



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 27, 2019

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, LCS DIRECTOR

BY: MARY ELLISON, MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT COOR.

TITLE: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION CASF
ADOPTION PROGRAM GRANT AWARD

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to accept the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant award in the amount of \$50,783 and authorize execution of all related grant acceptance documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council accept the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant award in the amount of \$50,783 in support of the El Gabilan Library technology buildout and public access to broadband services.

BACKGROUND:

On March 1, 2019 the Salinas Public Library applied for a CASF grant from the CPUC for support of the technology needs of the new El Gabilan Library, and to increase public access to broadband services in the community. The new \$20M fund from the CPUC awards grants for Broadband Access Programs and Digital Literacy Programs to California's public libraries, and other nonprofits. It is aimed at communities that are currently under-served and have high percentages of lower-income residents. The "Fixed Broadband Adoption Rate," a key measurement in the evaluation for the award, is 72.9% for Monterey County. Merced County, for comparison, has an adoption rate of 65.4%, and Santa Clara has an adoption rate of 84.3%. The program intends to distribute \$5M per year, with the last application funding cycle scheduled for July 1, 2022. Receipt of this award does not preclude the City of Salinas from applying for future grants from this fund.

On July 12, the Salinas Public Library received notification from the CPUC of an award in the amount of \$50,783.00 in the category of Broadband Access for a project entitled "El Gabilan Library Connects!" Funds were requested to purchase networking infrastructure equipment for the new El Gabilan library, including routers and access points, as well as desktops, printers, and laptops. It also included furniture purchases for the public computing areas in the new library

(desks, chairs, and charging stations). The grant requires that our project include outreach to the community for greater broadband adoption. The library currently provides information to the public about low cost Internet services, both in our adult literacy basic computer classes, and also through flyers posted for the general public. This grant includes a budget for marketing, specifically online advertising, and the design and printing of a promotional brochure and rack card. Promoting access to the library's online digital resources helps the library realize a better return on its investment in e-resources, and helps to create a more computer and information literate community. Increasing digital inclusion by providing public computers and broadband access continues to be a critical service of the library. In 2017-18, a total of 39,008 customers connected to Salinas Public Library Wifi, with a total of 45,054 public computer sessions at John Steinbeck Library; 34,798 public computer sessions at Cesar Chavez Library; and 15,191 sessions at El Gabilan Library. The new El Gabilan library will provide the community with a minimum of 40 public computing devices, with public access sessions likely to match or exceed that of John Steinbeck Library.

The grant allows for an implementation period of up to 24 months, and requires the grantee be ready to provide broadband access within 6 months of the grant award. The opening of the new El Gabilan Library in January of 2020 will allow the library to meet this last requirement.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The grant will support the City Council Strategic Plan Goal V: Quality of Life.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Library & Community Services will work with the Finance Department to request reimbursement of funds, establish expenditure accounts, and prepare final budget reports required at the end of the grant period, as well as with the Information Technology Department to purchase and to install new equipment.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no impact to the City's General Fund Budget. No additional Measure E funding will be required beyond that already allocated to the Library's annual budget. No matching funds are required.

ATTACHMENTS:

CPUC Grant Award Letter Dated 7/12/2019
Salinas Public Library "El Gabilan Library Connects!" Grant Application
Council Resolution