



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

TO: City Council

FROM: INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR DURAN
ASST FINANCE MANAGER RODRIGUEZ

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE TO ACT AS FISCAL AGENT FOR GRANT AWARDED TO THE CENTRAL COAST CONSORTIUM AND APPROPRIATE \$200,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING FISCAL YEAR 22/23 FOR FIVE YEARS FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,000,000 IN THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND (0260)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution:

- a) Authorizing the City of Watsonville to act as the fiscal agent for the Central Coast Broadband Consortium for the grant awarded by the Public Utility Commission under resolution T-17778 effective January 12, 2023.
- b) Approving appropriations of \$200,000 every year for five years in the Grants Fund (260) on a \$1,000,000 grant to enable the City of Watsonville to perform its fiscal agent responsibilities under the grant terms and conditions.

2023	\$200,000
2024	\$200,000
2025	\$200,000
2026	\$200,000
2027	\$200,000

BACKGROUND:

The Public Utilities Commission approved resolution T-17778 awarding a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for five years beginning January 12, 2023 to the Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC), which represents local governments within Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. The consortium selected the City of Watsonville to be its fiscal agent.

DISCUSSION:

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC) is comprised of agencies in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. This consortium has received several prior grants from the Public Utilities Commission which has assisted in the following:

- publication and promulgation of broadband deployment policies,
- conducting primary research in the tri-county region to understand broadband services offered and needs for residences and businesses,
- producing GIS and other analytical tools to document broadband infrastructure and service gaps throughout its region,
- providing resources to deploy California Advanced Service Fund (CASF) funded projects in the region that are in various stages of development,
- using GIS web-platform technical resources to support and expedite infrastructure planning and development.

With the newly received grant of \$1,000,000 over five years, CCBC proposes to focus on developing and supporting broadband projects funded by the CASF Infrastructure Account, including the deployment of last-mile infrastructure, affordable access via greater competition, and more choices and policy engagement.

As fiscal agent, the City of Watsonville is the pass through for the spending and reimbursement of the PUC grant funds. Staff from the Finance department review invoices and contracts and submit reimbursement requests to the state.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action supports strategic plan goals 2 fiscal health and 5 community engagement and well-being by supporting the CCBC financially in their activities to improve broadband availability and access in our communities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This action will require a \$200,000 appropriation of funds from the Grants Fund (0260) for this fiscal year 22/23 and \$200,000 in the next four years for a total of \$1,000,000. If the recommendation is approved, the City will serve as the fiscal agent and will disburse funds for the implementation of this grant and obtain reimbursement from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council may direct the City not to act as fiscal agent under this grant.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

- 1) CPUC Resolution T-17778