

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 8, 2016

Mr. Robert Volker
1101 Nimitz Ave
Vallejo, CA 94592

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND (CASF) – DENIAL OF THE
PROPOSED INYO NETWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT
APPLICATION FOR THE SOUTH INYO BROADBAND PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Volker:

Thank you for your May 22, 2015, CASF infrastructure grant application to serve the four communities of Cartago, Olancha, Keeler, and Darwin in the southern part of Inyo County. The application references broadband availability data as of June 30, 2014 and asserts that the proposed project areas are unserved. Communications Division (CD) staff reviewed the proposed project in light of recently published broadband availability data as of December 31, 2014 showing that Lone Pine Television (LPTV) offers broadband Internet access at served speeds in Cartago, Olancha, and Keeler.

As you are aware, LPTV offers fixed wireless Internet access in portions of the proposed project area.¹ In response to the application's assertion that LPTV's actual service level is unserved or potentially underserved, CD staff requested LPTV conduct tests of their fixed wireless service at subscriber locations using CalSPEED. The test results demonstrated that LPTV's infrastructure can provide service of at least 6 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1.5 Mbps upload in Cartago, Olancha, and Keeler.²

Based on our evaluation, CD staff finds that LPTV serves Cartago, Olancha, and Keeler and therefore the South Inyo Broadband project is ineligible for CASF funding. The CASF program does not allow grants to fund projects where broadband infrastructure capabilities at served speeds already exist. Inyo Networks may resubmit an application for the unserved area of Darwin or other eligible areas at any time while the current application window is open. All applications will be evaluated according to the CASF scoring criteria and requirements set forth in Public Utilities Code section 281.

CD staff recently received tower location data and antenna parameters from LPTV, which it used to propagate the fixed wireless coverage area shown in the map below (Appendix A). LPTV also submitted confidential subscriber street address information to demonstrate the extent of their subscriber locations. CD will update the California Interactive Broadband Availability Map to reflect Internet service with fixed wireless coverage at served speeds in Cartago, Olancha, and Keeler.³

¹ Inyo Networks Infrastructure Grant Application for South Inyo Broadband Project, Section 14, Unserved & Underserved Assertion.

² Speeds of up to 35 Mbps download and no less than 9 Mbps upload were recorded.

³ LPTV originally reported its entire Inyo County footprint as having cable Internet service as of December 31 2014, when in fact such service is only available in the community of Lone Pine. Subsequently, LPTV corrected their filing to reflect fixed wireless coverage in

Please contact Owen Rochte at (415)703-5469 or Selena Huang at (415)703-5247 if you have any questions or would like to share additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wullenjohn". The signature is written in black ink and extends across the width of the page.

Robert Wullenjohn
Program Manager, Broadband Policy & Analysis Branch
Communications Division

Cc: Ryan Dulin, Director, Communications Division
Selena Huang, CASF Supervisor
Stacie Castro, CASF Attorney
Owen Rochte, CASF Analyst

Appendix A



CASF - PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT Inyo Networks - South Inyo Broadband

