Executive Summary

a. Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address The Northern California Open Community Fiber Network would be owned and operated by Redwood Telephone (RT); wholly owned and operated by five Native American Tribal Governments coming together to solve the needs of their lands and the neighboring communities Redwood Telephone is an anomaly to the traditional definition of a new company; representing the ideal public-private partnership. Redwood funding and match has come from Northern California Indian Tribes to spearhead a Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Project under NTIA on behalf of Del Norte County, Humboldt County, and eleven Tribal States. According to the 2000 Census, and the State of California's Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information for June 2009, both counties experienced higher unemployment and poverty rates than the rest of the State of California. The Del Norte 2008 annual poverty rate was 22.3%, the second highest in the State, compared to 12.6% for the State; median household income was $35,910, compared to the state's median income at $50,233.00; and College-going rates are 28.6% compared to 48.3% for the State. The Del Norte jobless rates rose from 8.9% in 2008 to 12.4% in 2009. Primary industries include 7,770 service provider, 4,220 private-sector, and 3,390 government jobs. For Humboldt County, jobless rates were at a low of 8.7% in 2008, and rose to more than 17% by June 2009. Humboldt has a 16.9% poverty rate that continues to rise. Median household income is $37,291. The county has 44,000 service provider jobs, 32,200 private industry jobs, and 28,900 residual private service jobs. The fastest-growing occupations in both counties are in information technology, network systems and database administrators, which demonstrates a need for broadband services. The incumbent ILECs have been unable to provide connectivity for many community facilities and areas including a lack of telephone, transport, and Internet services. The lack of regional connectivity of public safety, community colleges, health, government and education pose a significant problem. The goal of Redwood Telephone is to build a comprehensive fiber optics Middle Mile network. To accomplish this, Redwood Telephone offers a highly experienced management team. This proposal is the result of months of research and planning, and hundreds of interviews with business and anchor leaders of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Studies repeatedly show a significant lack of telecommunications facilities and interconnections, in the region which the project, if funded, will serve. b. A general description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.) The proposed project stretches along the upper Northern California coastline from Brookings, Oregon in the north to Benbow, California in the South. An additional segment will run east from Blue Lake to Willow Creek and north to unserved areas including Hoopa, Weitchpec, Orleans, and Somes Bar. The proposed project includes 11 Tribal Lands, 2 Counties, 8 incorporated cities and over 50 unincorporated. c. Number of households and businesses passed Based
on Census blocks the service area, including 11 Tribal States, 2 counties, 8 incorporated cities and over 50 unincorporated townships, will pass 62,419 households and 10,362 businesses including local governmental agencies, health care providers, schools, and public safety organizations. d. Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project (e.g., health care, education, libraries, etc.) Redwood Telephone's PFSA includes 133 K-12 Schools, 11 Community Colleges, 15 Libraries, 56 Medical or Healthcare Providers, 63 Other Community Support Organizations, 177 Other Government Facilities, 6 Other Institutions of Higher Education, and 77 Public Safety Entities, totaling 538 Anchor Institutions. Those involved, undertook considerable measures to ensure strong community partnership and support for this project, including the creation an Advisory Board and interviewing hundreds of potential beneficiaries. The high number of anchor institutions willing to commit to Redwood's broadband services indicates the overwhelming need for a competitively priced and accessible broadband system. Public Safety intercommunications will be provisioned with and between PSAPs, EOCs, DHS, and other emergency management technologies, for next generation e911 services. Fire Agencies including staffed, volunteer, and Cal-Fire stations will also be able to intercommunicate through these same services, at levels of service currently unprecedented. Community Colleges will be connected to one another, to other educational institutions, and even homes, enabling distance education through one and two way HD video conferencing. Health Agencies will be supported by interconnecting remote and rural facilities, thus relieving USAC fund requests by reducing extreme costs of interconnection. Health applications will include high definition telemedicine, electronic health records, Home Health Care, and HealthIT. e. Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users Noteworthy tidbits include: -Redwood plans to offer scalable bandwidth in increments between 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps. -There will be support for all TDM, SONET and Ethernet interfaces. -Redwood will provide full network management visibility and control of all network elements. -Redwood will offer bandwidth with economies-of-scale, to meet growth needs. -The network's existence will help ensure affordable business continuity and disaster recovery solutions. f. Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations Redwood's policies fall in line with the NOFA's Nondiscrimination and Interconnection Obligations. Redwood will adhere to the principles in FCC 05-151 (adopted August 5, 2005), and agrees to post its terms and conditions, and any changes to its terms and conditions, on its website. Redwood commits to establishing published rates. Redwood also commits to segregate traffic as requested by middle-mile customers. Redwood will allow and support private network interconnection as is necessary for the use of its customers. Redwood will also allow any device that does not cause a deleterious effect on its customers. Redwood will also impose certain restrictions on consumers' permissible use of the site and services. g. Type of broadband system that will be deployed (network type and technology standard) The network will provide up to 1 Gbps secure private transport, carrier-based Ethernet, and wholesale high-speed broadband internet access to its subscribers. There are 164 interconnection points to facilitate broadband adoption and demand aggregation including 28 ILEC COs, 73 Tower/Cell Sites, 3 Connections to Service Providers, 41 Last Mile Network Access Points, and a Collocation Facility to the 23 proposed service areas: Arcata, Blue Lake, Brookings, Crescent City, Eureka, Fernbridge, Fieldbrook, Fortuna, Hoopa, Klamath, Korbel, Loleta, Mckinleyville, Orick, Orleans, Redway, Requa, Rio Dell, Samoa/Manilla, Southern Humboldt, Trinidad, Weitchpec, Westhaven, and Willow Creek. Distribution will be over a standard GPON architecture that will allow speeds to any
location on the network up to 2.4 Gbps, unless otherwise noted by multiple fibers for additional throughput. Subscribers will receive telephone and internet over a single fiber. This network will use a cutting edge technology called Fiber to the Home (FTTH). h. Qualifications of the Applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure, and/or be a sustainable broadband service provider Redwood Telephone's management team has long-term experience in planning, constructing and deploying telecommunications projects including Via Wireless, sold to Spint for $342 million; Yipes Communications; Metroserf Communications; and Aztec FTTH. i. Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system The projected capital cost of infrastructure is expected to be $21,698,146.00. The application anticipates an 80% grant and 20% match from the NTIA BTOP CCI Program. j. Overall expected subscriber projections for the project The Redwood project is expected to have 896 of the 72,781 customers including consumers, business and government entities, leaving room for third-party service providers to expand into the remaining 71,885 customers. k. Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project The total project amount $21,698,146 304 yields 151 direct/indirect jobs years and 85 induced job years generating a total of 236 job years.