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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2023

Lassen County Draft Broadband Planning and Feasibility Study

The Lassen County Draft Broadband Planning and Feasibility Study is available for public comment. The study may be accessed from the County home page at www.lassencounty.org.

This study is being prepared for the community by Lassen County with the help of Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). Lassen County is a member of both organizations with a goal of supporting policy and infrastructure investments to improve high-speed broadband availability, countywide.

With the support of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, Golden State Finance Authority was able to obtain a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), to fund the study to better understand how to improve high-speed broadband availability countywide. In addition to Lassen County, twenty-four other California counties are also receiving assistance from Golden State Finance Authority under the EDA grant.

The study includes technical investigations and analysis by Tilson Technologies. Tilson Technologies is assisting GSFA by investigating the telecommunications industry landscape in Lassen County, including locations of existing fiber optic cable and other assets, the service areas and service offerings – by technology – of retail internet service providers in the County. This includes work to identify locations lacking adequate broadband service and available funding for broadband infrastructure. Information in the study will help to support Lassen County's pursuit of improving high-speed services for *unserved* and *underserved* households and businesses. The term *unserved* generally means any location with access to service and speeds at or below 25 megabits per second download and 3 megabits per second upload, while the term *underserved* means any location without access to services of speeds at or above 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload. According to the study, twenty-two percent of households, in Lassen County, are classified as unserved, and nine-percent are classified as underserved households. In total, approximately 3,881 households out of 12,216 total households, lack adequate broadband services from retail internet service providers.

The overall intent behind the development of the Lassen County Broadband Planning and Feasibility Study was to provide local leaders with information and ideas about broadband deployment – current and future – in their county so that local governments could become knowledgeable, active participants in ensuring that broadband is available to all residents.

Lassen County's role in the study is to make the document available for public comment and to compile those comments for response and/or incorporation into the study by GSFA and Tilson Technologies. The draft Lassen County Countywide Broadband Strategic Study is now available to the public for a 30- day review period in which the County will accept comments.

All comments should be directed to Lassen County Administrative Office by email to coadmin@co.lassen.ca.us and received by the county office no later than 5:00 P.M. Monday, January 22, 2024.

The study will be presented to the Lassen County Board of Supervisors in the Board Chambers, 707 Nevada Street, Susanville, CA, at its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at approximately 10:30 A.M. or as soon as the item may be heard; proposed time and date of the presentation will be published as part of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors Agenda. If you wish to view the Lassen County Board of Supervisor agendas you may visit the County website at the following link: <https://lassen.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>

For Additional Information: Tony Shaw, Deputy County Administrative Officer at (530) 251-2736

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