

Application

Ventura County Fiber Network Project

Project Title	Amount of FFA grant funding requested
Ventura County Fiber Network Project	\$20,335,563.00

Basic Information (?tabset-08a48=1)

Objections (?tabset-08a48=09be9)

Basic Information

Company/Applicant's Name	CPCN/U-Number or pending CPCN application number, if applicable.
County of Ventura	N/A
Contact Person	Contact Email
Terry Theobald	terry.theobald@ventura.org
Contact Job Title	Project Title
Chief Information Officer	Ventura County Fiber Network Project

Project Location

County/Countries
Ventura County
Community/Communities
Oxnard, Saticoy, City of Ventura, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Somis, Piru, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Fillmore, Buckhorn, Bardsdale, Rio Lindo, unincorporated areas
Project Type
Last-Mile
Amount of FFA grant funding requested
\$20,335,563.00
Total Project Cost
\$28,605,691.00
Median Household Income of the project area
\$64,655.00
Map of the Proposed Project Area

VetroMap.png

(https://cpuc2.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/3d0000008c07/a/3d000001wrAA/K5_h9k53nbCF91nr4FkqBz.JXEiSm_mNP38s8QHmI8A)

Number of business locations in the project area that will receive new or improved service
75
Number of anchor institution locations in the project area that will receive new or improved service
12
Number of public safety locations in the project area that will receive new or improved service
9
Number of Unserved Households the project will serve
1,821
Maximum Mbps download speed for locations in the project area that will receive new or improved service
1,000
Maximum Mbps upload speed for locations in the project area that will receive new or improved service
1,000
Number of Mass Market Unserved Locations the project will serve
1,821
A description of the major infrastructure to be deployed
This 100% publicly-owned project will target the communities of Oxnard, Saticoy, City of Ventura, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Somis, Piru, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Fillmore, Buckhorn, Bardsdale, Rio Lindo, and other outlying unincorporated areas, and has been developed in collaboration with numerous regional stakeholders that have been leaders in broadband for decades. The County has partnered with both the California Department of Technology (CDT) and Astound Broadband for

project implementation. There are three critical components of this project– the joint construction of last mile distribution and MMBN routes along Highway 126, construction of a last mile distribution route that extends from the MMBN routes to interconnect on Highway 101, and construction of a last mile distribution route along Hwy 118.

Last Mile & Statewide middle mile joint build: The County, along with Astound Broadband, is entering into a joint build agreement with the CDT to concurrently construct a segment of the statewide MMBN along Hwy 126 from Santa Clarita/I-5 to Santa Paula/Hwy 150. This route is also an essential last mile distribution route for the County to provide connectivity to unserved locations within Ventura County, reaching many unincorporated communities which lie outside of heavily populated areas.

Highway 118: The County and Astound will extend a last mile distribution fiber route along Hwy 118 west to the community of Somis that interconnects with the statewide MM Network along Hwy 118 at Lagol.

Highway 126: Lastly, the County and Astound will extend a last mile distribution route along Highway 126 from the MMBN interconnection at Hwy 150/Santa Paula to the MMBN along U.S. Hwy 101 while also allowing for an interconnection with both the City of San Buenaventura's and the City of Oxnard's networks.

Estimated Breakdown of aerial and underground Installation

This project will construct 234,862 feet (95.5%) of underground fiber and 10,986 feet of new aerial fiber (4.5%), for a total of 245,848 feet. 163,590 feet of underground fiber will be cable plough along Ventura County Transportation railway (69.7% of all underground construction).

All routes will be publicly-owned - either by Ventura County or the State of California - and completed in partnership with Astound Broadband. Routes between I-5 and Santa Paula will also be in partnership with the California Department of Technology. A detailed breakdown of all routes is as follows:

Ventura County Routes (in partnership with Astound and CDT – 6 conduits, 3- 288-count cables)

- Santa Paula to Rancho Carlos Museum: 103,362 feet of cable plough fiber (along Ventura County Transportation railway)
- Rancho Carlos Museum to LA County: 21,416 feet of underground fiber

Los Angeles County Routes (in partnership with Astound and CDT– 6 conduits, 3- 288-count cables)

- Ventura County line to I-5 connecting to City of Santa Clarita network: 34,481 feet of underground fiber (through directional boring and/or open trench/excavation).

Hwy 126 to Hwy 101 (in partnership with Astound – 4 conduits, 2- 288-count cables)

- Santa Paula to Saticoy: 42,051 feet of underground fiber
- Saticoy Connection to City of San Buenaventura Network: 1,768 feet of underground fiber

Ventura to Oxnard (in partnership with Astound – 4 conduits, 2- 288-count cables)

- Saticoy to Hwy 101: 18,177 feet of cable plough fiber (along Ventura County Transportation railway)
- Hwy 101 to Oxnard: 13,607 feet of underground fiber

Somis (in partnership with Astound 2- 288-count cables)

- Hwy 118 MMBN @ Lagol to Somis: 10,986 feet of aerial fiber

Major Equipment Expenses

In total, major networking equipment expenses will account for \$1,793,160 of the project budget, all of which is requested through this grant application. These assumptions have been calculated based upon known network elements of broadband infrastructure and through Magellan's extensive experience in telecommunications.

These costs are broken down as follows:

Edge Routing: \$160,000
Core Routing: \$250,000
Switching: \$22,500
Access Network termination: \$360,000
Network Software: \$10,000
Network Security and Firewalls: \$60,000
Network Management : \$150,000
IP Services: \$30,000
Spares (including switches and routers): \$25,000
ONU/CPE: \$257,880
NID enclosure: \$36,840
Residential Gateway (RG): \$128,940
RG Management: \$6,000
Installation Professional Services: \$213,500
Customer Billing Platform: \$50,000
Subscriber Provisioning: \$25,000

Fiber Management and Documentation: \$7,500

All final equipment costs and breakdowns are subject to change based on final design engineering, which will be completed by the end of 2023.

Estimated project plan with major milestones and construction timeline

FFA grant application: Quarter 4 of 2023

Design engineering: Quarter 4 of 2023

High level design: Quarter 4 of 2023

Low level design: Quarter 4 of 2023

Final design: Quarter 4 of 2023

CEQA Review (exemption): Quarter 1 of 2024

Permitting: Quarters 2-3 of 2024

Construction bid: Quarter 2 of 2024

Bid award: Quarter 3 of 2024

Staking/preconstruction: Quarter 3 of 2024

Backbone construction: Quarter 4 of 2024-Quarter 2 of 2025

Splicing and network connection: Quarter 2 of 2025

Grant-funded service drop installation: Quarter 2 of 2025

Network launch: Quarter 3 of 2025

Description of proposed broadband project plan for which FFA funding is being requested, including the type of technology to be provided in the proposed service areas

Ventura County and its cities share the belief that high-speed internet is critical for closing the digital divide for all Californians. Broadband improves quality of life through access to information, services, & resources, remote learning/work, telehealth. As such, Ventura County has developed a formal plan to build the Ventura County Fiber Network, an open-access last mile distribution network to connect unserved locations in the cities, towns, and unincorporated areas of the County. The project will also joint build the State's planned middle-mile network on Highway 126 from Santa Clarita/I-5 to Santa Paula.

This publicly-owned project is a joint build between the County of Ventura and the State of California's Department of Technology (CDT), utilizing Astound's experience constructing fiber networks, running along Highways 126 and 118 in Ventura County. Last-mile connections will be deployed by Astound, with an anticipated reach to 1,821 unserved locations. Subscribers to this network will have access to broadband symmetrical speeds ranging from 50 Mbps to 1+ Gbps to meet their unique needs. The fiber optic technology has been chosen for its "future proof" capabilities, able to adapt to the need for capacity as innovation and technologies expand. While we anticipate this project to be categorically exempt from CEQA review, a thorough review will be completed by the County's Planning Department (local CEQA authority) once design engineering is completed. This project will be constructed within existing rights of way, avoiding environmentally sensitive areas. The exact date of this review will be determined post award once design engineering is complete.

This project will also serve as a cornerstone of the Statewide Middle Mile Backbone Network (MMBN). The County of Ventura and Astound have entered into a joint build agreement with CDT to complete sections of the planned MMBN along Highway 126, saving the State significant costs, with the State CDT contributing \$4,779,129 in match funding to the project. Funding through this FFA grant will continue the State's open access fiber routes, establishing last mile connections across the entirety of Ventura County and building redundancy within the statewide network. Without this open access project, the State of California will miss out on the significant advancements in connectivity this project will bring to disadvantaged communities within Ventura County and surrounding areas.

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