The Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications (PST) project is a fiber optic Open Access network that traverses through parts of Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen County that are unserved and underserved. The PST Mid-mile project is a collaborative regional effort. PST is being supported as the lead applicant by a Tri-County Broadband Consortia comprised of Anchor Tenants, Businesses, and Governments within the proposed network area. The aerial portion of the project will utilize existing transmission poles owned by PST's parent corporation Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative. By utilizing these existing vertical assets the project will realize a cost savings of nearly $10.2M. We believe this project not only meets the goals of delivering next generation broadband backbone but also demonstrates economic conscientiousness. When completed, it will be the core communications infrastructure for the region and serve the area with a secure, vital link to the outside world. Ten percent matching funds for this project have been sought from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), these funds were approved by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) on February 26, 2010; Resolution T-17230. The overarching problem for this region of California is the lack of backhaul facilities to provide cost effective, abundant broadband. A communication deficiency causing a weakness in this region of California that adversely affects progress, jobs and the local economy. This weakness has far reaching affects and has rendered this northeastern corner of California deficient in so many aspects; lack of adequate access to broadband in the home, inhibiting the advancement in health care, suppressing the progression of advanced learning opportunities for of our children, and the trickle down affect which adversely affects our communities and their sustainability. The proposed PST Project will provide access to wholesale broadband along the Highway 395 corridor to Susanville, California and along State Route 70 from Hallelujah Junction to Quincy, California. Constructing the network with many interconnection points will allow large Anchor Institutions and Internet Service Providers access to wholesale broadband significantly lowering the cost and increasing the availability. This project is a collaborative community effort. The intention of this group is to form a Broadband Cooperative and provide low cost abundant broadband service; supplying wholesale service to large anchor institutions and service providers, therefore not creating conflict with Last Mile providers and supporting entrepreneurialism. The network is engineered and designed to reach the largest Anchor Tenants; Hospitals, Colleges, Schools, Military, Utilities, Public Safety, State and Federal Prison, and Indian Rancheria. Service Providers will have access to an abundant number of interconnection points designed to ensure that communities in the most terrain challenged areas will receive broadband to their homes and businesses. Further, the capacity of the network will support all foreseeable future needs of the area and an opportunity to attract technology based businesses to the area. The PST Mid-Mile Fiber Project is submitted as a...
Comprehensive Community Infrastructure. The project is a joint mission resulting from a collaborative effort of partners within the region. PST and the Plumas County Office of Education with assistance from the Center for Economic Development, California State University Chico organized Broadband deployment meetings throughout the region to discover the need for broadband as well as establish future needs and goals. Included in this application are letters of support and commitment from members of this group. As you will see the letters tell a story, define the need and support the sustainability of this project. In anticipation of ARRA Round 2 funding this group effort began in November of 2009 and given the very short time in which to meet and identify needs the group experienced a ground swell of interest with meetings scheduled every 3 weeks. Each meeting new partners arrived to support the effort. As we advance through the application process additional anchor tenants, businesses and organizations dedicated to economic development in our region have come forward to support this project. The consortia will continue its forward momentum and continue to gather supporters focused on a successful award in 2010. About Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications The Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) is a member owned electric distribution and transmission utility, founded in 1937, providing electrical power and related services to over 7500 member/owners in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra County in California and portions of Washoe County in Nevada. Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is a subsidiary of PSREC and was established in 1987. The Telecommunications Division provides video and data services to the tri county area. Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications has delivered Internet service for more than 14 years to the proposed funded area. Initially first to offer Dial-up service to the area in 1995 and now through a sister subsidiary offers Wireless Internet access utilizing a point to multipoint topology. Project Statistics The total cost of the network is $17.2M. Without ARRA funding through the stimulus program the proposed infrastructure in this project would otherwise never be constructed. The total number of job-years created is estimated to be 372; 305 of these are direct and indirect job effects, 67 are induced job effects. The Council of Economic Advisor’s Guide was utilized to determine the estimated job creation. The project area includes 30 Census Block Groups covering 2,536 square miles in Eastern Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra County; 18 zip codes, 14,039 households, 2,111 businesses, 33 public safety entities 306 Anchor Tenants including health care, education, libraries and government offices. The project will significantly contribute to the increase in broadband subscribership in the project area. The project assumes a minimum 40% increase in household subscribership increasing the existing number by 6,100. The model further assumes that an additional 20% of businesses will increase their broadband usage and an increase in 70% connectivity to anchor institutions and critical services. The PST network is a 172 mile, carrier grade optical fiber middle mile project designed to provide broadband services to Plumas, Sierra, Lassen Counties, CA. The route follows US 395, SR 89 & 70 & county road rights of way (ROW) in CA & NV & would serve the Forest Service, 3 counties, 18 zip codes, hospitals, safety and law enforcement entities, schools, prisons, Indian Reservations & Sierra Army Depot. The services proposed for the PST Mid-Mile project are a full range of carrier grade, wholesale, services intended to enable broadband to existing service providers serving end users, create an entrepreneurial platform for new entrants, enhance the dependability for the telecommunications infrastructure with route redundancy, and enable another diverse route out of Northeastern California to strengthen the national telecom grid. The proposed service offerings on the network are Dark Fiber facilities; Point to Point Transport Service; and IP Ethernet Service. The obligations for non-discrimination and interconnection will be addressed both
organizationally and in the architecture of the network. The PST Mid-Mile Fiber Network will fully comply with the principles in the FCC’s Internet Policy Statement. The network management policies will be posted on the PST Website. The management of network facilities will not favor or discriminate based on service provider or applications. Interconnection will be supported via collocation or at any other technically feasible point. The intent of the PST Mid-Mile Fiber Network open design is to seek out interconnection opportunities. The cable routing is designed to serve as many potential facilities as possible. Institutional anchor locations such as safety entities, government agencies, educational and medical facilities as well as Points of Interconnection including telephone company central offices, cable company headends, wireless telephone and Internet service provider sites.