



Larry Johnston ~ District One Fred Stump ~ District Two Tim Alpers ~ District Three
Tim Fesko ~ District Four Byng Hunt ~ District Five

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO

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Lynda Roberts, Clerk of the Board

August 21, 2013

Ryan Dulin, Director
Communications Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298
Sent via email to T-17408 Service List

RE : Comments in response to Resolution T-17408

Dear Mr. Dulin:

On behalf of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, I would like to submit comments in support of Resolution T-17408 which would conditionally approve up to \$10,016,202 of additional funding for the completion of the Digital 395 project.

This project, which spans the length of Mono County, is of significant value to our constituents, local economy, and government that supports them. Since its inception, the County has been a major supporter of Digital 395, with contributions of staff time (in-kind), waived permit fees, and installed infrastructure (in the form of conduit for Digital 395 use). In addition, our elected officials and staff have worked closely with Praxis Associates and its contractors to streamline processes surrounding permitting, plan approval, and the inspection of construction.

The County fully understands the challenges that Digital 395 has been faced with up to this point, and the gaps that exist within the project as a result. The communities and anchors (in Mono and Inyo Counties) that risk being bypassed if this resolution is not adopted are of significant value to us, and as a result encourage the Commission to approve the funding in full.

The Board's specific areas of concern and interest are as follows:

1. End-to-End Connectivity of the network

Without a continuous network between Barstow and Carson City, the overall value of Digital 395 is greatly diminished. Not only would this divide the County into two pieces (with the western portion being served from Carson City and the eastern being served from Barstow), but also pose significant concerns regarding redundancy and quality of service.

2. Backbone construction and anchor connections within June Lake

June Lake is the highest priority community for Mono County with respect to Digital 395. Mono County relies heavily on tourism to support our economy, and this community is the largest tourist destination within the unincorporated area, thereby contributing a significant portion of tax dollars to the County

General Fund. Delivering high-speed broadband to visitors, the businesses and services that support them, and the residents in the area is of critical importance to us.

3. Connectivity to Walker community anchors

The community of Walker consists of several County anchors and critical facilities which provide service to a local population of approximately 500 underserved residents. A lack of service in this area would affect County operations and adversely impact the residents in that community.

4. Connectivity to the Benton Reservation

Providing broadband services to native populations in the County with the intent of improving Digital Literacy, bridging the Digital Divide, and affording them the same opportunities as all other residents in the County is of significant importance.

5. Backbone construction and connection to the USMC Mountain Warfare Training Center

The Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) is the only Department of Defense facility in Mono County. In addition to the regular operations carried out there, MWTC provides emergency support to northern Mono County in the form of mutual aid is a valuable addition to the north county.

6. Backbone construction and anchor connection to Round Valley School (Inyo County)

In addition to the importance of providing broadband to Round Valley School in Inyo County, the proximity of this location to the underserved Mono County communities of Paradise Estates and Swall Meadows opens up opportunities for future projects to reach these areas.

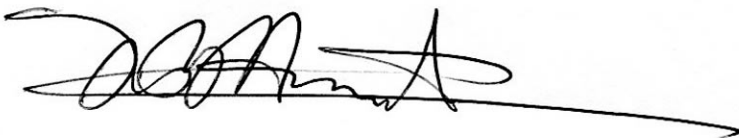
7. Connectivity to local Internet Service Providers, cell sites, and other hand-off points

All other anchor locations that provide service to Last Mile Providers are critically important to Mono County, as we are dependent upon those resources for broadband, primary and redundant means of communication, and the overall deployment of Digital 395 to consumers.

The County recognizes that this request for additional funding will limit the ability for the CPUC to fund other California Advanced Services Fund requests, some of which are Mono County focused projects. However, we feel that it is more important to ensure the completion and success of Digital 395 before implementing additional projects, especially any that would depend on it as backhaul.

Mono County appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this matter, and look forward to the completion of Digital 395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byng Hunt', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Byng Hunt
Chair