

# The County of Yuba

## Community Development and Services Agency

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Community Development and Services Agency, Ian Scott

**SUBJECT:** Community Development and Services: Authorize CDSA to release Request for Proposals to develop Broadband Master Environmental Impact Report

**DATE:** March 26, 2024

**NUMBER:** 140/2024

### *Recommendation*

Community Development and Services: Board authorize Community Development to release Request for Proposals to develop Broadband Master Environmental Impact Report.

### *Background & Discussion*

Community Development has been working on the broadband issue for the last several fiscal years, which has resulted in long range planning work including the Broadband Master Plan and Broadband Feasibility Study. The Broadband Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will build off the success of these documents by ensuring that future broadband deployment work funded by the State of California and federally will comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Current and future funding for broadband infrastructure is expected to be available through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment programs, the California Emerging Technology Fund, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, potential future Federal Funding Account application windows, and other funding sources. The EIR will provide a guiding document for development of broadband in Yuba County by reducing the process required for the deployment of Internet Service Provider (ISP) infrastructure.

It is anticipated that the presence of an EIR covering potential broadband infrastructure installation projects will put Yuba County in the position to have shovel-ready broadband projects, and be in a more favorable position to compete for broadband grants. Broadband infrastructure will enhance the public safety, economic prosperity, and resource conservation efforts of the County and its stakeholders. The

selected contractor will be responsible to perform services needed to prepare the Broadband EIR to address the environmental effects of broadband installation, including both underground and aerial fiber optic cable, countywide.

*Committee Action:*

None. This request is brought directly to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration.

*Fiscal Impact:*

\$250,000 approved in FY 23-24 budget

*Attachments*

Yuba County Broadband EIR RFP