



# RESOLUTION No. 09-106

## OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

### RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE LOCAL BROADBAND EXPANSION, ACCESS, AND USAGE IN NEVADA COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, deploying broadband networks and advanced communication services throughout Nevada County will enable continued improvements in community anchor institutions of healthcare, public safety, education, schools, colleges, libraries, community support organizations, businesses, and social-networking, for the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, a technology-neutral open-access approach to removing barriers to broadband deployment will encourage lower prices, creation of more local consumer choices, and a sustainable adoption of broadband service; and

**WHEREAS**, advanced communication services have become central to the financial health of our County as these services have increased individual worker productivity and connected Nevada County businesses to larger statewide, national and international markets; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada County does not have direct access to the lower-cost high-capacity digital transport bandwidth for advanced affordable services that is increasingly available in metropolitan areas; and

**WHEREAS**, although Nevada County's Web content, e-commerce, video broadcasting and production, and computer software and hardware businesses have placed the County on the map as a desirable high-tech location, in order to continue to retain and attract businesses, Nevada County must adopt next-generation policies and practices that spur further broadband innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, County action is needed to continue investment in, stimulate adoption of, remove further barriers to, and remain competitive in the development of local world-class broadband networks; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a priority of the Board of Supervisors to promote widespread access to, adoption of, and new applications for local broadband networks and advanced communication services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada County Community Broadband Leadership Council, a working group of the Nevada County Economic Resource Council that is actively supported by the County, has been working on broadband initiatives for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-23-06, "*Twenty-First Century Government: Expanding Broadband Access and Usage in California*," making broadband a top priority for the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed H.R.1, “*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*,” TITLE VI – BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM, to provide access to broadband service to unserved areas, improved access to underserved areas, training for broadband adoption, and support for the general technology and community goals in this resolution that hasten the deployment of broadband; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased local use of broadband networks and advanced communication services will enhance government operations through telemedicine for healthcare, distance learning for education, and better coordination in the areas of public safety, as well as facilitate access for the aged, low-income, and unemployed for educational and employment opportunities and

**WHEREAS**, the County Geographic Information System (GIS) data and web services, in conjunction with Nevada County Economic Resource Council’s “business locator” website, provides public marketing data for businesses, and Sierra Economic Development Corporation partners provide public accessible broadband availability mapping;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors, does hereby adopt this resolution and direct as follows:

1. The County of Nevada will continue to support the efforts by the Nevada County Community Broadband Leadership Council, a working group of the Nevada County Economic Resource Council, to promote local broadband initiatives; and
  - a. The County’s Chief Information Officer will continue to participate on the Council, leveraging County geographic information systems, data, and resources at no charge to the Nevada County Economic Resource Council for broadband initiatives.
  - b. Within 6 months of the date of this Resolution, the Nevada County Community Broadband Leadership Council will be requested to provide a comprehensive report to the Board of Supervisors. This report shall make specific recommendations for how Nevada County can take advantage of opportunities for and eliminate any related local barriers to improved broadband access and wider adoption.
2. The Information and General Services Department (IGS) will continue to coordinate County broadband initiatives, pursuing State and Federal resources, and involve other County departments and agencies as needed. Discussions with private sector stakeholders will identify further opportunities for increasing investment in state-of-the-art technologies.
3. All public works projects shall place broadband conduit in their infrastructure projects if there is sufficient demand for the conduit and it is applicable. Conduit placed within infrastructure projects shall be designed to be used by multiple government entities and broadband providers.
4. The Community Development Agency (CDA) shall review its policies and procedures with local broadband providers in an effort to streamline right of way permitting, tower and antenna permitting, and other issues relating to broadband providers’ needs and obstacles to building and deploying local infrastructure. CDA will develop a list of recommended changes for the Board of Supervisors to consider for adoption within 120 days of this Resolution, and will be in compliance with the recommendations within 60 days of their formal approval.
5. IGS shall encourage the offering of free wireless Internet access in County facilities that are most used by the public. IGS shall identify County buildings that may be appropriate for wireless Internet access and provide them information on the benefits of offering this service.

