



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Brandon Robinson, Electrical Engineering Supervisor

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2023-196, Approving the Professional Services Agreement for the City of Banning Broadband Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2023-196.

BACKGROUND:

The California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) has established Local Agency Technical Assistance (“LATA”) grants to “support tribes and local agencies in their efforts to expand broadband service to unserved and underserved Californians.” Funding from LATA grants is intended for planning work that will facilitate high-speed broadband infrastructure projects.

High-speed and reliable broadband services, generally defined as meeting or exceeding symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds, are currently unavailable to eastern parts of the City of Banning (“City”) and in current and future development areas. The latest census data shows that the City’s median household income is among the lowest in Riverside County at \$42,274, 58 percent less than the median County income of \$73,260 in 2019. According to the 2016-2020 U.S. Census, more than 6,400 Banning residents do not have reliable broadband access. The overarching goal of this feasibility study is to enable digital inclusion by providing affordable, easily accessible, high-performance, broadband service to Banning residents and businesses. The City applied for a LATA grant in September 2022 and was awarded funds in November 2022.

In October 2023, the City solicited Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the Broadband Feasibility Study. The proposals have been evaluated and staff has submitted a recommendation for award which has been included in Resolution 2023-191.

JUSTIFICATION:

The City is committed to establishing a solid foundation to assess how to provide this essential broadband service to unserved and underserved residents and businesses. The LATA grant and broadband feasibility study will enable the City to address broadband capacity and connectivity concerns critical to the City’s growth and future economic resiliency and make informed decisions related to workforce retention and economic growth and help retain and attract businesses to Banning’s growing population and economy.

In addition, expanding the broadband network will improve operations and the quality of services rendered by City facilities with telecommunication and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication systems specifically for water, wastewater, and electric utilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 from the CPUC to complete the broadband feasibility study. The professional services agreement will be awarded in the amount of \$220,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt Resolution 2023-196 as recommended.
2. Do not approve Resolution 2023-196 and return grant funds to the CPUC.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2023-196, LATA Grant.docx](#)
2. [C00949 - CTC Broadband Feasibility Study.pdf](#)
3. [City of Banning award letter LATA.pdf](#)