

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Southern California Tribal Chairmens Association

Project Title: SCTCA/TDVNet-BIP

Project Type: Last Mile Non-Remote

Executive Summary

The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association(SCTCA) is proposing to address the lack of Internet access for its tribal communities, taking their wireless broadband network to the next level of support for its communities, the "tribal home". It has been a long term goal of the Tribal Digital Village(TDV), an SCTCA program that spawned the TDV Network (TDVNet) back in 2001 to bring Internet services to our key community buildings and programs. We have done the ground work to support key community operations on reservations, and created over 300 miles of point-to-point and point-to-multi-point links supporting 86 tribal buildings, i.e.- tribal administration buildings, EPA departments, fire stations, law enforcement, utilities departments, and Libraries, Schools and Head Start programs. We have the Infrastructure in place to support such an endeavor, and the desire from the people to have access to the service. We have developed a program designed to move into the next phase of TDVNet's deployment. We are applying for this ARRA stimulus funding because we are lacking the financial capital to bring this goal to fruition in a manner that will allow the biggest adoption of broadband in our communities. Most of our communities are on dial-up, some have spent their hard-earned money to acquire satellite connections that are very cost-prohibitive in comparison to our proposed terrestrial broadband service, in both quality and price. Due to the impoverished nature of most of our reservations, it would be nearly impossible to build this sustainable business model without subsidizing the CPE and install costs to alleviate the strain on canceling existing satellite service or dial-up service that's in place. CPE and install subsidizing will allow an easier transition for those that have already committed to some other lesser form of service. SCTCA's primary function is to provide Tribal TANF (Temporary Aid to Need Families), and we support rural and urban San Diego, and Santa Barbara Counties. It is our job to perform this function for the people. Job training, education, GED, vocational certifications, career counseling, education counseling, and case work are all part of healing our community and creating a self-sufficient opportunity for everyone. In order to heal our community properly and provide all the resources to them, we need to bring Internet to the home. There are 17 tribal reservation communities in San Diego County. They are Geographically located from N. Central spanning to the East, Then South and Back to South Central San Diego County. (creating a backwards "C" shape) As the end of 2009 approaches, there will be approximately 2700 tribal homes on reservation, all of which are located in unserved rural communities. and over 2500 more in our adjacent non-tribal communities. Unserved in broadband Internet access. Unserved in affordable choices to obtain access to this very powerful resource at broadband speeds. The project will connect 2585 homes of the 5000+ homes within our footprint in the first three years with the majority of those homes being reached by the end of year two. The terrain is Mountainous, rocky and rural in setting even though it is within close

proximity to the populations of San Diego County. There are no terrestrial broadband services available to fifteen of those reservations. Two of the reservations are located adjacent to the East border of Valley Center, California which has a competitor, Valley Center Wireless, but the service they offer can only penetrate eight percent of two reservations, and the service is cost-prohibitive and does not deliver the speeds in which the NOFA strives for as a goal for terrestrial fixed broadband wireless. (This is explained in detail in the competitor section of this application). 2700 homes on reservation by Q4, 2009, 8900 people on reservation by the last approximation at the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. There are 116 businesses located on or around the reservations that are passed by our network and lie within our foot print. There are 60 community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project. All community anchor institutions are connected for FREE!! They have been for 8 years and will continue to receive service free of charge. New tribal facilities also get this same opportunity to have broadband Internet access at no cost. The service proposed for our communities is structure in two categories. Home service, at 2/2 Mbps for \$34.95 and second tier at 3/3 Mbps for \$64.99. The home service will be used for households or home businesses with 2 or fewer employees with a lower projected average usage. Business service, at 3/3 mbps for \$139.99 and a second tier at 5/5 Mbps for \$249.99. The Business service will be used for business locations that support 3 or more employees with a projected higher usage rate. It is the goal of SCTCA and TDVNet to support a Net-Neutral Internet solution. Net-neutrality is something that we've felt strongly about for the future of the Internet in the United States, and its importance for having a fully functional Internet. Our Network is very unique in that it is located exclusively on tribal land and it is tribal operated. Our Network serves the communities of 13 sovereign nations, and is a "commercial" network for the purposes of sustainability, not gain. We will be fair and follow the guidelines for access to other carriers. Fixed broadband wireless point-to-point, and point-to-multi-point connections, using 2.4Ghz, 5.3Ghz, 5.8Ghz, and FCC licensed spectrum. The Data center has a fiber-termination point, currently expandable to DS3x12.(540 Mbps). We continue to believe that unlicensed spectrum is perfect for deployment to the tribal home, and welcome the introduction of white spaces spectrum in the future. We have a good solution that is stable and reliable for supporting hundreds of homes per intermediate distribution tower using Trango Broadband Wireless gear. It is based on an access point distribution, subscriber unit acquisition. ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure, be a sustainable broadband services provider. The TDV Network has been active and supporting the tribal communities for 8 years, and will continue to support the tribal municipalities and key community establishments. This is supported by SCTCA and its Member tribes. The staff and members of TDV have been building broadband wireless networks since 2001, and are considered field experts in community deployment, design and management of broadband wireless networking. The Director of Technology, Matthew R. Rantanen, and the Network Administrator and engineer, Michael Peralta have been invited to speak on numerous occasions to community building organizations on building community owned and operated networks. They have consulted with other tribal organizations on building their own networks, and have travelled to 2 other countries to present the TDV model to foreign organizations building community based networks. They have spoken at the FCC, spoken at FCC regional ITI conferences, and have continually voiced their concerns with the shaping of unlicensed spectrum futures. The sustainability of this network business is based on whether or not we can subsidize the CPE and install costs to capture a wider adoption base from the start. The ARRA stimulus funds will enable us

to generate the wide spread adoption and increased number of subscribers. Historic to date cost of the Network infrastructure to support current connections is \$650,000. The expected subscriber adoption rates with the subsidized installation and CPE costs, are based against around 5500 homes passed within the visual footprint. The tribes are a captive audience and have been participating in the Tribal Digital Village Network at a tribal level since 2001 and they are waiting for home deployment. We are projecting a capture of 2585 homes by end of year three with an attrition of 569 of those homes due to life's unexpected path. Our final goal at year three is to have a 2000 homes connected and build from that base in years four and five. There will be a minimum of three new contracted positions for installation of the tribal home which will continue as long as there are homes that want service connections. There will be a new office manager position created, and will be kept on indefinitely after the year three. There will be 7 jobs that are fully supported by this ARRA Stimulus project. It will take all the focus of these 7 positions to ensure the build-out goes smoothly and efficiently and the goals are met. We plan to provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, and support to Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, and other community support organizations for support of our services and introduction to the endless possibilities with broadband Internet access. We are reaching out to communities that are poor, unserved and in need of access to this resource for job-creation, job training, higher education, and self-empowerment. With the expansion to the tribal community homes, TDVNet and SCTCA will be fulfilling one of the major goals of its mission and that is to help its people get ahead in life. The Network goal is to eliminate yet another barrier placed upon the tribes. SCTCA is overcoming this barrier by meeting one of the original dream objectives of a highly successful program created in 2001, the Tribal Digital Village and its network will bring the people to the future with access to this technology.