



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Special Meeting Agenda**

Friday, July 8, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members of the Board

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth - Chair,
Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh - Vice Chair, City of Bishop Councilmember Karen Schwartz,
Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor Bob Gardner,
Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, City of Bishop Councilmember Jim Ellis,
Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Lynda Salcido

NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Assistant Clerk at (760) 965-3615. Notification prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 13.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

NOTE: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Town Offices located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230 during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the ESCOG website at www.escog.ca.gov subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

NOTE: This will be a Zoom meeting and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) which amends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. It is strongly encouraged that you watch this meeting on the Town of Mammoth Lakes' (TOML) website at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, via Zoom or on TOML's local government cable channel 18. Public comments may be submitted to the ESCOG Clerk at clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov before and during the meeting or may be made via Zoom or in person.

ZOOM INFORMATION

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 ***To raise your hand press *9, To Unmute/Mute press *6**

Webinar ID: 924 2142 7651

International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Notice to the Public: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda. When recognized by the Chair, please state your name and address for the record and please limit your comments to three minutes. Under California law the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board may briefly respond to comments or questions from members of the public. Therefore, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board will listen to all public comment but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Approve a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health – AB 361

4.2. Approve Letter of Support for Application #1424 "Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) Support"

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1. Adoption of a Resolution to Re-establish the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium and Direction to Submit an Application for Funding to the California Advanced Services Fund Consortia Grant Account

5.2. Approval of a Collective Partnership Agreement Letter to Participate in the California Community Economic Resiliency Fund Process

5.3. Discussion and Direction to Submit a Proposal Application for the Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaborative Program

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The ESCOG will adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on August 12, 2022.



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Grace Chuchla, ESCOG Counsel
Subject: Consideration of a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361
Meeting date: July 8, 2022
Prepared on: July 6, 2022
Attachments: A) Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Since March 2020, legislative bodies in California have been permitted to meet virtually without following certain requirements of the Brown Act due to an executive order from Governor Newsom. That executive order expires on September 30, 2021, and in its place, the Governor has signed AB 361, which modifies the Brown Act in a manner to permit continued virtual meetings in certain circumstances.

During the regular meeting held June 10, 2022 the ESCOG Board made certain findings by resolution to continue meeting remotely. In order to continue meeting remotely, the Board will need to adopt the attached resolution to make the authorizing findings and continue to meet every 30 days to keep the resolution in effect.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

recommends that the Board adopt a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361.



MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health

P.O. BOX 476, BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 PHONE (760) 932-5580 • FAX (760) 932-5284
P.O. BOX 3329, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 PHONE (760) 924-1830 • FAX (760) 924-1831

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Bryan Wheeler, Director of Public Health

Re: Recommendation regarding Social Distancing and Virtual Meetings

Both Mono County “covering” Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson and I strongly recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Mono County communities, including at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other County-related legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act, to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Whether vaccinated or not, positive individuals are contracting the Delta variant and infecting others in our communities. Social distancing and masking are crucial mitigation measures to prevent the disease’s spread. Virtual board meetings allow for the participation of the community, county staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. It is recommended that legislative bodies in Mono County implement fully-remote meetings to the extent possible.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will continue to evaluate this recommendation on an ongoing basis and will communicate when there is no longer such a recommendation with respect to meetings for public bodies.



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

*Public Health, Suite 203-C
1360 N. Main Street, Bishop CA 93514
TEL: (760) 873-7868 FAX: (760) 873-7800*

Marilyn Mann, Director
mmann@inyocounty.us

Date: September 23, 2021

To: Inyo County Local Agency Governing Bodies

From: Dr. James Richardson, Inyo County Public Health Officer

Re: Continued Recommendation Re Social Distancing and Remote Meetings

In order to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, I recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Inyo County communities, including at public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other public agencies. Individuals continue to contract COVID-19 and spread the infection throughout our communities. Social distancing, masking, and vaccination are crucial mitigation measures to prevent the disease's spread. Remote public agency meetings allow for the participation of the community, agency staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. As such, and since this disease negatively and directly impacts the ability of public agencies to conduct public meetings safely in person, it is my recommendation that local public agencies conduct their public meetings remotely.

This recommendation will remain in place until further notice.

Dr. James A. Richardson
Inyo County Health Officer

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGARDING THE NEED FOR CONTINUED VIRTUAL MEETINGS TO
PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the health and safety of communities within ESCOG’s jurisdiction since its inception in March 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom has declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officers for Inyo and Mono Counties have recommended social distancing and continued virtual meetings as a means to limit the spread of COVID-19, particularly the highly contagious Delta variant. These recommendations are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of ESCOG that

1. The Board has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency related to COVID-19 and declared by Governor Newsom.
2. The Board finds that the above-mentioned state of emergency directly impacts the ability of ESCOG to meet safely in person because in person meetings, particularly with the public present, increase the likelihood that COVID-19 will be transmitted throughout the community.
3. Local officials—specifically the Health Officers of Inyo and Mono Counties—continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

PASSED AND ADOPTED 8th day of July, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

John Wentworth

Chairperson



July 8, 2022

SNC Grants Team
c/o Matt Driscoll
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Attn: Matt Driscoll, Eastern Sierra Area Representative, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

RE: Letter of support for Application #1424 “Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) Support”

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

On behalf of Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, we are writing today to express support for the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) and its funding proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program for support of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP).

The ESSRP is an established collaborative of public agencies in the Eastern Sierra that is currently supported through the voluntary efforts and contributions of MLTPA, a regional non-profit foundation. The ESSRP was established in 2018 and is in the process of formalizing its relationship with a regional joint powers authority, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG). Partners in the ESSRP represent over 17,000 square miles of California’s public landscape, including three California counties, CALTRANS district 9, an incorporated city and an incorporated town, two regions and two units of the U.S. Forest Service, the regional field office of the Bureau of Land Management, six units of the National Park Service, and ongoing outreach and communications with regional tribes. Formalized in 2018 through a U.S Forest Service non-funded challenge cost share agreement, the ESSRP is a direct outcome of the management planning process for the Inyo National Forest, completed in 2019, and the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC), an effort funded by MLTPA and the National Forest Foundation and managed by MLTPA to provide community members and recreation stakeholders meaningful opportunities to engage with the Inyo National Forest’s management planning process.

Over the last four years, based on its experience convening, facilitating, project managing, and funding the ESRC from 2014 – 2016, MLTPA has voluntarily provided necessary capacity and technical support for the ESSRP. These services have included the ongoing coordination and outreach to ESSRP partner representatives; agendas, convening, facilitation, presentations, list management, research, and coordination of special guests

for monthly ESSRP meetings; regular updating of the ESSRP webpage, essrp.org, including coordination for the inclusion of content of regional interest such as COVID-19, the “CAMP Like A Pro” program, and Recreate Responsibly messaging; the curation of the ESSRP page on the MLTPA website which hosts all of the foundational documents associated with the ESSRP; and the drafting, circulation, final edits, and final signatures to a new binding document, the “ESSRP MOU,” that has been requested by the ESSRP to replace the current U.S. Forest Service non-funded challenge cost share agreement.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the overwhelming surge in outdoor recreation visitation to the Eastern Sierra compelled by the virus, has provoked change. Since 2018, membership in the ESSRP has grown from four public agencies to potentially fifteen agencies and a number of tribes. Partner agencies have indicated a desire to change their organizing document from the U.S Forest Service non-funded challenge cost share agreement to a simpler Memorandum of Understanding, the “ESSRP MOU”, which will make it easier to diversify ESSRP membership. The ESSRP is now playing a more significant role in the region than was perhaps originally anticipated, and with these circumstances in mind, we strongly support MLTPA’s funding for support of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP).

Sincerely,

Elaine Kabala
Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director

Subject: 1. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Approving a Program of Work for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Related to the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium

2. Direction to submit an application for funding the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Consortia Grant Account

Meeting date: July 8, 2022

Prepared on: July 6, 2022

Attachments: A) Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Approving a Program of Work for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Related to the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium
B) Draft Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium “Connected Eastern Sierra” Project Plan

Analysis/Discussion:

On May 19, 2022 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted Decision (D). 22-05-029 which made programmatic changes to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Consortia Grant Account and allocated \$10.71m of funding for California regional broadband consortia in FY 22-23. Broadband Consortia are recognized and funded by the CPUC to facilitate the deployment of broadband services by providing the local expertise necessary to conceptualize broadband projects which could be funded under grant programs, such as those created under SB 156 and AB 164.

The member agencies of the ESCOG have collaborated under two separate broadband consortia over the past decade – the Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (2012 – 2015) and the first iteration of the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (2016-2019). The primary focus of the work performed under both entities was to effectively leverage the opportunities created by Digital 395 - namely developing new last-mile broadband offerings and encouraging broadband adoption through awareness and marketing campaigns.

Given the opportunities presented to the Eastern Sierra region under SB 156 (such as the \$10.5m allocated to the County through the Federal Funding Account), there are legitimate opportunities to

further close the digital divide in the Eastern Sierra and achieve the organization’s goal of delivering Gigabit internet to at least 98% of households. By leveraging CASF funding and taking a regional approach to work efforts we can better utilize resources, focus on “economy of scale” types of projects and initiatives, and keep a collaborative approach in broadband related economic development opportunities.

Under the guidance and direction of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), the IMBC would:

- Hire a Regional Broadband Coordinator
- Refine and implement broadband strategies
- Assist with grant applications and administration
- Further the development of economic development initiatives related to broadband

The Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium “Connected Eastern Sierra” Project Plan would focus on the following five objectives:

- 1) Collaborating with the Commission and other state agencies to engage regional consortia, local officials, ISPs, stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal.
- 2) Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects or potential broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, along with other opportunities, where ISPs can expand and improve their infrastructure and service offerings to achieve the goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment in each consortia region.
- 3) Assisting potential CASF infrastructure applicants or potential applicants for broadband deployment projects related to the new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164 in the project development or grant application process.
- 4) Conducting activities that will lead to or that can be reasonably expected to lead to CASF infrastructure projects or broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, including the Federal Funding Account, Middle-Mile, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve, and Local Agency Technical Assistance.
- 5) Assisting the Commission in publicizing requests for wireline testing volunteers in areas, as needed.

Inyo County would serve as Fiscal Agent in support of the IMBC and would serve as the employer for the Regional Broadband Manager.

Pursuant to the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement, in order re-establish the IMBC, each member agency needs to approve a resolution authorizing the program of work. Each member agency has approved an independent resolution to re-establish the IMBC and submit an application for funding to the CASF fund.

Budget Impacts:

The IMBC can request up to \$200,000 per year for four consecutive years from the CASF fund, beginning in September 2022 through August 2026. Inyo County has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent if the funding is awarded.

Legal Review:

Counsel Chuchla has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommendation:

Recommended Motion: 1) Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Approving a Program of Work for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Related to the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium; 2) Direct the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments / Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium to apply for broadband consortia funding allocated under the California Advanced Services Fund, and 3) Authorize the Chair to Sign the California Advanced Services Fund application package on behalf of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments / Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF
THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS,
APPROVING A PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS RELATED TO THE INYO-MONO BROADBAND CONSORTIUM**

WHEREAS, from approximately 2016 to 2019, the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) operated within and under the governance of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG);

WHEREAS, during this time, the IMBC was awarded roughly \$105,000 of funding from the Consortia Account of the California Advances Services Fund (CASF) administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC);

WHEREAS, the IMBC used these funds to achieve crucial regional goals related to improving broadband access and adoption, including developing awareness around broadband offerings, producing tools to assist with selecting providers, assisting with policy creation within the agencies, and developing marketing materials;

WHEREAS, in April 2019, when the CASF grant was full expended, the IMBC went dormant;

WHEREAS, in January 2020, the ESCOG modified its organizational structure and entered into a formal joint powers authority agreement that includes the City of Bishop, County of Inyo, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and County of Mono;

WHEREAS, section 3.01 of the ESCOG JPA agreement requires ESCOG to obtain the approval of all four of its member agencies before engaging in substantive projects, such as applying for grants or participating in state or federal programs;

WHEREAS, in early June 2022, ESCOG administration became aware that the CPUC adopted Decision 22-05-029, which modified the rules for CASF consortia, expanded the activities that consortia could engage in, and allocated an additional \$10.7 million in grant funding for consortia to spend on any of the following eligible activities:

- Collaborating with the Commission and other state agencies to engage regional consortia, local officials, internet service providers (ISPs), stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal.
- Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects or potential broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, along with other opportunities, where providers can expand and improve their

Attachment A

infrastructure and service offerings to achieve the goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment in each consortia region.

- Assisting potential CASF infrastructure applicants or potential applicants for broadband deployment projects related to the new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164 in the project development or grant application process.
- Conducting activities that will lead to or that can be reasonably expected to lead to CASF infrastructure projects or broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, including but not limited to the following examples of allowable activities:
 - Supporting project permitting activities.
 - Engaging local government officials and communities to better understand and explain regional broadband needs and solutions and providing technical assistance to such entities.
 - Conducting an inventory of public assets (e.g., rights-of-ways, publicly owned towers, public utility poles, equipment housing, publicly owned property) and aggregate demand, including speed tests and the identification and updates of priority areas.
- Assisting the Commission in publicizing requests for wireline testing volunteers in areas, as needed.
- Assisting the Commission in promoting broadband deployment in California, related to the Federal Funding Account and other programs including Middle-Mile, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve, and Local Agency Technical Assistance created under SB 156 and AB 164.

WHEREAS, in order to prepare a strong application to access this latest round of CASF and avoid duplication of efforts, the members of the IMBC should agree upon a central entity to house and administer the IMBC, agree upon basic details regarding the governance of the IMBC, and assign an entity to submit a CASF application on behalf of all members of the IMBC;

WHEREAS, ESCOG is uniquely qualified to fulfill the tasks enumerated above. The IMBC was previously housed within ESCOG from 2016-2019. Additionally, ESCOG is a regional entity whose Board contains representatives from all four entities that make up the IMBC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments that,

1. Following the approval of its four member agencies, ESCOG engage in a program of work related to the IMBC, specifically:
 - a. The ESCOG house the IMBC within its governance structure and provide administrative support to the IMBC.
 - b. The Board of Directors of ESCOG serve as the Board of the IMBC.

Attachment A

- c. On behalf of the Eastern Sierra region, ESCOG submit all applications and materials necessary to access the CASF made available by the CPUC's Decision 22-05-029.
2. Should ESCOG choose to engage in the IMBC Program of Work, ESCOG is empowered to apply for, administer, and expend grants and other sources of revenue to participate in regional broadband development efforts, including but not limited to the CASF made available by Decision 22-05-029; take official positions on matters of policy related to regional broadband development efforts; serve as the governing body of the IMBC; engage in any actions already authorized by the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement including the securing of appropriate levels of insurance and hiring personnel; and take any other actions reasonable related to its pursuit of the above-mentioned broadband development activities, provided, however, that the IMBC Program of Work shall not be authorized to incur debt that is not otherwise secured by the Program's identified revenue. Member agency funding to support such work is subject to approval by each agency and action by the ESCOG shall not obligate members financially.

PASSED AND ADOPTED 8th day of July, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: _____

Secretary John Wentworth
Chairperson



INYO-MONO BROADBAND CONSORTIUM “CONNECTED EASTERN SIERRA” PROJECT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The completion of the Digital 395 middle-mile project in 2013 marked the beginning of a new era for the Eastern Sierra Nevada region of California. This open-access, middle-mile network has transformed a region previously hamstrung by an incumbent-held, non-redundant network that was inadequate to serve the businesses, residents, and visitors of this unique region.

OUR VISION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES WHICH DELIVER COST-EFFECTIVE, GIGABIT BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS IN THE EASTERN SIERRA

Since the completion of Digital 395, several last-mile broadband expansion efforts have taken place in Inyo and Mono Counties. Both agencies have successfully worked with local providers to improve existing networks and leverage Digital 395 as backhaul. Additionally, several new Fiber-to-the-Premise gigabit networks were built via money from the California Advanced Services Fund in Mono County between 2013 and 2016. As a result, nearly 95% of the households in Mono County have access to gigabit internet today.

Despite this, a multitude of access issues still exist in the region. It is reasonable to state that the overall promise and potential of Digital 395 has been hampered by the lack of equally robust last mile broadband infrastructure in each of our communities. The reasons for this can be traced back to challenges with past grant programs and funding opportunities, along with challenging market dynamics (small populations dispersed over large geographic areas) that similarly limited private sector investment in this area prior to the funding of Digital 395.

Recognizing that broadband is the necessary foundation for the Eastern Sierra’s economy and quality of life – including the support of emergency services, telemedicine, education, professional services, manufacturing, and tourism – local governments within Inyo and Mono counties have undertaken a variety of initiatives to promote the deployment and adoption of broadband infrastructure. These efforts date back more than a decade and include collaborative work with two past Regional Broadband Consortia, participation in the governance and operation of Digital 395, and recurring conversations with legislators, regulators, and local broadband providers.

Inyo County, with its solely incorporated municipality, the City of Bishop, and Mono County with its solely incorporated municipality, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, are closely aligned through the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG). Together, these entities have committed to developing a regional view around the common issues of recreation, air service, and technology (specifically, broadband) as a way to bolster our local economies and improve our quality of life. The Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) was conceived in 2016 and governed by the ESCOG to ensure that the four agencies were working collaboratively to leverage broadband for the collective benefit of the region.

The previous incarnation of the IMBC, which was largely focused on broadband awareness and adoption, concluded in 2019. While broadband remained a priority for each of the agencies, the passing of SB 156 and AB 164, further renewed our commitment – despite a lack of staffing to support the necessary work. CPUC Decision 22-05-029 presents a unique opportunity to restart the IMBC to focus on closing the broadband gaps and resolving challenges long-ago identified. This will be accomplished by leveraging Consortia Grant Account money to hire a

Regional Broadband Coordinator who will assist with developing new broadband projects in the region. Ultimately, the Vision of the IMBC is to develop and implement strategies which deliver cost-effective, gigabit (plus) broadband connectivity to every household and business in the Eastern Sierra.

The Eastern Sierra is uniquely positioned to help the State achieve its broadband deployment goals. Digital 395 largely resembles the Golden State Net initiative and can be looked to as a model for operating a statewide middle-mile network. Additionally, several CASF funded last-mile initiatives are successfully operating today – delivering gigabit internet to customers. We believe the experience gained through these initiatives serve as an opportunity to provide the State, other California Consortia, and ISPs with valuable information on the successes, opportunities, and challenges of developing broadband investments in a remote & rural setting.

VI.A – 7: THE “CONNECTED EASTERN SIERRA PROJECT”

The IMBC strives to build from the efforts of past Consortium (including the Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium and the past incarnation of the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium) in supporting the development of new networks. To achieve this, the Connected Eastern Sierra Project focuses on the five Objectives provided by the CPUC with the following activities:

Objective 1: Collaborating with the Commission and other state agencies to engage regional consortia, local officials, ISPs, stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal.

Activity	1A: Map and document agency priorities
Description	Work with IMBC participating agencies to continually refine, map, and document each agency’s priority areas for broadband expansion
Deliverable	Current and accurate list of broadband expansion priority areas
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	1B: Public engagement - priority refinement
Description	Conduct public outreach and engagement to refine broadband expansion efforts and ensure that they adequately meet customer needs and expectations
Deliverable	Vetted and supported set of priority project areas
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	1C: Public outreach and communication
Description	Publicize new initiatives using existing and new digital resources including the Connected Eastern Sierra web platform
Deliverable	Updated website with list of broadband expansion priority areas
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	1D: Implement and maintain project management system
Description	Acquire, implement, and maintain a project management and time tracking system for all agencies to collaboratively work on this initiative
Deliverable	Implemented project management system kept up to date and used for progress reports
Start	September 2022

End	August 2026
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Objective 2. Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects or potential broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, along with other opportunities, where ISPs can expand and improve their infrastructure and service offerings to achieve the goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment in each consortia region.

Activity	2A: Provider coordination
Description	Regularly meet with all providers in region to develop rapport, understand projects, and provide support for broadband initiatives
Deliverable	Up-to-date knowledge of what providers are working on; provider awareness of IMBC priorities
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	2B: Digital 395 coordination
Description	Coordinate with Digital 395 management to help support network awareness and utilization throughout the service area
Deliverable	Awareness of Digital 395 needs and opportunities
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	2C: Broadband Access Tool
Description	Update the Connected Eastern Sierra Broadband Access Tool with footprints and service offerings at least quarterly
Deliverable	Current and accurate list of broadband offerings & gaps
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	2D: Funding and legislative tracking
Description	Track funding and partnership opportunities which can support providers in new development efforts. Align providers with funding opportunities as appropriate.
Deliverable	Clarity around funding opportunities
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Objective 3. Assisting potential CASF infrastructure applicants or potential applicants for broadband deployment projects related to the new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164 in the project development or grant application process.

Activity	3A: Comprehensive project list
Description	Compile and maintain a comprehensive project list which focuses on collaborative opportunities for broadband deployment (network expansion and demand aggregation)
Deliverable	Complete & current list of desired broadband projects
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	3B: Develop project grant applications
Description	Coordinate efforts with ISPs and local agencies to develop projects and grant applications
Deliverable	Projects submitted for funding in each county
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Objective 4. Conducting activities that will lead to or that can be reasonably expected to lead to CASF infrastructure projects or broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, including the Federal Funding Account, Middle-Mile, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve, and Local Agency Technical Assistance.

Activity	4A: Agency coordination
Description	Support IMBC partner agencies in developing and refining comprehensive and coordinated broadband policies which aim to reduce cost and facilitate installation of broadband infrastructure while preserving agency assets
Deliverable	Consistent and modern broadband policies
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	4B: Public assets list
Description	Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of public assets in support of broadband projects
Deliverable	List of all public assets available in each of the jurisdictions
Start	September 2022
End	August 2023

Activity	4C: Agency broadband strategy
Description	Understand unique agency needs with regard to implementing and utilizing broadband in support of regular business operations
Deliverable	Individual agency broadband strategy
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Objective 5. Assisting the Commission in publicizing requests for wireline testing volunteers in areas, as needed.

Activity	5A: Local speed tests
Description	Conduct regular wireline and wireless speed tests across all markets to improve understanding of network adequacy and performance
Deliverable	Current & accurate network performance metrics
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

Activity	5B: Support State & Federal speed tests
Description	Publicize State and Federal testing platforms within the community and encourage their use and contribution of test result data
Deliverable	On-the-ground test data submitted to State & Federal platforms
Start	September 2022
End	August 2026

VI.A – 8: GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

The Eastern Sierra Nevada region of California stretches approximately 250 miles along the Highway 395 corridor – El Camino Sierra. Wedged between the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the California-Nevada border, the area includes the highest peak (Mount Whitney) and the lowest elevation (Death Valley) in the contiguous United States. A large portion of the land is publicly owned and managed by governmental entities including United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Department of Defense (DOD), and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP).

Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes

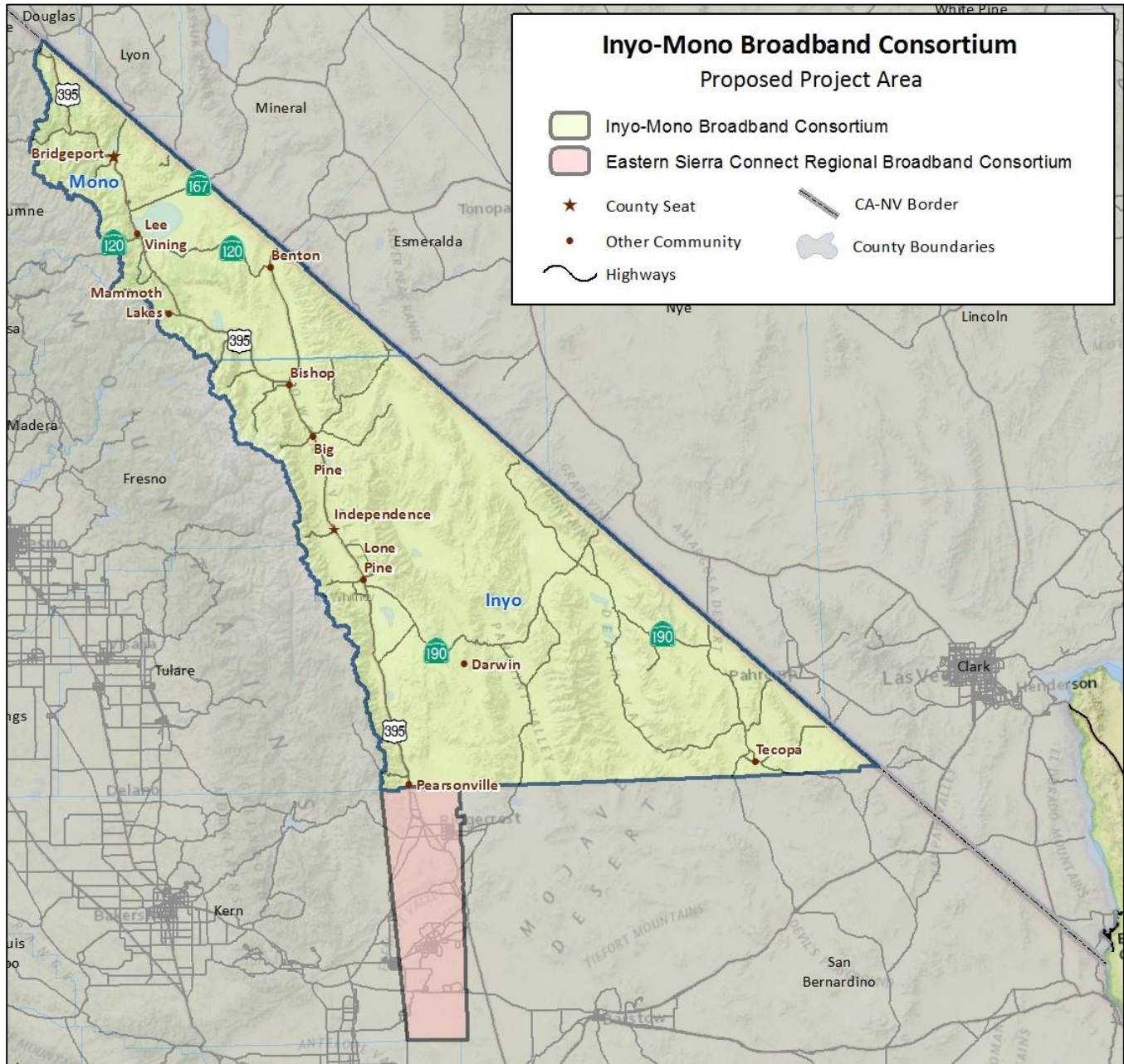
With a population just over 14k, Mono County encompasses 3,132 square miles averaging five people per square mile. 95% of the land base is publicly owned, confining development to roughly a dozen small communities. The median age is 38 with 11.8% of the population being 65 years of age or older. The Median Household Income is \$59,482 with approximately 8.5% of the residents living below the poverty line.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is the sole incorporated municipality within Mono County, with a population of 9,472 in an area of roughly four-square miles. The Median Age is 34.7 and Median Household Income \$63,600. Mammoth Lakes is a resort-based community and home to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area – one of the largest in the state.

Inyo County & City of Bishop

With a population just less than 19k, Inyo County encompasses 10,227 square miles, averaging 1.8 people per square mile. 98% of the land base is publicly owned with the majority of the population residing in a handful of small communities along the Highway 395 corridor. The median age is 46.7 with 21% of the population being 65 years or older. The Median Household Income is \$46,246 with approximately 5% of the residents living below the poverty line.

With a population of 13,936, Bishop is the only micro Metropolitan Statistical Area and incorporated municipality within the County. The Median Age is 46.2 with 21.4% of the population being 65 years of age or older - making it the second densest senior population in California. 12.8% of the residents live below the poverty line.



Zipcodes by County

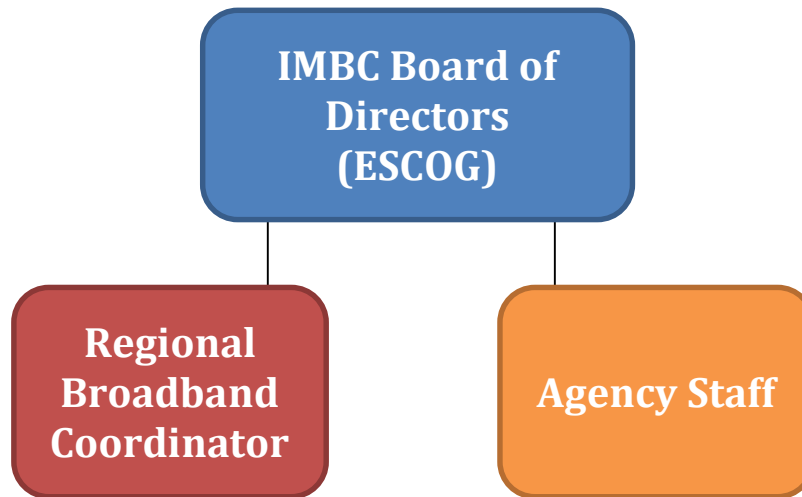
	Zipcode	Name
Inyo County	92328	Death Valley
	92384	Shoshone
	92389	Tecopa
	93513	Big Pine
	93514	Bishop
	93522	Darwin
	93526	Independence
	93527	Inyokern
	93542	Little Lake
	93545	Lone Pine
	93549	Olancha
	93562	Trona
Mono County	93512	Benton
	93514	Bishop (a portion of this zipcode extends into Mono County)
	93517	Bridgeport
	93529	June Lake
	93541	Lee Vining
	93546	Mammoth Lakes
	96107	Coleville
96133	Topaz	

Census Block Groups by County

	Census Block Group	2010 Population	Median Age	Households
Inyo County	60270001001	1,399	50.9	674
	60270001002	1,358	45.6	535
	60270002001	1,052	48.1	407
	60270002002	666	50.6	292
	60270003001	1,216	50.2	509
	60270003002	1,241	54.6	555
	60270004001	1,588	31.3	556
	60270004002	1,398	38.8	576
	60270004003	1,663	43.9	835
	60270004004	1,019	32.2	420
	60270005001	818	50.1	363
	60270005002	1,750	46.3	762
	60270008001	765	50.5	451
	60270008002	566	52.3	277
	60270008003	1,044	39.8	409
	60270008004	1,003	45.9	428
Mono County	60510001011	1,125	46.9	461
	60510001012	638	42.4	294
	60510001013	565	51.5	264
	60510001014	1,135	45.8	480
	60510001021	620	27.4	218
	60510001022	760	49.8	339
	60510001023	676	45.9	306
	60510001024	446	37.6	176
	60510002001	1,813	32.3	662
	60510002002	1,328	29.4	525
	60510002003	716	32.4	262
	60510002004	783	39.1	331
	60510002005	1,272	27.5	435
	60510002006	741	43.6	335
	60510002007	903	36.8	381
	60510002008	675	42.9	296
	60510002009	6	27.5	3

VI.A – 8: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) will serve as the grantee for the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium and provide a governance structure that will include the following:



- A. IMBC Board of Directors:** The ESCOG is a Joint Powers Agreement Agency comprised of elected officials from the County of Inyo, the County of Mono, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and City of Bishop (the Joint Powers Agreement can be found in Section 5). As provided for by its Joint Powers Agreement, the ESCOG exists to examine issues of regional importance, and to facilitate actions and agreements among its membership to develop projects that address those issues.

Mimicking the configuration of the ESCOG, this Board will consist of eight (8) Directors, comprised of two members from each of the elected governing boards/councils of the member jurisdictions. It is the general expectation that ESCOG Directors have a substantive baseline understanding of broadband issues and policy, as that is a component of the ESCOG work program. In the rare case that an ESCOG Director does not have adequate subject matter expertise, they may tap another elected representative from their respective Board/Council to serve on the IMBC Board of Directors in their stead.

The IMBC Board of Directors will conduct meetings at least quarterly in a public fashion under the guidelines of the Brown Act. In addition to any action items necessary to implement the projects identified in this application, the agendas for quarterly IMBC meetings will have standing items for reports from staff and opportunities public input.

- B. Regional Broadband Coordinator:** The Regional Broadband Coordinator will be the primary individual responsible for executing the vision of the IMBC. This individual will serve at a full-time capacity as an employee of Inyo County (who is also the grantee’s Fiscal Agent).
- C. Agency Staff:** The Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium will additionally be supported by staff from the ESCOG’s member jurisdictions in accordance with the ESCOG’s Joint Powers Agreement.

Fiscal Agent

The County of Inyo will serve as the fiscal agent for the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium. A copy of its letter and the notarized affidavit can be found in this application package. As the fiscal agent, the City of Bishop will be responsible for contract signature and liability, ensuring required reports as submitted, processing expenses, managing subcontracts and other administrative duties. The designated contact is County Administrative Officer.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Regional Broadband Coordinator

WORK AREAS

- Serve as Regional Project Manager, overseeing agency broadband projects and interests
- Perform broadband expansion related grant administration activities as required by various funding opportunities
- Maintain awareness and understanding of funding available through state and federal legislation
- Assist with communicating needs and opportunities pursuant to various pieces of broadband funding
- Review existing broadband strategic plans for agencies; update as appropriate and necessary
- Coordinate and assist with regional broadband strategic planning efforts
- Work with agency staff and other stakeholders to develop initial projects for each of the high priority focus areas
- Assist with development of environmental and detailed engineering plans for each focus area
- Research and employ additional funding sources to complete necessary prep work
- Collaborate with agency staff to ensure proper resources exist, policies established, and critical decision points understood
- Maintain understanding of Digital 395 and associated ISPs relative to existing and new last-mile projects
- Work with Providers and other industry players to develop and execute projects
- Conduct public engagement and outreach, presentations to the Boards/Councils
- Update websites; manage grant and project documents and information
- Maintain relevant data and records for the overseeing agency
- Organize and make available information for the public via appropriate websites
- Support and oversee local agency infrastructure project development and approval efforts
- Prepare documents and reports as needed for reporting to State and federal granting organizations
- Coordinate broadband-related economic development projects and activities

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Project management experience
- Understanding of and/or experience with grants administration
- Basic knowledge of broadband and technology
- Knowledge of Inyo and Mono Counties
- Basic understanding of local government
- General computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Strong presentation and communication skills



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director
Subject: Approval of a Collective Partnership Agreement Letter to Participate in the California Community Economic Resiliency Fund Process
Meeting date: July 8, 2022
Prepared on: July 6, 2022
Attachments: A) CERF Collective Partnership Agreement Letter
B) Vision and Goals Document and Governance Structure

Analysis/Discussion:

The California Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) is a one-time \$600 million investment from the state to promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19. The priorities of the program are to promote equitable and sustainable economic development, align and leverage federal and state funding to maximize economic resilience, and support inclusive economic planning that prioritizes equity, job quality, and sustainability. The CERF divides the State into 13 regions. Inyo and Mono Counties are included within the Eastern Sierra Region, which also includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne Counties.

The state has recently released the Planning Phase Guidelines. The CERF process will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1: Planning provides up to \$5 million to develop regional economic development collaboratives and regional economic development plans and Phase 2: Implementation reserves \$500 million for implementation of projects meeting CERF program metrics.

Sierra Business Council (SBC) will be submitting an application for the Eastern Sierra of the CERF, as Regional Convener and Fiscal Agent, which is due on July 25th. As part of the CERF application process, SBC is required to provide signed letters of support known within the application as the Collective Partnership Agreement Letter.

By signing the Collective Partnership Agreement Letter, the ESCOG agrees to:

- the goals laid out in the attached vision and goals document (see Attachment B),
- to participate in a fair governance structure (see Attachment B),
- to participate in developing an effective outreach and engagement plan to participate in developing a budget.

Signers of the Collective Partnership Agreement Letter commit to working in partnership to achieve the goals set out in the program and collectively share the weight of responsibility in creating a more inclusive, equitable, and competitive regional economy. Signing the letter ensures the ESCOG will be able to participate in the regional planning process and governance, which may determine the allocation of implementation funding in Phase 2.

Before ESCOG is capable of fully committing, ESCOG must seek the approval of its member agencies pursuant to its JPA agreement. Accordingly, the participation letter requests the ESCOG maintain the ability to withdraw this letter should its member agencies not provide the authorization for ESCOG to participate in the CERF process.

It is anticipated the State will select the regional conveners in September and the planning phase will kick off will begin in October. The planning phase is anticipated to take approximately 18 months. The implementation phase guidelines are anticipated to be released in November.

The SBC proposal intends to bifurcate the Eastern Sierra region into eastside and westside subregions so the plans and project implementation more appropriately reflect the economic nuances of the Sierra region.

Budget Impacts:

Participation in the CERF planning process will require staff time. It is possible the ESCOG may be eligible for compensation for participation.

Legal Review:

Counsel Chuchla has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve the CERF Collective Partnership Agreement Letter.



Collective Partnership Agreement Letter

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
PO Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

July 11, 2022

Dear HRTC Convener:

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) is pleased to inform you that we are in agreement with the goals of the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) proposal for the Eastern Sierra region developed by the Sierra Business Council, who would act as both the Fiscal Agent and the Regional Convener.

We have reviewed the initial governance model for the High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC). We understand that this governance model may change as the process evolves.

We agree to participate in the CERF process, and agree to participate in the development of the governance model, the outreach and engagement plan, and the development of a budget for the project. We are committed to working collaboratively with a wide range of regional stakeholders from a diverse set of interests to participate in the process to create a more inclusive, equitable, and competitive regional economy. However, while it is the desire of the ESCOG Board to participate in the CERF process, before ESCOG is capable of fully committing, ESCOG must seek the approval of its member agencies pursuant to its JPA agreement. Accordingly, ESCOG requests the ability to withdraw this letter should its member agencies not provide the authorization for ESCOG to participate in the CERF process.

The ESCOG is a regional planning organization comprised of representation from the City of Bishop, Inyo County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mono County organized to coordinate on issues of regional importance. In particular, the ESCOG has organized around regional economic development opportunities including broadband expansion, regional air service, sustainable tourism, and climate resiliency.

The ESCOG is well positioned to provide insight and coordination for regional economic development planning and project implementation. The ESCOG is a Joint Powers Authority, which can serve as an instrument for regional funding opportunities in the Eastern Sierra.

Our primary contact for this process will be:

Contact person: [Elaine Kabala, Executive Director](#)
Email Address: ekabala@escog.ca.gov
Phone: [323-652-0390](tel:323-652-0390)



Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Wentworth
Chair, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

July 11, 2022

EASTERN SIERRA REGION
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF)
High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC)

VISION

The Vision of the Eastern Sierra Community Economic Resilience Fund HRTC is to engage in a data-informed, inclusive, and transparent planning process to develop a regional economic recovery plan and set of projects that will encourage the generation of high road jobs.

GOALS

The planning process will focus on inclusivity for all regional stakeholders, with special emphasis on historically less engaged stakeholders such as disinvested communities, tribal communities, and workers.

The planning process will utilize the skills and knowledge of local entities and organizations and ongoing regional processes, including those developed by local governments, workforce training organizations, economic development organizations, regional educational institutions, and community-based organizations.

The planning process will be guided by Sierra Business Council as regional fiscal agent and convener but will be governed by a diverse and representative HRTC council and a series of topical committees, where power is shared and all ideas are welcomed.

The planning process will include a vigorous, multi-channel, and bilingual public outreach plan specifically designed to reach traditionally disinvested workers and communities, and represent the geographic and cultural diversity of the region.

The planning process will result in a regional economic recovery and transition plan that will emphasize job quality and access, economic competitiveness and resiliency, regional equity, and the long-term sustainability of the region. The planning process will align with state policies across a broad range of objectives, including the need to advance a climate-resilient and carbon-neutral economy.

The final adopted plan will include a broad range of data including stakeholder and asset mapping, identification of opportunities for alignment with existing regional economic planning processes and documents, a regional labor market and economic cluster analysis, and identification of regional climate and public health trends. The final adopted plan will also include specific strategies for the growth of targeted industries, strategies for increasing economic diversification, and strategies for increasing economic equity.

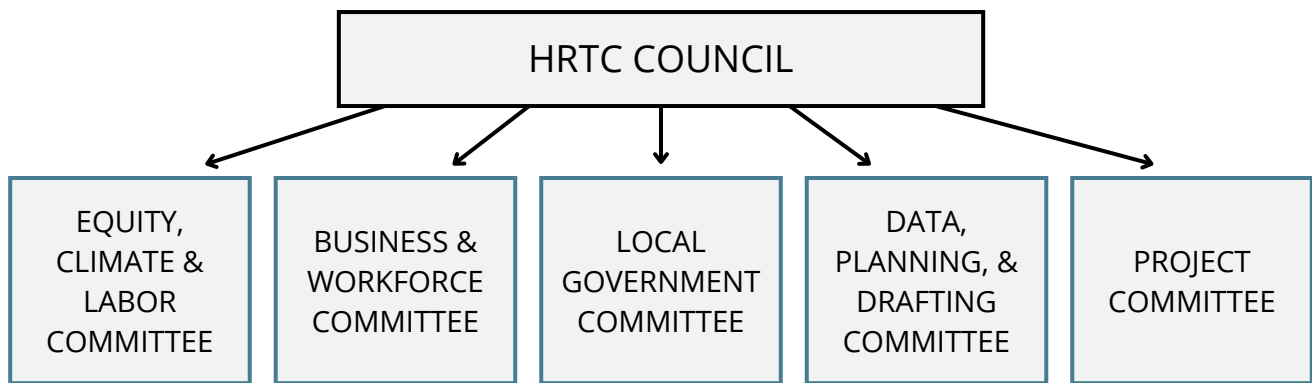
The final adopted plan is likely to be one regional plan with two subcomponents addressing a specific set of east side and west side strategies and implementation opportunities. The plan will identify specific projects for inclusion in future CERF funding proposals.

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE MODEL Eastern Sierra CERF Region

This draft governance structure is intended to include representation from the large geography of our Eastern Sierra region and include representation on the High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC) Council or HRTC Committees of all of the required and suggested stakeholders. A non-voting participant will chair the HRTC Council meetings.

The HRTC is intended to conduct all of its Council and Committee meetings in a public forum, in a transparent manner, in a hybrid-meeting format, with each stakeholder enjoying equal status and authority.

The composition of the HRTC Council and Committees may change over time as additional stakeholders are engaged. The governance model also allows for the addition of Committees as circumstances or direction changes based on data analysis and dialogue. The name of the HRTC may be changed after the grant is awarded.



HRTC COUNCIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 members + Non-voting Chair • 3 from each county (or cities within counties) • 5 are chairs of the Committees • Represents the diversity of required stakeholders
--

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 voting members per Committee • Open ex officio membership • 1 voting member from each County • Committee chair sits on HRTC board • Committee decisions matriculate to board

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Decision making in committees and board based on modified consensus model (Support, Can Live With, Abstain, Oppose)

1. Straw Poll
2. Discussion
3. Poll-No consensus triggers vote.

Operational decisions require a majority vote of committee and board members.
 Project decisions require a 2/3 vote of committee and board members.

EASTERN SIERRA REGION
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF)
High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC)

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS & APPROXIMATE TIME COMMITMENTS

The HRTC process is required to be highly public, participatory, and transparent in nature. The HRTC will welcome all community stakeholders, and fairly and equitably consider all ideas brought forward by stakeholders. The CERF program calls for an 18-24 month planning process but we will make our best effort at completing the public portion of the effort in 18 months.

HRTC meetings will be hybrid meetings allowing for both in-person and virtual attendance, and will be held alternately (depending upon weather) on the east side and west side of the Sierra crest. In-person attendance at a majority of the meetings (depending upon pandemic) is expected.

Stipends will be available to voting members who are non-elected officials (and allowed to accept payment for meetings and committee obligations). Stipends are optional and intended to increase participation from stakeholders with lower resources or capacity to engage in the CERF process. Mileage and lodging costs will be reimbursed for all participating voting members if approved in advance.

The HRTC structure proposed by Sierra Business Council (SBC) requires 51 individual stakeholders to act as voting members, and one non-voting member to act as the HRTC Board Chair. The various roles are described in detail below.

HRTC COUNCIL, COMMITTEE, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

High Road Transition Collaborative Council Member

Council members will be expected to participate in one 1 ½ hour-long hybrid meeting per month for 18-24 months, to need approximately 3 hours per month for document review and comment, and to occasionally meet with community stakeholders.

Approximate Time Commitment: 6-8 hours per month or 70-90 hours per year

Proposed Number of Council Members: 21

An SBC project manager will staff the Council.

High Road Transition Collaborative Board Chair

The Council chair will be a non-voting member. The Chair will be expected to attend each 1 ½ hour-long monthly Council meeting for 18-24 months, usually but not always, in person, to need approximately 3 hours per month for document review, and to communicate on a regular basis with Council members to ensure all issues are being forwarded to the Council.

Approximate time commitment: 10 hours per month or 120 hours per year

An SBC project navigator will staff the Council chair.

EASTERN SIERRA REGION
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF)
High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC)

High Road Transition Collaborative Committee Member

Committee members are expected to participate in one 1 ½ hour-long hybrid meeting per month for 18-24 months, to need approximately 3 hours per month for document review and comment, and to meet occasionally with community stakeholders.

Approximate Time Commitment: 6-8 hours per month or 70-90 hours per year

Proposed Number of Committee Members: 35 (7 voting members for each of the 5 committees)

An SBC project navigator will staff the Committees.

High Road Transition Collaborative Committee Liaison

One member of each committee will also serve on the Council. This position will require participation in two 1½ hour per month meetings plus approximately 4 hours per month of document review.

Approximate Time Commitment: 8-12 hours per month or 96-144 hours per year

Proposed Number of Committee Liaisons: 5

High Road Transition Collaborative Participant

Committee membership is open to all public participants, however there are only 7 voting members per committee. The public is encouraged to participate in as many meetings as they choose.

Project Team

Fiscal Agent: SBC will act as the Fiscal Agent. The Fiscal Agent is responsible for the project application, receives the funding, manages contracting, manages the overall finances of the project, makes disbursements to contractors, and acts as the intermediary in grant management, including grant reporting. The Fiscal Agent must have legal authority, history, and capacity to administer state funds.

Regional Convener: SBC will act as the Regional Convener. SBC is the lead organization tasked with organizing an inclusive group of regional stakeholders to form the HRTC and implement the planning grant in its region. SBC anticipates the program will be staffed with a project manager, two community project navigators (one on the west side and one on the east side), and will issue contracts to other community organizations for portions of the public outreach, engagement, and capacity building activities necessary.



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director
Subject: Discussion and Direction to Submit a Proposal Application for the Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaborative Program
Meeting date: July 8, 2022
Prepared on: July 6, 2022
Attachments: A) Draft Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative Pre-Proposal

Background:

The Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program is a new capacity building grant program for under-resourced communities in California. Administered by the Strategic Growth Council, RCC enables community-rooted and cross-sectoral partners to deepen their relationships and develop the processes, plans, and projects that will drive and sustain climate action. The goal of the program is to strengthen local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, and expertise with a particular focus on increasing access to funding resources for project planning and implementation within under-resourced communities.

The program funds Collaboratives to conduct place-based capacity building activities, within a three-year grant term, that support under-resourced communities in accessing funding and resources to plan and implement climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency projects. These place-based activities will both align with and inform regional priorities and efforts. RCC does not fund built infrastructure. Capacity building activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conduct outreach and build awareness of competitive grant programs
- Convene stakeholders to discuss community needs regarding potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects
- Develop community and project plans, demonstrating local needs and identifying multiple-benefit projects for implementation
- Support the development of partnerships between stakeholders and potential public and private funding sources
- Provide policy, program, and technical advice to stakeholders and align multi-benefit projects with potential funding resources

- Serve as an intermediary between community stakeholders and technical assistance programs within relevant agencies and coordinate scientific and technical support from outside experts
- Coordinate and implement assistance and training to stakeholders in grant application development, project management, implementation, and monitoring
- Assist in the development of local job training and anti-displacement programs and policies

The proposal is due July 15, 2022 and is necessary to receive technical assistance for preparation of a full application. The proposal is not required for submittal of a full proposal, which is due October 7, 2022. Submittal of a proposal does not necessitate submittal of a full proposal.

Analysis/Discussion:

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will be intended to help communities throughout the Eastern Sierra prepare for and adapt to a changing climate that is likely to alter water availability, wildfire risk, and the economy throughout the region. The proposal highlights existing collaborative efforts focusing on particular resource issues such as the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center Climate Innovation Cluster, sustainable recreation, water supply, and forest health. The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will enable a holistic approach to identifying potential climate risks specific to the Eastern Sierra, identifying potential impacts to communities, build public awareness, seek consensus for potential strategies to address impacts, and develop a plan including actionable projects to mitigate climate impacts. The new collaborative would serve as an umbrella under which existing and new entities could collaborate, develop projects, and find funding.

Budget Impacts:

None.

Legal Review:

Counsel Chuchla has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommendation:

Staff requests the Board discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the submission of a Proposal Application for the Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaborative Program.

Attachment A

Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative

Section 1: Grant Partners

For the Pre-Proposal phase, applicants are encouraged to list as many partners as they are ready to include but are not required to provide a final list of partners, or to have finalized a formal Partnership Agreement.

1. Managing Stakeholder

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Email, phone number, and organization website (if applicable)

Organizational mission

Past experience managing or participating in similar programs

Description of role in collaborative

Elaine Kabala

Executive Director

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority

ekabala@escog.ca.gov 323/652-0390 www.escog.ca.gov

Identify and plan for the solution of regional issues requiring multi-governmental cooperation

Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program

2. Partner 1

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

Holly Alpert

Executive Director

Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences

3. Partner 2

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

Alpine County

4. Partner 3

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Attachment A

Description of role in collaborative

Bishop Paiute Tribe

5. Partner 4

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

Inyo National Forest

6. Partner 5

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

Bureau of Land Management – Bishop Field Office

7. Partner 6

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

MLTPA / Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership / Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative

8. Partner 7

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

9. Partner 8

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

National Park Service

Attachment A

10. Partner 9

Main point of contact

Job title

Name and type of organization

Description of role in collaborative

LADWP

18. Additional comments

Additional comments about Grant Partners may be provided here (optional). 150 word limit

Section 2: Region & Communities of Focus

Applicants must identify the region they are working within, and the under-resourced communities* within the region where their work will be focusing. Applicants may select specific under-resourced communities within a broader region where Collaborative activities will be focused

1. Please identify the region you intend to work within, listing the 1-8 contiguous county(ies) within the service area of your proposed collaborative.

Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties

2. Please identify the Communities of Focus in which your collaborative intends to work, providing BOTH the jurisdiction and census tract number associated with these areas. Please note that applicants are required to select a minimum of 2 census tracts as communities, which are not required to be contiguous. At least 51% of census tracts must qualify as under-resourced.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Census tract #</u>	<u>% of CA MHI (77,358)</u>
Alpine Village	06 003 010000	72
Woodfords Community of the Washoe Tribe		56
Walker	06 051 000102	74
Chalfant	06 051 000101	76
Round Valley	06 027 000200	70
Dixon Lane - Meadow Creek	06 027 000100	72
Bishop Paiute Tribe		57
Big Pine	06 027 000500	69
Big Pine Paiute Tribe		54
Fort Independence Tribe		78
Independence	06 027 000500	74
Lone Pine	06 027 000800	44
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation		52
Olancho	06 027 000800	76

[have not been able to find census tract numbers for reservation land]

Attachment A

3. Additional comments

Additional comments about Region and Communities of Focus may be provided here (optional).
150 word limit.

All of Inyo County can be considered under-resourced. Median household income for Inyo County is 75 percent of the state MHI.

More than 90 percent of the area of the three counties are managed by federal agencies or a distant city, adding to economic challenges.

Section 3: Draft Vision Statement

The vision statement communicates a concise set of desired outcomes that result from actions taken by the Collaborative to build capacity. The vision statement should provide readers with a clear understanding of the overall objective of the Collaborative and how the Collaborative plans to achieve those outcomes.

1. Please provide a draft of the vision statement for the Collaborative. 250 word limit.

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will help communities throughout Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties prepare for and adapt to a changing climate that is likely to alter water availability, wildfire risk, and the economy throughout the region. Because more than 90 percent of the land area of our three counties is managed by federal public-land agencies, collaboration between the USDA-Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and the local jurisdictions is essential. Our existing collaborative efforts have focused on particular resource issues such as sustainable recreation, water supply, and forest health. The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will allow a more holistic approach as the prospect of a changing climate is affecting most, if not all, aspects of life in our region. The new collaborative would serve as an umbrella under which existing and new entities could collaborate, develop projects, and find funding.

Section 4: Program Objectives

All RCC Program activities must build the capacity of the selected Communities of Focus within a region to secure funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects.

1. Please describe how the proposed project will lead to the development of actionable plans and projects. 200 word limit.

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative would begin by performing a gap analysis with respect to climate change to determine the types of plans and projects that have been missing from previous planning efforts at all levels of government and other entities. It is important to emphasize that regional partners have produced a rich inventory of scientific and economic analyses of the region's anticipated engagement with climate change that will serve as a baseline for the proposed collaborative's efforts. The proposed collaborative would evaluate the value and importance of these identified issues, plans, and potential projects. Based on that evaluation, the collaborative would

Attachment A

create a plan to address the needs, prioritize projects, and identify potential sources of funding to implement the highest-priority projects.

2. Please describe how the proposed project will build enduring and trusting relationships across members of the Collaborative, residents, and other stakeholder groups. 200 word limit.

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will build upon and expand existing relationships within the networks of community and tribal leaders and members, elected officials, and agency staff that have formed over recent years in support of various issue-focused collaboratives (e.g., Integrated Regional Water Management, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resiliency Project, etc.). Our experience and successes in these efforts can be readily applied to a more encompassing climate adaptation and resilience collaborative.

3. Please describe how the proposed project will ensure that community engagement and decision making is embedded in the work conducted by the Collaborative. 200 word limit.

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will utilize the experience gained in the more issue-focused collaboratives mentioned above to make sure that all communities of the eastern Sierra Nevada region have ready access to this new collaborative and to develop a fair and equitable governance structure. For example, the complete-consensus decision making process that the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group has used for more than a dozen years is often hailed as a remarkable example of how competing interests can find common ground and make decisions that all parties can accept. The recently completed Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative on behalf of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, which was funded by Proposition 68 through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, maintains an active and maintained outreach database that covers all three Eastern Sierra counties. Outreach and education will be a major emphasis of the collaborative to make sure that residents of and visitors to our region have access to sound scientific information about climate change and its implications for the area.

4. Please describe how the proposed project will develop or improve local processes for under-resourced community residents, community-based organizations, and/or Tribes and Tribal entities to co-lead decisions made about climate change-related priorities and projects at the local and/or regional level. 200 word limit.

The Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative will build upon experience gained in the more issue-focused collaboratives mentioned above to actively involve tribal and community members and organizations in the new collaborative, including leadership roles. In the past, we have found that finding one or two charismatic individuals within a particular community or group that has an interest in a particular topic can bring along other members of that community or group. We have also learned that participating in existing community events is generally more successful in generating new interest and engagement than holding an independent “town-hall” meeting.

Attachment A

5. Additional comments

Additional comments about Program Objectives may be provided here (optional). 150 word limit.

Members of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute have extensive experience working with under-resourced communities in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Previous and current projects of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, and Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program have built solid working relationships among community members, tribes, elected officials, agency professionals, and non-profit groups. We can take advantage of these relationships to make progress from the outset using standard planning procedures to identify issues, develop actionable goals, and then the strategies to address them.

Section 5: Project Summary

In this section, please describe each strategy your Collaborative intends to carry out to fulfill the required activities listed in Section II of the RCC Program Guidelines. Program strategies should reflect and build upon the vision statement, providing more specificity around necessary actions to achieve desired outcomes.

Strategies should align with overall RCC program objectives and should collectively **address all the required activities specified in the RCC Guidelines.**

1. Strategy 1

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

REQUIRED Track progress and evaluate RCC grant outcomes

The ESCOG-led team will track progress of the grant and evaluate outcomes of the RCC program in the eastern Sierra. This strategy will include adhering to the grant requirements and providing reporting information on a regular basis to SGC.

Budget: \$50,000

3. Strategy 2

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

REQUIRED Engage in SGC-facilitated peer-to-peer learning sessions

The ESCOG-led team looks forward to participating in SGC-facilitated peer-to-peer learning sessions as an opportunity to learn from others around the State. Conversely, the team has a deep pool of knowledge and experience to share with others.

Budget: \$20,000

5. Strategy 3

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Attachment A

Build upon existing collaboratives

Outreach to stakeholders that aren't already involved in one of these current efforts

The ESCOG-led team will build an Eastern Sierra Regional Climate Collaborative drawing upon and expanding existing resource collaboratives such as the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, and the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Program. This strategy will include strengthening existing partnerships, including with tribes, as well as conducting outreach to stakeholders not already involved in one of the above collaboratives. It is envisioned that the new collaborative group will gather several times per year, first focusing on introductions and governance and later taking up project development and funding.

In addition, the RCC will engage and coordinate with the Central Sierra Community Economic Resilience Fund effort as it launches and begins to plan for project implementation.

Budget: \$120,000

7. Strategy 4

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Compile/align existing regional resource plans (like IRWM, ESSRP, etc.) and do gap analysis re: climate change

The ESCOG-led team will compile and analyze existing resource-related plans in the eastern Sierra (e.g., IRWM Plan, RFFCP Plan, Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative, county general plans, Inyo National Forest plans, etc.) with respect to climate change and identify gaps in our knowledge and understanding of climate change projections for and impacts to the region. Such a gap analysis will form the basis for the next strategy.

Budget: \$40,000

9. Strategy 5

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Opportunity to fill in climate change information gaps, especially with respect to projections

There is a dearth of available climate change information specific to the eastern Sierra region. Using the gap analysis from the previous strategy, the ESCOG-led team will partner with climate change experts to begin to address those holes in our knowledge. Recognizing that the eastern Sierra region is large, the team will work with the RCC stakeholder group formed in Strategy 1 to prioritize watersheds within the region for analysis. This build-out of information will be used for the purposes of planning, project identification, and project prioritization.

Budget: \$150,000

Attachment A

11. Strategy 6

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Reframe existing project lists under a climate change framework

Each current collaborative planning effort (IRWM, RFFCP, ESSRP, etc.) has developed a project list based on the priorities and objectives of that group. Through the RCC program, those project lists will be compiled (and added to) and re-prioritized using a climate change-based framework, which will be developed with input from stakeholders. The project prioritization will provide the basis for pursuing funding opportunities.

Budget: \$30,000

13. Strategy 7

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Serve as a hub of funding source information

The Eastern Sierra RCC will serve as a hub for funding source information for any type of project that may come through the RCC. Using an existing collaborative website (such as IRWM or RFFCP) or through a new website, funding source information will be collected and kept up to date. The ESCOG-led team will help to match funding opportunities to projects based on prioritization, project readiness, and stakeholder preparedness.

Budget: \$30,000

15. Strategy 8

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Offer assistance and training for grant application development, project management, implementation, and monitoring

In addition to matching funding sources to projects, the ESCOG-lead team will help to build capacity with respect to obtaining project funding. This may include training in grant writing, project management, and grant administration, and assisting RCC stakeholders with grant application development.

Budget: \$80,000

16. Strategy 9

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Attachment A

This aspect of the program would increase the capacity of nascent efforts in the region to foster workforce development and small business creation to respond to climate-related challenges. Inyo County, Cerro Coso Community College, Whitebark Institute, and the soon-to-be-launched Eastern Sierra Small Business Resource Center are collaborating on education, mentoring, and technical assistance to train workers and encourage entrepreneurs to prepare for employment and business opportunities related to climate change. Our region will need a local workforce for forestry, fire mitigation and fuels treatment, natural resource management, alternative energy solutions, desert ecosystem preservation, sustainable recreation, and environmental science, and supporting businesses.

Budget: \$50,000

17. Strategy 10

Please provide a short description and an estimated budget for this strategy.

Education to stakeholders & the public about climate impacts, mitigation, adaptation

Budget: \$30,000

20. Strategy X Activities

Please check all required and optional Activities associated with Strategy X.

- Coordinate members of collaboratives to build relationships across organizations and define shared values, vision and principles of how to work together
- Support the development of partnerships between stakeholders and public, private and philanthropic funding sources
- Conduct community engagement within under-resourced communities
- Convene stakeholders to discuss community needs regarding potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects eligible for statewide or other grant programs with specific allocations for under-resourced communities
- Develop and align community and project plans that benefit under-resourced communities, including climate action plans, that demonstrate local needs and identify multi-benefit projects for implementation
- Assist in the development of local job training and anti-displacement policies and programs
- Conduct outreach and build awareness of competitive grant programs
- Provide policy, program and technical assistance expertise to develop and align multi-benefit projects with potential funding supports

Attachment A

- Offer assistance and training for grant application development, project management, implementation and monitoring
- Serve as intermediary between stakeholders and technical experts from State agencies and other organizations
- Develop Project Evaluation Plans
- Conduct data collection, tracking, and reporting associated with grant evaluation
- Participate in SGC-facilitated peer-to-peer learning across Collaboratives. This may include both attending trainings led by SGC and technical assistance providers as well as contributing to peer-learning and sharing sessions. Collaboratives will be regularly surveyed on training needs and convened quarterly for virtual trainings and peer-to-peer learning. Topics for peer-to-peer sessions will be determined according to regular surveys administered to Collaboratives
- Conduct data collection & analysis that helps identify existing conditions, identify community priorities, and identify impact of possible projects
- Provide education and training for entities within the Collaborative and stakeholders within the communities of focus that build the region's capacity to compete for grants and implement projects in the future
- Peer-to-peer learning and trainings between Collaboratives and other related regional collaboration efforts
- Peer-to-peer learning and trainings across members of an individual Collaborative

21. Total estimated budget for all strategies

just over \$500,000

22. If the Applicant deems any required grant activities inappropriate or ill-suited for their Collaborative effort, please specify which required activity the Applicant would like to omit along with a justification of the reasons for that omission. Optional.

23. Additional comments

Additional comments about the Project Summary may be provided here (optional). 150 word limit.

Attachment A