



# Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20230

**Re: "Northern California Open Community Fiber Network" Project (ID#7299);**

## **Recommend**

Dear Asst. Secretary Strickling,

The *Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria* ("Tribe"), a federally recognized Indian tribe, thanks you for the opportunity to comment on Broadband technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP") projects that affect tribal lands, and specifically those lands or areas that are important to the Tribe. The Tribe highly recommends the Northern California Open Community Fiber Network (Easygrants ID: 7299; Applicant: Redwood Telephone L.L.C.; Project Type: CCI) project.

Humboldt County relies on a single fiber from the South and is often impacted by outages disrupting telephone and data communications. Our government and its agencies depend on connectivity to the World and are often disrupted by fiber outages. Some of our tribal land and many areas in Humboldt County do not have any access to broadband while basic telephone service often unreliable.

The Northern California Open Community Fiber Network proposes to provide needed connectivity for government, healthcare, education, and public safety. If funded, it will be able to connect to other tribal government services like health care, education, and social services. Additionally, it will create jobs; provide new training opportunities and enable general economic development for our tribe and its members.

It is for these reasons, the Tribe endorses this application, Northern California Open Community Fiber Network (Easygrants ID: 7299) and the applicant Redwood Telephone, LLC, whose plan comprehensively meets the needs of the region by creating redundancy, reducing cost of broadband access, connecting community anchor institutions, protecting vulnerable populations, creating jobs and fostering economic development.

Sincerely,

/s

[www.trinidadrancheria.com](http://www.trinidadrancheria.com)

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