



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

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23 March, 2010

Sean McLaughlin, Executive Director
Access Humboldt
P.O. Box 157
Eureka, CA 95502

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

As affirmed by the Board of Supervisors unanimous support of Resolution No. 10-05, the County of Humboldt hereby affirms our endorsement, strong support and commitment of partnership for Access Humboldt's "Humboldt Community Access Network" ("HCAN") BTOP grant application.

Our County agencies and other jurisdictions in our region have a critical need for improved access to broadband service to help us achieve our core mission of serving and supporting all residents in our communities.

The broadband network connections created by HCAN will support public safety, education, health, civic engagement and local media access services. HCAN will also support economic development efforts across industry sectors and create new jobs that rely upon robust and affordable broadband service.

The scope of our ongoing partnership with Access Humboldt and the Digital Redwoods initiative now includes:

- Operation of a PEG Network, with dedicated fiber assets providing broadband media connections between local jurisdictions for Public, Education and Government purposes.
- Digital Rio Dell, connecting the PEG Network with a municipal wireless network serving Rio Dell City Hall and civic center, including police, fire, park and other facilities.
- Access Humboldt Libraries, collaboration with County Libraries, including private and community support to provide free public Internet service at public libraries in Eureka and Rio Dell.
- Eureka Muni-Hub, a fiber/wireless interconnection facility that will bridge the PEG Network with HCAN, developed as a public/private partnership.

In the absence of Access Humboldt's Digital Redwoods initiative and the HCAN project we cannot afford sufficient broadband service, given the prohibitive expense and limited availability of private sector service offerings for our facilities. So, we support your BTOP grant application wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Neely
4th District Supervisor
County of Humboldt