

MARIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2009
TO: MTA Board of Directors
FROM: Barbara Thornton, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM **K**: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) – STATUS REPORT

Recommended Action: Receive written and oral update regarding ARRA and the MTA work in progress.

Background:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. Since that time MTA staff in conjunction with Tom Robinson of CBG Communications has been monitoring activity regarding the Act in the areas focused on Broadband.

Broadband Grant Funding Opportunities Project

Staff continues to have meetings and discussions with Marin entities regarding opportunities to be incorporated into a competitive grant proposal to be submitted to the NTIA as a part of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Attached is the current view of the project timeline based on the assumption that the NTIA will be issuing its Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) late June 2009. A MTA-ARRA Grant Project Possibilities Matrix has been developed to identify the various possibilities that have been identified and for each of the projects the following information is captured, evaluated and tracked. This Project Matrix identifies:

1. Project Description
2. Potential Project Partners
3. Grant Opportunities
4. Grant Criteria Met
 - Public Safety Use
 - Access to Public Safety By Citizens
 - Increased Public Computing
 - Computer Technology Literacy/Training
 - Workforce Development
 - Greater Access – Low income, Aged, other Disadvantaged
 - Increases Broadband Speed

- Increases Broadband Access to Underserved
- Brings Broadband to Unserved
- Equipment and Training – Schools, Libraries, Health Care, Community Centers
- Plan for Sustainability
- 2 Year Timeline
- 20% Match Provision (or Waiver)
- Could not be completed without Federal Assistance
- Public/Private Partnership Possibilities

5. Comments/Status

There are nineteen possible MTA-ARRA opportunities identified on the list that are being considered and/or evaluated against the Broadband grant criteria that is currently known. Additional criteria will be added as it becomes available. These projects will be filtered for competitiveness, feasibility, etc. as work progresses, and as the Broadband grant criteria is solidified when the NTIA issues its Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), which is anticipated in late June 2009.