

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Maricopa County Library District

**Project Title:** White Tank Branch Library Project

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Maricopa County Library District serves the general public by operating 17 libraries throughout Maricopa County (AZ). It is building a new public library (White Tank Branch Library) in the Maricopa County White Tank Mountain Regional Park located in unincorporated Maricopa County and opening, in September 2010.

Broadband connectivity via Fiber Optic cabling to the new Library's public computer center is not currently available at this site. It would be prudent if broadband technology could be brought in to the new library during the building's construction phase. The overall cost of the broadband project for the public computer center is \$185,795. The requested grant funds of \$150,202 will exclusively pay for the cost necessary for the service provider to deliver fiber-optic cabling to the new library and its connection installation fee. Without the grant funding the library will have no available Broadband option and will be forced to use connection speeds 66 times slower, dramatically reducing the amount of available Internet capable computers for public use.

The library building project creates a mutually beneficial partnership between the Library District and County Parks because the building includes an area to be used by park employees as a Park Nature Center.

An important area of Library District's service is providing access to the Internet. Our customers are of all ages and backgrounds and depend upon the library's public access computers and Internet access and support for job searching, homework help, health issues, small business solutions; reading for recreation, receiving government information & services or researching. In order to meet community needs, the Library needs adequate broadband capability. As the new White Tank Branch Library's customer base grows, it will be essential to be able to provide fast and dependable Internet service.

Fiber optics are considered to be the most robust technology currently available and yields almost unlimited capacity compared to the other technologies such as, DSL, microwave, etc. A fiber connection

would give the White Tank Branch Library the flexibility to introduce new, innovative services and to adapt to the future information needs of its service area. The District uses fiber optics in all of its libraries where it is available.

The District's overall technology plan for the White Tank Library Computer Center project consists of service provider 100Mbps Metro Ethernet (ME) mesh connectivity through optical fiber, arrays of new public computers and printers with Gigabit LAN connectivity, public wireless, and voice over Internet protocol (VoIP). The overall network design is one based on reliability through redundancy in power and connectivity, eliminating as many single points of failure as possible. The District also manages a staff of IT technicians who adhere to a daily travel schedule, maintaining the computer devices, as well as providing public user technology support. All networking devices are managed, configured, and monitored by highly trained network engineers currently holding several certifications. The broadband service provider considers this project to be new business and helps them sustain jobs. The Library will add 25-30 new jobs when it opens. The construction project to build the library itself is providing up to 200 jobs.

The population currently living within a 10-mile radius of the new Library and the White Tank Mountain Regional Park covers areas in 15 census tracts with an overall population of approx. 103,000. The surrounding area is currently sparsely populated but is expected to grow. The community closest to White Tank is unincorporated Waddell, AZ (within 5 mi. & population of approx. 5,000). The District estimates 49,000 people will live within a 5-mile radius of the Library by the time it opens and is expected to increase to 89,800 residents by 2020. The population is diverse ranging in all ages, economic, ethnic and educational backgrounds.

In 2006 the Library District began investing in infrastructure and equipment upgrades, then converting its medium to large size libraries over to broadband connectivity speeds. Our IT and management teams effectively worked through any issues and successfully accomplished our goals within allotted timeframes.

The Library District references the State of Arizona-Counties Communication Network (SACNet) Statewide Strategic Communication initiative. Their project may include rural areas (Aguila & Gila Bend) served by the Library Districts for broadband microwave installations, different from the broadband fiber optics needed for the White Tanks Branch. Project Name: AZ SACNet - Rural Schools, Libraries & Hospitals Applicant's Name: GovNET LLC.