

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Approving a Title III Project)
 for FY 2025 under the Secure Rural Schools)
 and Community Self-Determination Act of)
 2000 as Amended and Re-authorized)

ORDER NO. 23-2025

WHEREAS, Columbia County has received "safety-net" revenues under the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000", P. L. 106-393, as amended and re-authorized; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires each county to expend 15 to 20 percent of its safety-net payments on various kinds of projects pursuant to Title II and III of the Act or, alternatively, to return that portion of its safety-net payment to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County currently has available funding for Title III projects in the amount of \$227,000.00 and

WHEREAS, eligible categories for projects that may be funded under Title III, are as follows:

- 1) **FIREWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM:**
 "[T]o carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program to provide to homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems education on, and assistance with implementing, techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires* * *";
- 2) **SEARCH, RESCUE AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES:**
 "[T]o reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting, that are - (A) performed on Federal land after the date on which the use was approved under subsection (b); (B) paid for by the participating county * * *";
- 3) **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS:**
 "[T]o develop community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary concerned"; and
- 4) **BROADBAND:**
 "To provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services"; and

WHEREAS, the following proposed project for Title III funding was proposed to the Board of County Commissioners on April 30, 2025: Columbia County Broadband Project to expand access to broadband in rural Columbia County, including providing access to students;

WHEREAS, pursuant to P. L. 110-343 and P.L. 112-141, Columbia County opened a forty-five

(45) day public comment period to anyone wishing to make written comments on the proposed project by publishing a Public Notice in the local area newspaper describing the project and directing that written comments must be received on or before 5:00 pm on June 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, no public comments were received at the end of the 45-day comment period; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Project Submission form was forwarded to the Salem Rural Advisory Committee for comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1) The Columbia County Broadband Project is approved for funding under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended and re-authorized.

2) The Columbia County Broadband Project shall be funded in the amount of \$227,163.36, and the project shall be certified as meeting the criteria of Expanded Access to Services.

Dated this 18 day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: NOT Present
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: [Signature]
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: [Signature]
Office of County Counsel