



## **BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL**

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**TO:** GCSB Board of Directors

**FROM:** Peter Kampa, General Manager

**DATE:** August 10, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 5B: Status Update Report on the Partnership and Lease Agreement with Cal.net for the Expansion of Broadband Internet Services Within the District

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

*This agenda item is for information and Board input and direction/public input only at this time. If there is continued interest on the part of the Board, a Master Lease Agreement will be presented to the Board for future action.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the last 18 months, management has been meeting and working with local internet service provider (ISP) Cal.net with the intent of receiving more consistent and reliable high speed internet services for District facilities including treatment plants, pump stations and the administrative office. Local internet service has suffered significantly with the increase in local visitation and home occupancy rates, which has caused a high consumption of available internet bandwidth.

You may remember in 2020 we discussed that Cal.net had received state grant funding to expand broadband internet in “underserved” areas of California. Since our past discussion, Cal.net has been working with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to finalize project plans and secure the release of the grant funds to construct the broadband infrastructure. Cal.net had received conditional approval and authorization for \$3,608,224 in California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant funds from the CPUC in 2016 for a project to improve service in Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. This project has been in the planning, design and permitting process since that time, and on June 24, 2021, the CPUC adopted a Resolution that approves a categorical exemption prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and authorizes the release of (CASF) grant monies to Cal.net to construct the Project.

The Tuolumne Mariposa Project is a last-mile fixed wireless infrastructure project that will provide broadband Internet and VoIP telephony services to 834 Census blocks, 7,711 households, 16 fire stations, and 19 anchor institutions with speeds of up to 25 Mbps download and 4 Mbps upload in the underserved rural communities of Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties. In Tuolumne County, Cal.net will construct nine new fixed-wireless broadband tower facilities subject to Conditional

Use Permits and the three fixed-wireless broadband antennas collocated on existing towers on a mix of public and private properties. After working closely with Cal.net and with the vigorous assistance of County Supervisor Kathleen Haff, two of these above listed systems is planned on GCSD property:

- Tank 2 Jones Hill Ct. – This location is important to fulfill the goals of the CPUC grant. Cal.net will build a 60’-80’ mast or tower at this location. This site will represent one of the two primary ingress for wireless links for the Groveland network. This site will feed the GCSD main offices directly.
- Tank 1 Tenaya Tank – This location is important to fulfill the goals of the grant CPUC grant. This will give Cal.net the ability to serve all the businesses and residents along the 120 corridor through Groveland. At this site, they would likely use magnetic mounts around the top of the tank to mount the equipment.

In addition, Cal.net is considering construction located:

- Tank 3 Alcan Ct – PML service
- There is a small unserved consumer base near the 2G Clearwell. This site may need a tower to reach into that adjacent valley. Cal.net would like to see if we can bring in service from the top of the tank from either Tank 2 or Tank 1.
- Tank 4 PML Airport – Cal.net would like to repurpose the empty utility pole for service delivery in a future phase

Ultimately, it has been discussed that from any GCSD site, there is a possibility to serve a remote few customer with Broadband, in addition to GCSD facilities having internet access for communications.

As discussed above, should the Board wish to continue to pursue this relationship with Cal.net, we will finalize a Master Lease Agreement for Board consideration.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None