



A RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY IN SUPPORT OF CONDUIT CONSTRUCTION POLICIES AND BROADBAND ACCESS IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

WHEREAS, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (“Partnership”) was established by Executive Order S-22-06 to focus attention on one of the most vital, yet challenged regions of the state and implement changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents.

WHEREAS, in November 2007 a Special Session on Highway 99 was held prior to the Partnership Board meeting. There was substantive discussion regarding the necessity to facilitate the installation of telecommunications infrastructure in the San Joaquin Valley. At that meeting, the Transportation and Advanced Communications Services (ACS) Work Groups were tasked with convening a joint meeting to discuss the state of current Caltrans policy and practice.

WHEREAS, a joint meeting between the Transportation and ACS Work Group was held on January 17, 2008. Currently Caltrans policy can accommodate conduit being installed by private companies when trenches are open for repair or rebuild of state highways but can not pay for it with state transportation dollars.

WHEREAS, the joint Work Groups reaffirmed the importance of access to Broadband for all Valley residents and that conduit is necessary for fiber to be installed to bring Broadband to all Valley communities. Three critical issues were identified to reach this goal: 1) Procedures must be developed by Caltrans for how to notify and accommodate providers in the early planning stages of road construction. 2) It is in agreement that facilitating this transition when the trenches are open is in Caltrans and others best interest, however, clarification is needed in regards to payment of the expenses. 3) The Partnership should work with Caltrans, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) in order to facilitate agreements with industry on a robust and agile interface among all parties on this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- A. Reaffirms their commitment to ubiquitous access to Broadband in the San Joaquin Valley.
- B. Request that Caltrans develop procedures for notifying and accommodating providers in the early planning stages of road construction.
- C. Requests that Caltrans take the lead in clarifying and addressing issues surrounding the cost of the conduit installation.

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- D. Will continue to participate through the Transportation and ACS Work Groups in ongoing discussions among Caltrans, the PUC and CETF in order to facilitate agreements with industry on how to ensure ubiquitous Broadband access for all Valley residents.

PASSED APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 8 day of February, 2008, by the board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

Connie Conway, Chair