



**RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA**

BARBARA HAYES
RCRC CHIEF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

RCRC STRATEGIC PLAN



Vision

RCRC is the premier advocate and innovative service provider for rural counties in California

RCRC ORGANIZATION



Divisions

- Government Affairs
- Economic Development
- Business Development
- Administration and Finance

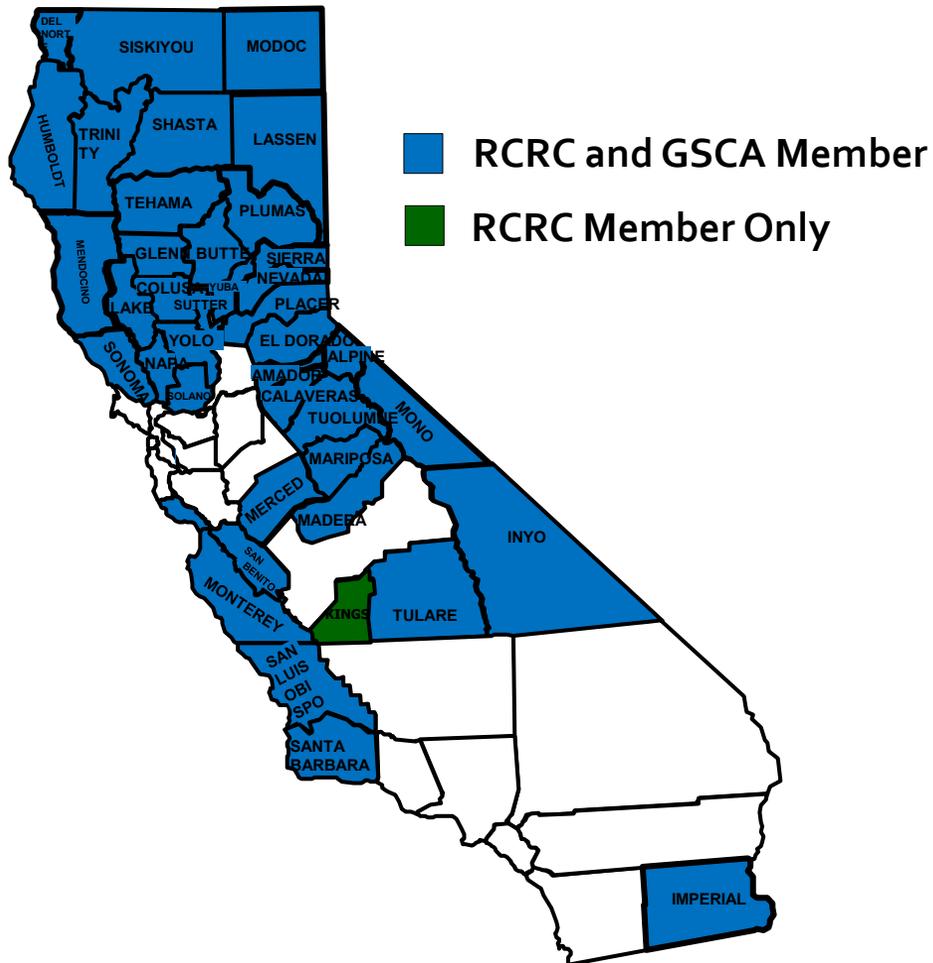
Affiliated Agencies



Rural Counties[✓]
Environmental Services
Joint Powers Authority
ESJPA



GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY



- Joint Power Authority
 - Formed in December 2021
 - 39 Member Counties
 - Kings County – New RCRC Member (Not Yet GSCA Member)
- Program of Work Includes:
 - Broadband Strategic Planning
 - Technical Assistance & Capacity Building
 - Open Access Municipal Broadband Deployment

PROGRAM OF WORK STATUS REPORT

FOUNDATIONAL READINESS

- Secured EDA Grant for 27 Countywide Broadband Strategic Plans
 - *Sonoma County Action Plan Complete Prior to Grant Submittal*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

- 111 Applications Submitted (Total \$50.6M)
- 38 Applicants Participating with GSCA – *Sonoma County Included*

OPEN ACCESS LAST MILE MUNICIPAL NETWORK

- LATA Network Design Will Inform Additional Project Area Selection

SUPPORT FOR SONOMA COUNTY

Support provided to Sonoma County:

- **JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

- Created a regional body that provides information to counties on grants, legislation and opportunities to increase broadband access
- Increases economies of scale and identifies partners who are leaders in the broadband industry
- Advocates on behalf of counties to the CPUC and legislature
- **Status: Sonoma County joined in October, 2021**

- **LOCAL AGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (LATA) FUND**

- Assisted the County of Sonoma in submitting an application to refine high-level design and develop construction-ready designs for priority areas
- GSCA is partnering with UTOPIA Fiber and Tilson Technology for implementation
- **Status: Sonoma County Received LATA Grant and entered into an MOU with GSCA for grant implementation**

SUPPORT FOR SONOMA COUNTY

How GSCA can support Sonoma County in the future:

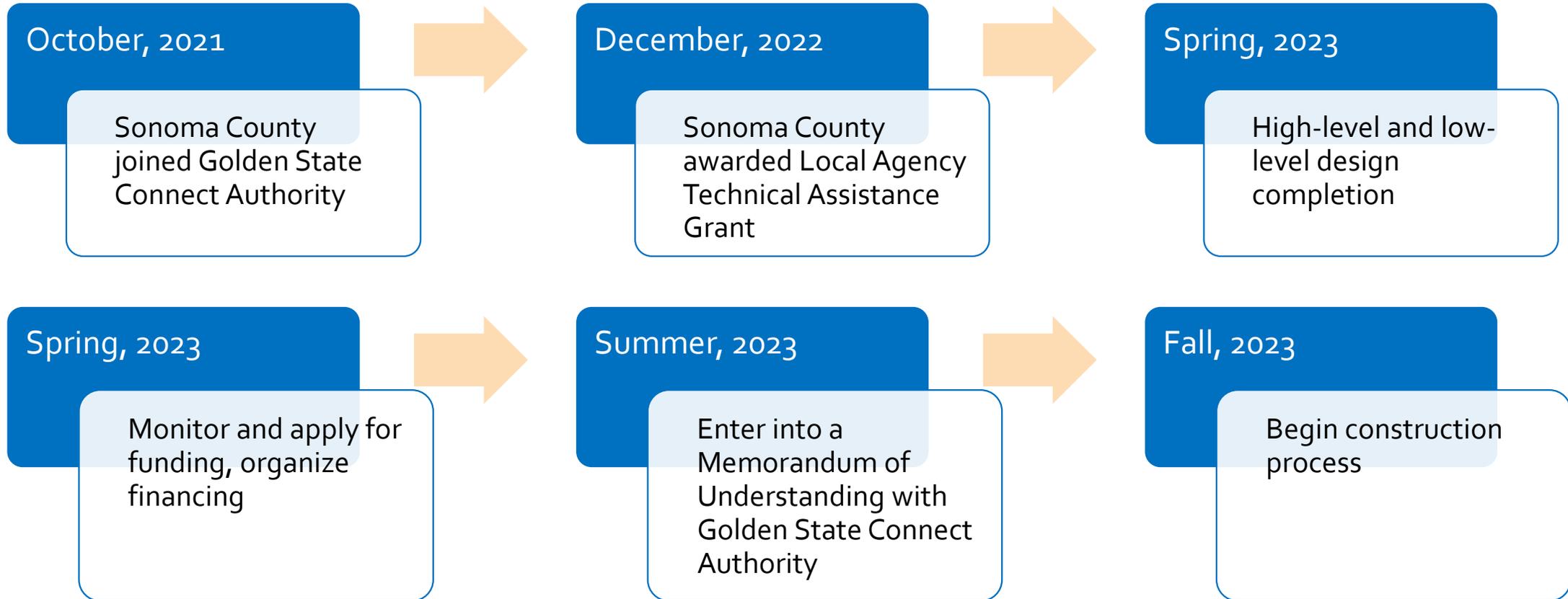
- **FINANCING**

- Golden State Connect Authority is tracking the Federal Fund Account allocated by the state to fund \$2 billion of last-mile deployment
- Golden State Connect Authority plans to utilize the Loan Loss Reserve Fund to secure bonds to finance infrastructure construction
- **Timeframe: Spring 2023**

- **CONSTRUCTION**

- Counties are able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Golden State Connect Authority to establish expectations and roles
- Golden State Connect Authority will permit, build and operate infrastructure, inviting existing service providers to use the infrastructure to provide services to residents
- **Timeframe: MOU is ready for local review and approval, infrastructure is dependent on financing**

POTENTIAL TIMELINE



WHAT CAN SONOMA COUNTY DO NOW?

- **PLANNING**

- LATA Network Design
- Policy & Advocacy – Be Involved: RCRC, CSAC, NACo.
- Development of Statewide Deployment & Digital Equity Plan – Ensure Sonoma County Input
 - These State Plans Will Inform Future NTIA BEAD Program Funding

- **STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION & DEVELOPMENT**

- Plan To Identify Priority Areas In LATA Process
- Identification of Resources to Encourage Development
 - Developers – Providers and/or Network Administrators
 - Resources – Funding Sources, County Single Point of Contact, County Priority

- **BE OPPORTUNISTIC & NIMBLE**

- Future Funding Opportunities Will Come Fast
- Consider Unique Partnerships