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

Approval of funding for the grant application of Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications (U-7218-C), from the California Advanced Services Fund for the Keddie Project located in Plumas County.

Resolution T-17672

## REPLY COMMENTS OF PLUMAS-SIERRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION T-17672 FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION OF PLUMAS-SIERRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS (U-7218-C), FROM THE CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND FOR THE KEDDIE PROJECT LOCATED IN PLUMAS COUNTY.

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Member Services Manager for Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications

November 27, 2019

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Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications submits these Reply Comments on Draft Resolution T-17672 ("Draft Resolution") in response to the Opening Comments of the Public Advocates Office.

### I. INTRODUCTION

On November 20, the Public Advocates Office filed Opening Comments on the Draft Resolution regarding affordable broadband plans for low-income customers.

PST has since changed its low-income program offering to provide service to low-income customers for \$15 per month as described below.

#### II. COMMENTS ON LOW-INCOME OFFERING

PST has reevaluated its low-income offering and will be offering plans starting at \$15 per month for low-income customers. Details of the program follow.

## **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the PST Low-income Program is to provide low-cost internet to low-income Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications residential customers.

## **Program Availability**

The low-income program is available to low-income, full-time, permanent residences in CASF Grant Funded Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications service areas.

## Benefit

Program participants will receive a discounted rate for their internet services. Plans will start at \$15.00 per month with 10 Mbps download speed.

## **Program Participation Qualifications and Conditions**

All participating customers must qualify with the following income guidelines:

Number in Household	Maximum Annual Income*	
1-2	\$31,020	
3	\$39,060	
4	\$47,100	
5	\$55,140	
6	\$63,180	
For each additional household member add \$8,040/yr.		

\*Income levels are based on 190% of the Federal Poverty Level and are subject to change each year. Proof of income must be current to within 6 weeks of application date.

## **Terms and Conditions**

- Customer's account must remain current during the duration of service in order to continue to receive the discounted rate.
- The person who applies for assistance must be a full-time, permanent resident at the service address and be the PST customer of record.

#### Pricing

Download Speed	Upload Speed	Monthly Price
10 Mbps	1 Mbps	\$15.00
15 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$25.00
20 Mbps	5 Mbps	\$35.00

#### **Enrollment and Certification**

Customer may apply by mail or may come into the Portola office for application assistance. Program enrollment will need to be re-certified annually at the beginning of each calendar year.

#### Marketing

PST will market its low-income program through a variety of communication channels including but not limited to: brochures, bill inserts, newspaper ads and PST's website.

#### Training

PST will train its customer service and sales representative on the requirements and benefits of the low-income program to encourage customer participation.

#### III. CONCLUSION

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications respectfully submits the foregoing reply comments regarding its revised low-income program for the Keddie project in Plumas County.

Dated: November 27, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_/s/

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