Executive Summary

The project will allow Yolo County to provide sufficient internet access and expand the number of available workstations at four libraries in areas with high rates of unemployment and poverty: the cities of West Sacramento, Winters, and Davis, as well as the town of Knights Landing. The project will provide much-needed internet access to library users in a county in which the overall rate of unemployment is 14%, 2% higher than the state average and is 4% higher than the national average. It also will benefit 600 students at the Winters High School, which shares facilities with the Winters Community Library, 2,249 students at Davis High School and North Davis Elementary near the Davis Library, and students at the Los Rios Community College next to the West Sacramento Library. As a result of the economic crisis, Yolo County does not have funding to provide the direct fiber connection necessary to resolve constant issues related to overloading of existing communication lines, as well as provide sufficient capacity for a planned workstation expansion at two libraries. The proposed project will resolve the existing issues completely and accommodate the planned expansion. The proposed project will also allow a planned public workstation expansion at two of the three libraries to move forward, a service much needed given the high unemployment rate and need for county services provided at the libraries. The West Sacramento Library is adding 32 new computer workstations. The Winters Community Library is adding 24 new computer workstations and 22 Internet ready laptop computers for group and classroom use. The Davis Library will add 18 workstations. Without the proposed project, these improvements will overtax the current capacity and will diminish the response time dramatically. There are already daily complaints from library users that the Internet and search access is slow and unavailable during peak hours. The Knights Landing Library cannot add any more workstations unless the proposed project moves forward, but will add two workstations if this application is successful. Yolo County will provide a direct fiber connection to achieve speeds from 10 mbps to 1 gbps, depending on physical location within the county and end equipment available. The four libraries all currently have insufficient broadband access to meet current demand. The Knights Landing Library currently utilizes a leased 512 kbps frame relay connection; there is a conduit to this library, but no fiber in the conduit. The cities of West Sacramento, Winters, and Davis currently use a combination of leased single or multiple T1 communication lines to connect to the County network and the servers that provide access to the library reference, checkout, and computer internet gateway. These lines are heavily congested and inadequate. The current speed is approximately 1.54 mbps via the T1 connections. The direct fiber connection will achieve speeds from 10 mbps to 1 gbps. The County standard for our internal network is 10 mbps to 100 mbps connectivity. The proposed project would serve the cities of West Sacramento, Winters, and Davis, as well as the town of Knights Landing. There are 91,714 registered borrowers at the four
libraries. Yolo County estimates that 75% of these registered borrowers use the computer workstations and expects an increase of 10%-20% if the project moves forward. (Some people bring their own laptops to the library to use the wireless access or even sit outside with their laptops when the library is closed to access wireless.) Children, teens and adults use the public computer centers for research and homework help, school projects, career and job searches and applications, and other educational and communication endeavors. Each of these individuals comes to the public library because they do not have access to broadband service at their homes. The public computer centers also provide access to public safety and other government employees serving the public at the libraries. As these libraries are already heavily used by the public, adding capacity can only improve the number of jobs that may be found by local residents looking for work and can only enhance local education opportunities. The following is demographic and population data for each area served: Knights Landing. Knights Landing's population is approximately 2,775 people. Approximately 30.1% of the residents are Hispanic, 56.7% are Caucasian, 2.1% are American Indian, 1.2% are Asian, and .2% are African-American. Approximately 19.5% completed only 8th grade, 42.8% completed high school, and 10.8% have some college education. According to the 2000 Census, the unemployment rate in Knights Landing is around 14%, but it likely twice that amount given the current economic crisis. The town's only elementary school also recently closed. West Sacramento. West Sacramento's population is 47,991. Approximately 32.2% of the residents are Hispanic, 50% are Caucasian, 3.8% are African-American, 9.9% are Asian. Approximately 8.7% completed only 8th grade, 30.5% completed high school, and 43.7% completed some college. 22.3% of the population lives below the federal poverty level. According to California's Economic Development Department, the City of West Sacramento's unemployment rate is currently 17%. Winters. Winters' population is 8,658 residents. Approximately 41.5% of the residents are Hispanic, 50.9% are Caucasian, .7% are African-American, .9% are American Indian, and 1% are Asian. Approximately 9.8% completed only 8th grade, 19.7% completed high school, and 25% completed some college. Davis. Davis' population is 65,960. Approximately 12.7% are Hispanic, 50.9% are Caucasian, 3.3% African-American, 2.5% are American Indian, and 20.7% are Asian. Approximately 2.1% have completed only 8th grade, 9.3% completed high school, and 88.6% have completed some college. 24.5% of the residents live below the federal poverty level. The proposed project will cost $1,012,224. It will create 11 direct job years, 6.8 indirect job-years, and will induce 2.2 job years. The Yolo County Library Department is partnering with the Information Technology Department to complete the proposed project. The Information Technology Department manages and maintains the high-speed fiber network for the County and on behalf of the libraries. The Information Technology Department has successfully deliver a number of on-time, on-budget project, such as implementation an enterprise-wide payroll system and the state Cal-WIN system.