

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Janet Bibby

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter supporting TDS' application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funding. TDS provides communication services to a portion of the Catheys Valley community, as well as Hornitos and Hunters Valley. Due to the small number of customers and the remote geographic location, it has been financially difficult for the company to provide broadband service to their customers. Specifically this grant funding will allow TDS to provide broadband access to the remaining Hunters Valley exchange which is an extremely high cost site to upgrade with a small number of customers which adds to the overall cost ratio.

Affordable and reliable broadband access is critical in attracting and retaining businesses, improving local agriculture businesses, social service agencies and their satellite offices, telecommuting, distance learning, and telemedicine.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Historically the Board has recognized the importance of broadband and has supported efforts to provide broadband services to all parts of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support, which may not have the same impact as endorsement by the entire Board.

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively _____
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Draft Letter of Support _____
Source:		_____
Internal Transfer _____		_____
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		_____
() General () Other		_____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 09-244 Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
Absent: _____
MW Approved
() Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: _____
Deputy

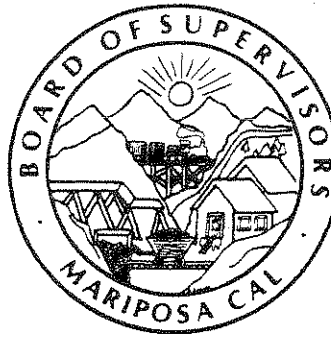
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: PB

Mariposa County
Board of Supervisors

District 1BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JIM ALLEN



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

P.O. Box 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
(209) 966-3222
1-800-736-1252
FAX (209) 966-5147
www.mariposacounty.org/board

May 26, 2009

TDS Telecommunications Corporation
Legislative Affairs Department
525 Junction Road, Suite 7000
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

Elizabeth Cerveney, Market Manager
TDS
Post Office Box 219
La Center, Washington 98629

Dear TDS and Elizabeth Cerveney:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly supports TDS' applications for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to strengthen and enhance broadband internet access in the TDS service area within Mariposa County.

Broadband internet access is critical to communities like ours which are significantly impacted by the extremely rural and isolated geographical location. Without broadband access Mariposa County remains unable to attract additional business growth, the ability to provide access to telecommuting, distance learning, health care services, and to provide social service connectivity to our senior and low income populations. Business and education today is largely conducted via the Internet and this access is the lifeblood of a community's ongoing viability and long term existence.

TDS has recently made significant efforts and commitments in responding to rural community requests for modernization in the areas of communication services. It is our hope that with funding assistance, TDS will be able to continue addressing the barriers that many of our residents experience due to the historic communication line routes.

We applaud TDS' ongoing commitment to serving the numerous communities within Mariposa and their future commitment in pursuing advancements for equal access. Please contact our County Administrative Officer Rick Benson if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

BRAD ABORN
Chairman

BA/JB/mbh

cc: U.S. Congress Member George Radanovich
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
California Senator Dave Cogdill
California Assembly Member Tom Berryhill