

MARIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
555 Northgate Drive, Suite 230, San Rafael CA 94903-3680
PHONE: (415) 448-0355

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2009

TO: MTA Board of Directors

FROM: Barbara Thornton, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **D-3**: AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO
CONTRIBUTE \$500 TO NATOA IN SUPPORT OF NATOA'S
DEVELOPMENT OF COMMENTS TO BE FILED IN THE FCC'S NATIONAL
BROADBAND PLAN PROCEEDING

Recommended Action: Authorize Executive Officer to contribute \$500 to NATOA in support of their development of comments to be filed in the FCC's National Broadband Plan Proceeding and to be included in the masthead of NATOA's filing.

Background:

A key element of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Congress charged the FCC with creating a national broadband plan. In a Notice of Inquiry adopted April 8, 2009, the FCC began a proceeding to create the national broadband plan, seeking input from all stakeholders: consumers, industry, large and small businesses, non-profits, the disabilities community, governments at the federal, state, local and tribal levels, and all other interested parties. The FCC must deliver the plan by February 17, 2010. It will provide a roadmap toward achieving the goal of ensuring that all Americans reap the benefits of broadband.

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) is drafting comments to be filed in the FCC's National Broadband Plan proceeding. The comments will address the current needs of our towns, cities and counties, while looking toward the future and ensuring our evolving needs will be met. This proceeding is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leave a lasting impact on our future – technologically, economically and socially.

NATOA has offered interested communities and organizations the opportunity to sign on to their comments for filing at the FCC. For \$500 NATOA will list the MTA and its member agencies in the masthead of the comments, as well as in the introductory section, and provide a brief opportunity to share what broadband means to our community in the appendix. Alternatively if MTA chooses not to contribute financially to the development of the comments, the MTA can be listed as among those supporting NATOA's comments in the appendix.

Staff recommends that the MTA contribute \$500 and fully participate in the comments to be filed with the FCC. This opportunity is too important for the MTA not to be a key participant. Our filing as a part of NATOA's comments, a highly respected representative of the interests of agencies such as the MTA at the federal level, is critical to our seizing this opportunity to make an impact on America's broadband destiny.

The \$500 contribution can be funded out of the current year, FY 2008-09 budget.