

Frontier CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application – Desert Shores

Item #1 - Project Summary

Applicant: Frontier California Inc.
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Project Title: Desert Shores
Location: Desert Shores, Imperial County
Type: Last Mile
Grant Request: \$1,478,902

Frontier California Inc. (“Frontier”) is applying for a \$1,478,902 grant from the California Advanced Services Fund (“CASF”) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account to deploy fiber facilities that will enable provision of High Speed Internet service to 791 households in Desert Shores. Desert Shores is an unincorporated community in Imperial County and is located along the western shoreline of the Salton Sea within the Colorado Desert ecoregion and Salton Community Services District. Once a vibrant resort area, Desert Shores is now a “disadvantaged community” by many measures, with high unemployment, above average poverty, unhealthy air quality and no High Speed Internet service. Frontier’s proposed deployment will, for the first time, connect Desert Shores to the digital economy and provide improved access to employment, education, health care, public safety and other government services.

Frontier’s proposed project will cover approximately 2.63 square miles and is a last-mile mostly aerial infrastructure project using Frontier’s existing poles and rights of way to deploy fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities capable of providing High Speed Internet, Ethernet, and VoIP service with speeds of up to 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload. These services will benefit households as well as existing restaurants, lodges, churches, and a VFW hall, and may spur other small businesses to provide services that residents currently can access only by driving out of the Desert Shores area.

A range of service and price options will be available to households, businesses, and any anchor institutions. Desert Shores currently does not have schools, libraries or hospitals, and this new broadband service will enable students to do homework with online resources and allow online access to health care services, critical for the many residents who suffer from poor air quality. Moreover, eligible low-income households will be able to subscribe to Frontier’s Affordable Broadband product, which includes a free Chromebook.

In addition to first-time provision of High Speed Internet service to Desert Shores households, the proposed project will advance the CPUC’s objective of prioritizing broadband deployment to “High Impact Areas.” This proposed project also will advance the Legislature’s intent to prioritize funding broadband adoption programs for disadvantaged communities. Although Desert Shores is clearly “disadvantaged” by many measures, it would never benefit from a broadband adoption program if there is no broadband infrastructure. This proposed project would, for example, enable a community center in Desert Shores to be a wifi hotspot and location for digital literacy classes and other initiatives to help close the Digital Divide.

As the Carrier of Last Resort in Desert Shores, Frontier currently provides voice service in the project area via copper wireline facilities acquired from Verizon in 2016. Frontier does not provide broadband services and is not aware of any other provider of broadband service in the proposed project area, nor any provision of wireless service that meets the CASF “served” speed standard.

The project size is 2.63 square miles.

Census Block Groups Covered

-CBG 060250123022

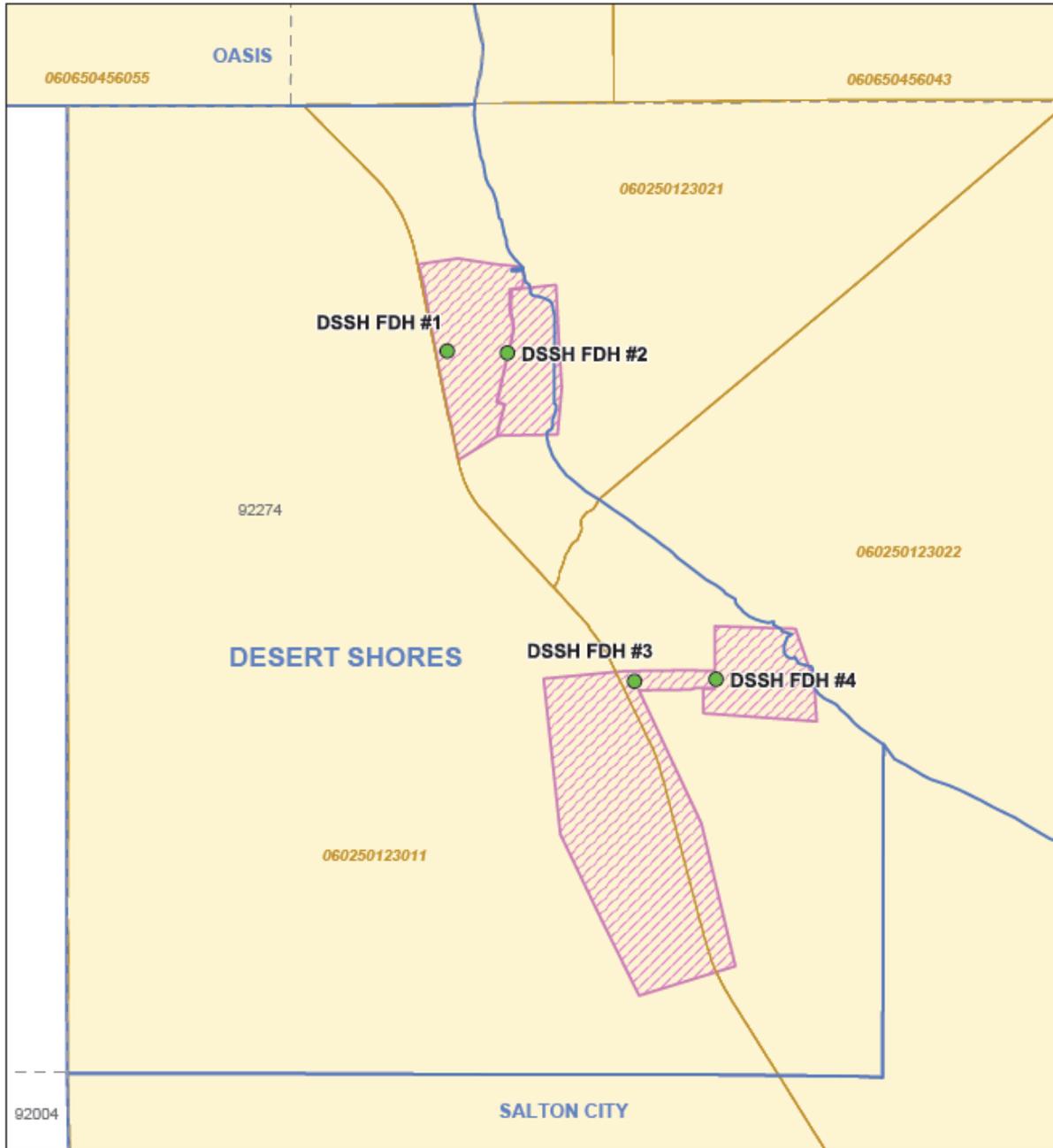
-CBG 060250123021

-CBG 060250123011

Zip Codes Covered

- 92274

DESERT SHORES CASF FTTP



12/05/2017

Legend

-  Remote
-  FTTP Serving Area
-  Frontier Wirecenter Boundary
-  Zip Code Boundary
-  Census Block Groups

