUC to take into account verified subscriptions by low-income households. Increasing broadband adoption by low-income residents can do so much for the health of the overall community, allowing better access to educational, medical, and safety services. In addition, using existing organizations to deploy funding can better and more efficiently utilize grants by putting funding directly to work on increasing adoption among low-income households, while keeping overhead costs low.

WHEREFORE, Central Sierra Connect respectfully requests the Commission amend its CASF proposals contained in Appendix B as set forth above in these comments.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Patrick Kane

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