



**SOUTH SALINAS VALLEY BROADBAND AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
GREENFIELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
599 EL CAMINO REAL  
GREENFIELD, CA 93927**

**March 20th, 2025  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**FULL PACKET**

This meeting will be livestreamed for public access. Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the following methods:

1. Access the Zoom meeting:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85824937858?pwd=HaIqENy6JXj2goFpibYROU5FSA3k9S.  
1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85824937858?pwd=HaIqENy6JXj2goFpibYROU5FSA3k9S.1)
2. Call-in: (669) 444-9171
3. Zoom Meeting ID- Meeting ID: 858 2493 7858 Passcode: 833112

Public comment may be submitted live, during the Zoom meeting, or emailed to Paul Farmer [paul@mcbs.biz](mailto:paul@mcbs.biz), for review by SSVBA Board Members.

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll call**

Board President: Supervisor Chris Lopez, County of Monterey  
Board Vice President: Mayor Mike LeBarre, City of King

Board Member: Councilmember Marcy Jones, City of Greenfield  
Board Member: Councilmember Fernando Cabrera, City of Soledad  
Board Member: Mayor Jose Rios, City of Gonzales

#### **4. Public Comment**

*Members of the public may comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the agency that are not on the agenda. Public comments generally are limited to two (2) minutes per speaker; the Chair may further limit the time for public comments depending on the agenda schedule. Comments on agenda items should be held until the items are reached. To be respectful of all speakers and avoid disruption of the meeting, please refrain from applauding or jeering the speaker.*

#### **5. Consent Items**

- a. Approval of December 16th, 2024 SSVBA Board Meeting Minutes:

#### **6. Regular Agenda**

- a. Receive Presentation on Charter Broadband expansions and activities in southern Monterey County
- b. Receive Broadband Update from Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

#### **7. Executive Director's Report**

#### **8. Board of Directors' Report**

#### **9. Future Agenda Items**

### **Adjournment**

### **MEETING ACCOMMODATION**

Disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be requested by any person with a disability who requires modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting. Requests should be referred to MCBC Staff Paul Farmer at [paul@mcbc.biz](mailto:paul@mcbc.biz) as soon as possible but by no later than 5:00 p.m. of the last business day prior to the meeting. Hearing impaired or TTY/TDD text telephone users may contact the Agency by dialing 711 for the California Relay Service (CRS) or by telephoning any other service provider's CRS telephone number.

**VIEWING MEETINGS**

Live meetings are broadcast via Zoom and are recorded. The recorded meetings schedule may be viewed at the SSVBA website: [www.ssvba.org](http://www.ssvba.org).

**AGENDA POSTING**

The meeting agenda was posted on 17 March 2025 on the SSVBA Official Website.



**SOUTH SALINAS VALLEY BROADBAND AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
GREENFIELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
599 EL CAMINO REAL  
GREENFIELD, CA 93927**

**December 16th, 2024  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order** Board President Lopez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll call**

Present: Chris Lopez, Mike LeBarre, Jose Rios

**4. Business from the Public**

*Members of the public may comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the agency that are not on the agenda. Public comments generally are limited to two (2) minutes per speaker; the Chair may further limit the time for public comments depending on the agenda schedule. Comments on agenda items should be held until the items are reached. To be respectful of all speakers and avoid disruption of the meeting, please refrain from applauding or jeering the speaker.*

None.

## **5. Consent Items**

- a. Approval of October 19th, 2023 SSVBA Draft Board Meeting Minutes: (Pages 5-8).  
Approved by all Board members present.
- b. Consideration for future SSVBA Regular Meetings scheduled: (Page 9).
  - i. SSVBA Regular Meeting April 18th, 2024
  - ii. SSVBA Regular Meeting July 18th, 2024
  - iii. SSVBA Regular Meeting October 17th, 2024Approved by all Board members present.
- c. Consideration for approval of consulting agreement with Monterey County Business Council for remainder of FY 2024-2025: (Page 10).  
Approved by all Board members present.
- d. Consideration for approval of Aleshire & Wynder, LLP's legal counsel fees for services rendered from Dec 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023: (Page 11).

## **6. Special Agenda**

None

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

None

## **8. Board of Directors' Report**

None

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

None

**Adjournment** Board President Lopez adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

## **MEETING ACCOMMODATION**

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## **VIEWING MEETINGS**

Live meetings are broadcast via Zoom and are recorded. The recorded meetings schedule may be viewed at the City of Greenfield's website, [Greenfield, CA | Official Website](#).

## **AGENDA POSTING**

The meeting agenda was posted on 11 December 2024 on the City of Greenfield's Official Website.



**To:** Members of the South Salinas Valley Broadband Authority (SSVBA) Board of Directors  
**From:** Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer  
**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**Re:** GSCA Broadband Update

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### **SUMMARY**

An overview of Golden State Connect Authority's (GSCA) broadband infrastructure program of work will be presented.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Program

Final work product under all GSCA-Partner LATA awards for SSVBA member jurisdictions has been received by GSCA from LATA consultants and distributed to each member jurisdiction. This final work product will serve as the first forty miles of network project area in each SSVBA member jurisdiction for GSCA under Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile program, if/when awarded.

GSCA is submitting complete and final LATA reimbursement packages to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on behalf of each awardee in a staggered manner due to GSCA cash flow limits. GSCA has been granted the authority to use up to \$7 million in in-house reserves to cash flow these reimbursements, while the total outstanding amount due for work under the grants for all 37 GSCA-partner awardees is \$15.8 million. GSCA has communicated this situation with the CPUC LATA Project Team and partner-awardees.

GSCA is diligently monitoring the processing and payment through the CPUC so that we can alert SSVBA members as to when they can expect to receive a payment. At the time of this notification, GSCA is providing each LATA partner with an invoice and ACH payment instructions so that GSCA can be reimbursed for the covered costs once the CPUC reimbursement check is received.

#### California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile Program

During the January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup> CPUC Voting Meetings, elected leaders, professional staff, and valued business and community leaders from SSVBA member jurisdictions, together with leadership from other GSCA member counties, voiced their requests for GSCA applications in Calaveras and Monterey counties to be awarded to Golden State Connect Authority in Round 1. More than 45 SSVBA and GSCA member county leaders, business organizations, and citizens provided comments during the meetings' Public Comment period expressing their requests and

providing testimony of the need and benefit that a GSCA open access fiber network would provide to their communities and households. In addition, Mayors for each SSVBA member city and Supervisor Lopez from Monterey County met with each CPUC Commissioner individually to speak about the critical need for fiber broadband access in the South Salinas Valley.

Despite these efforts, on February 21, 2025, the CPUC announced that Round One of the FFA Last Mile Program was officially closed, and that there would be an FFA Last Mile program - Round Two. Round Two includes only the six California counties that did not receive FFA Last Mile awards in Round One – Calaveras, Inyo, Monterey, Trinity, Contra Costa, and Orange. The application window for Round Two will open on March 25, 2025, and close on April 23, 2025. CPUC leadership has stated that the award announcements for Round Two are likely to take place in August/September 2025.

GSCA will be submitting FFA Last Mile Round Two applications for all four eligible member counties – Calaveras, Monterey, Inyo, and Trinity. The project area focus for GSCA's Monterey County Round 2 application will remain on the South Salinas Valley project area. Work is currently underway to identify the exact FFA Last Mile program project area(s) and develop associated application components. (These applications are prioritized above BEAD applications.)

Given that Round Two FFA Last Mile award announcements are not expected until August/September AND the fact that the CPUC has set May 1, 2025, as the official Start Date for GSCA's Round One awarded projects, GSCA is moving ahead with using the Loan Loss Reserve award for all Round One FFA Last Mile GSCA awards. Bonds for any awards GSCA may receive in FFA Last Mile Round Two will be issued without Loan Loss Reserve Program backing unless continued funding of the program is made possible during the state budget process currently underway. As such, project area identification and the associated bond portion of the financial stack are being considered for all Round Two applications.

To date, GSCA has received and accepted seven FFA Last Mile awards, totaling \$185,384,131 in FFA Last Mile funding for projects in Imperial, Alpine, Mono, and Amador, Glenn, and Tehama counties, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes (Mono).

#### National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) – Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)

The BEAD program is a \$42.5 billion national program aimed at providing broadband access to every remaining unserved (less than 25/3 Mbps) and underserved (less than 100/20 Mbps) address in the country. The allocation for California BEAD is \$1.86 billion.

The program has some hurdles at the state level that are challenging:

- California is required to use BEAD allocation to identify service to every un/underserved location in the state.



- The CPUC has stated that California BEAD dollars will emphasize the following for delivery models: Priority – fiber; Qualifying – fixed wireless, cable, DSL; and Alternative – satellite and unlicensed fixed wireless.

These two ideas are in direct conflict with each other, which may result in fewer awards for fiber infrastructure (future-proof, useful life of 50+ years) in areas where fiber should be the delivery model, and more awards to less effective technologies that cost more for the operator (fixed wireless, satellite), over time.

Likewise, hurdles for potential applicants include:

- An irrevocable Letter of Credit is required for all applicants based on total project area(s) costs.
- A 25% cash match is required. (Local governments can assign a value to easements and use toward cash match.)
- Applicants are required to serve 100% of designated Census Block Groups (clusters of Census Blocks). This makes for exceptionally large project areas with remote locations (away from density clusters), often separated by mountains and/or rivers that require serving.
- High-Cost Areas, which allow for higher dollar awards and waiving of cash match requirement, are not known during application process. These areas will be determined during the negotiation process.

The BEAD Public Map has been posted on the CPUC website, and the program will abide by the following schedule (all dates 2025):

March 25 – April 9	Sub-grantee Qualification Period
March 25 – April 23	Grant Application Window
April 24 – August 19	Subgrantee Selection Process and Final Proposal
August 30 – Sept 15	Public Comment Period
Sept 18	Resolution Considered by Commission
Sept 19 – Oct 2	Submittal of Final Proposal

GSCA will be submitting applications for BEAD project areas in a strategic, prioritized manner:

- First Priority – FFA Last Mile Round One awarded counties and member counties included in FFA Last Mile Round Two.
- Second Priority – Member counties that are adjacent to the counties noted above.

No notice has yet been provided by the US Department of Commerce that the BEAD Program will be amended, paused, or cancelled.