

**MARIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 11, 2009

**TO:** MTA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Barbara Thornton, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM **D-4**: APPROVE MTA CONTRIBUTION TO NATOA FOR  
FCC AND OTHER FILINGS

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**Recommended Action:** Approve MTA making a contribution of \$1000 to NATOA in support of the filings they are submitting to the FCC and the NTIA regarding Broadband and the National Broadband Plan.

**Background:**

The National Association of Telecommunications Operators and Advisors (NATOA) has been very active this year in meeting with the NTIA and FCC regarding the broadband interests of its members. They have been active participants in working the issues on behalf of local governments and developing powerful filings in response to NTIA and FCC requests for such.

NATOA is experiencing reduced membership and revenues given the tough economic times many government and public entities are experiencing. This has created a financial hardship for NATOA at a time when the activity and opportunity for it to contribute at the Federal level to the NTIA and the FCC on behalf of its membership is at its height. MTA benefits greatly from NATOA's expert filings. They have significant impact on decisions and plans regarding broadband at the Federal level given NATOA's position, reputation and the significance of the group it represents.

MTA's contribution of \$1000 to NATOA at this time will support the filings they have done and are doing. It is a valuable investment for MTA's members. It supports MTA's strategic direction of participating in the development of broadband and in influencing the evolution of broadband in the United States during this critical period. This contribution offsets staff expenses that would be involved if MTA was to submit filings on its own. This expense can be funded within the existing Professional Services budget for FY10.

The FCC has been moving fast to gather information on a number of relevant issues ahead of its February 2010 congressionally mandated deadline for a National Broadband Plan. MTA's contribution will support NATOA's work including the following FCC filings:

- October 28, 2009 – Comments due on Cost Estimates for Connecting Anchor Institutions to Fiber
- November 4, 2009 – Comments due on Impact of Middle and Second Mile Access on Broadband Availability and Deployment
- November 6, 2009 – Comments due on the Contribution of Federal, State, Tribal and Local Government to Broadband. *Note:* NATOA filed comments Nov 6<sup>th</sup> jointly with the National League of Cities, The United States Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties.

In addition to these actions at the FCC, NATOA anticipates the NTIA will soon release a Notice of Inquiry on how to improve the second Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on the BTOP program. MTA has discussed how the first Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for BTOP was not favorable for MTA to qualify and submit a proposal for grant funding. Improvements to the second NOFA are important to MTA.

NATOA is also finalizing their plan to best represent the interests of local government as the National Broadband Plan (NBP) is being developed and they will contact NATOA's members with steps they plan to take and how every member can help.

Attachment:

November 6, 2009 - NATOA Files Comments with FCC on the Contribution of Local Governments to Broadband – Notice

See NATOA's Filing at:

<http://www.natoa.org/documents/NATOA%20Comments%20on%20NBP%20Public%20Notice%20%23%207.pdf>

For Reference:

FCC Notice for Comments on the Contribution of Local Governments to Broadband  
[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2122A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2122A1.pdf)

**From:** [members-bounces@lists.natoa.org](mailto:members-bounces@lists.natoa.org) on behalf of [Matt Johnson](#)  
**To:** [NATOA Members](#)  
**Subject:** [Members] NATOA Files Comments with FCC on the Contribution of Local Government to Broadband  
**Date:** Friday, November 06, 2009 2:03:42 PM

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## NATOA Files Comments with FCC on the Contribution of Local Government to Broadband

Today, November 6, 2009, NATOA filed comments with the FCC in response to National Broadband Plan Public Notice # 7, seeking comments on the “Contribution of Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Government to Broadband.” NATOA filed these comments with the support of the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties.

This filing is part of a series of requests by the FCC related to the National Broadband Plan, which is due to Congress by February 2010. A filing was also made in response to a public notice last week and more will be made in the coming weeks.

The Comments point out the many essential services local governments provide that rely on broadband. The comments also discuss, in detail, the actions and policies that local governments have developed to expand broadband services, such as I-nets and other local government broadband networks. The comments urge the FCC to include strong measures to protect these networks from existing barriers (such as state laws or anticompetitive incumbent behavior). Additionally, the comments propose a detailed plan on how to enhance and expand Middle and Second Mile Networks. Finally, the comments discuss areas where the FCC should not infringe upon local authority such as rights-of-way, franchising, taxation, and wireless facilities siting.

The full text of the filed comments is available [here](#).

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at [mjohnson@natoa.org](mailto:mjohnson@natoa.org).

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