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Nevada County Broadband Project Advances to Due Diligence -- Federal Funding is One Step Nearer

The Nevada County Economic Resource Council (ERC) has been notified that the Nevada County Connected (NCC) wireless broadband Internet network project has been brought into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Round 2 due diligence process. Per the email received, "Only those applications considered to be highly qualified advance from merit review to due diligence."

The Round 2 application for NCC was submitted by the ERC on March 26 requesting \$7.69 million in federal stimulus funding for the \$11.1 million project within the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) category under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This stimulus funding is provided through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Nevada County Connected was recently included in Governor Schwarzenegger's top 10 recommended CCI projects in Round 2, and has already received a California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant of \$1.1 million -- a 10% match predicated on the receipt of ARRA funding.

"We are quite proud that Nevada County Connected has entered due diligence, as we presented it as a model rural broadband project," said ERC President & CEO Gil Mathew. "The next few weeks will be intense. Chip Carman and John Paul, of Spiral Internet, and myself will need to respond to questions by a four-member team from the NTIA."

Chip Carman pointed out that "The carrier-grade technology proposed for Nevada County Connected allows us to deploy wireless services that are frequency- and technology-independent. So local Internet Service Providers, cellular phone providers, and public safety can all use the infrastructure easily. We're ready for the future, since the network is also scalable."

A complete list of Round 1 grant recipients and Round 2 grant application submittals can be found at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>

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