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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

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:

The Mono County Sheriff's Department 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.

Digital 395 is of critical importance to Mono County, particularly the public safety entities. Given the rural nature of our County, we rely heavily on technology to deliver our dispatchers, emergency responders, and public safety officers with the best information available in a timely manner, in order to make sound decisions and provide exceptional services.

The improved access to broadband offered by Digital 395 will improve the overall communications infrastructure in our service area. As the Sheriff's Department embarks on the implementation of a new radio system, we will be looking toward utilizing Digital 395 as a backbone to our dispatch center, and repeater sites. Additionally, discussions are underway to develop a regional Emergency Services Network using Digital 395, which will provide connectivity between our main office and dispatch center in Bridgeport, CA and our remote sub-stations, fire stations, and other mutual aid agencies and departments throughout the Eastern Sierra.

The redundancy that Digital 395 provides to the region is also of significant value to us. Currently the communication backbone into our 911 dispatch center in Bridgeport comes from the south. At least one time each year, we lose 911 services due to the fiber being cut (due to construction or other causes) somewhere along the route. Having an additional backbone to the north would provide us some insurance against future incidents, and allow us to continue to operate normally when they occur. The prospect of improved cell coverage throughout the County as a result of new Digital 395 backbone will provide our field staff even further communication redundancy.

In order for our public safety entities to adequately utilize this infrastructure, having a complete, redundant, and reliable network is critically important. In addition, service to County anchors and other critical facilities throughout the network route needs to be in place, and reliable.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this matter, and anxiously anticipate the completion of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Obenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff-Coroner