

## **Gabriel Hydrick**

*Chief Administrator*

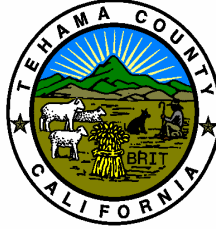
*Shawn Bondon, Veterans Services Officer*

*Levi Conner, Facilities Manager*

*Coral Ferrin, Personnel Director*

*Dava Kohlman, Administrative Services Director*

*Orepa Mamea, Administrative Fiscal Manager*



## **Tehama County County Administration**

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## **TEHAMA COUNTY**

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

December 6, 2023

### **Tehama County Draft Broadband Planning and Feasibility Study**

With the unanimous passage of SB 156 by the California Legislature and formal signing of the Bill by the Governor in July 2021, not only was an historic \$6 billion in funding dedicated to broadband infrastructure across California set in motion, but for the first time in Statute, counties are allowed to own, operate, and maintain broadband infrastructure. Counties are now permitted to play a bigger role in directing and developing this critical piece of community infrastructure.

To aid counties in their new role as active participants in the conversations and future direction of broadband infrastructure development in their communities, the RCRC Board of Directors provided direction to staff to seek funding for the development of county broadband strategic plans. The intended benefit of the broadband strategic plan was to serve as a compendium of information about broadband systems – existing and future, broadband policies and programs, Smart Community applications, and other key areas, thus serving as a resource to RCRC member counties in this new role.

In September 2021, RCRC affiliate Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) submitted a grant proposal to the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the purpose of requesting grant funding to complete countywide broadband strategic plans for those member counties that opted-in to the grant opportunity. Tehama County voted to participate in this opportunity and via execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tehama County and Golden State Finance Authority, was included in the grant.

On August 23, 2022, GSFA was notified that the grant had been awarded. Included in the approved grant was funding for the completion of twenty-five countywide broadband strategic plans. Each countywide plan was approved for \$125,000, eighty percent (80%) of which would be funded by the EDA grant and twenty percent (20%) would be provided in the form of cash match. GSFA would serve as the grant administrator and contract manager on behalf of the member counties included in the grant.

In December 2022, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Contract Services for the development of countywide broadband strategic plans was issued by GSFA. Tehama County had the opportunity to review the RFP prior to issuance and participate in the proposal review process. Upon review and rating, Tilson Technology was selected to be the consultant on the project.

The draft Tehama County Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan is now available for a 30-day review period in which the County will take comments or proposed edits. The study may be accessed from the County home page at [www.co.tehama.ca.us](http://www.co.tehama.ca.us) or emailed by request. All comments and edits will either be included in the final study or the Tilson team will provide feedback as to why comments are not included. All comments should be directed to Dava Kohlman, Administrative Services Director, [dkohlman@co.tehama.ca.us](mailto:dkohlman@co.tehama.ca.us) by Wednesday, December 27, 2023. Tilson Technology will accept one list compiled and submitted by the County of Tehama and will present the report to the public on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting.

**For Additional Information:**

Gabriel Hydrick, Chief Administrator

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