



COUNTY of VENTURA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
Terrence Theobald
Chief Information Officer

September 26, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Approval of, and Authorization for the County Purchasing Agent or Designee to Execute, a Contract for Developing an Engineering Design and Plan for Broadband Middle Mile Infrastructure with Magellan LLC (Magellan) from October 1, 2023, through July 1, 2024, in the Amount of \$491,420; Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to Process the Necessary Accounting Transactions.

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 REQUIRES 4/5 VOTE.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve, and Authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to execute, a contract for developing an engineering design and plan for Broadband Middle Mile Infrastructure with Magellan from October 1, 2023, through July 1, 2024, in the amount of \$491,420 (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to revise appropriations and unanticipated revenue. (Requires 4/5ths vote.)

Fund: I510 Network Services	
INCREASE 4850 Broadband	\$491,420
INCREASE 4850 Intergovernmental Revenue	\$491,420

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACTS:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	<u>Grant Funding:</u> Public Utilities Commission Local Area Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Departments:	None

SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND COSTS:	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
Revenues:	\$491,420	\$0
Costs:		
Direct	\$491,420	\$0
Indirect-Dept	\$0	\$0

Indirect-County CAP	\$0	\$0
Total Cost	\$491,420	\$0
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for (4850 Network Services – Fund I510)				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$0
Revenue	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$25,237,194	\$0
Operating Gain/(Loss)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Includes lease payments, interfund and capital asset-related expenses.

DISCUSSION:

In December 2022, your Board ratified the submission of the Information Technology Services' (ITS) grant application to the California Public Utilities Commission for a Local Area Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant in the amount of \$491,420, which would be used for design and engineering work for the County's Middle Mile Broadband project.

ITS advises to continue contracting with incumbent vendor Magellan on this project. Magellan will first deliver a high-level design document that will focus on four key components that include the backhaul/redundant connections, core fiber backbone, fiber laterals to key organizations, and fiber to the home. Once the County approves the high-level design, Magellan will deliver a low-level design document that will include construction prints with detailed placement and routing, integration with existing fiber and conduit, preliminary fiber splice plans, cabinet layouts, pedestals, and other low-level outside plant infrastructure documentation. Once that is approved, Magellan will complete the final design document which will include all construction documents, construction standards, construction plans, sequencing and schedules, and a Bill of Materials.

In early 2020, the County began working with Magellan assisting Ventura County with planning for a regional middle-mile fiber optic broadband network. This "Regional Fiber Loop" project was conceived with the goal of connecting County facilities and each of the County's municipalities to a high-speed internet connection to improve efficiencies, promote government innovation, and bring options for wholesale bandwidth to the region. Benefits include enhancing opportunities for economic development and quality of life improvements for the many businesses and residents of Ventura County. An additional goal was to provide infrastructure, increased bandwidth, and lower costs for internet services to State-designated un/underserved households.

At the time that the County of Ventura's LATA grant application was created and

submitted, the thought was to solicit competitive bids from potential contractors to perform the Digital Infrastructure Design and Implementation Plan delineated in Magellan's Project Proposal. After submission of the LATA grant application and issuance of the award to the County, Information Technology Services has decided to pursue utilizing the incumbent firm which has been providing fiber, broadband and grant advisory, and design services to the County to complete the Digital Infrastructure and Implementation Plan.

Magellan has provided similar services to the County, and they have gained significant knowledge and familiarity with the structure, organization, and operations of the County. Additionally, this vendor has acquired a deep knowledge of County, cities in the county, and all other public and private agencies in the region about existing broadband, fiber, and wireless assets. Magellan has been integral in the planning, design, grant award, and implementation of a new fiber optic backbone network within the County. They are completing partnerships between the County, cities, private sector providers, the Ventura County Transportation Corporation, and Ventura County Economic Development Corporation.

The rules governing the State LATA grant program allow the County to utilize this incumbent vendor to perform the services in the Digital Infrastructure Design and Implementation Plan without competitive bidding. Under their current consulting agreement, Magellan has completed 30% of the design work with the balance being covered by the LATA grant. They have also been selected by three (3) cities in the County for similar work through competitive bidding. The State recognizes Magellan as qualified to do the work. In the last month, Magellan has been selected by agencies through competitive bidding to perform the same LATA scope of work, including Gateway Cities Council of Governments, and the City of San Buena Ventura.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, General Services Agency-Procurement Services, and Auditor-Controller's Office.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Terrence Theobald at (805) 654-2744.



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Information Technology Services

TT/BP/TY: dc

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Magellan Contract