



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 22-60

Title: Authorization to apply for USDA ReConnect Round 4 funds

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 34,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Power & Telephone Company (“AP&T”), through its subsidiaries, provides telecommunications services to southeast Alaska rural communities, including a substantial number of Tlingit & Haida Tribal citizens and their unserved and underserved households; and

WHEREAS, deployment of high-speed, affordable broadband connectivity and services benefiting Tlingit & Haida Tribal citizens is our established priority, and determined to be essential infrastructure necessary to facilitate economic development, distance learning, telemedicine and telehealth, public safety, law enforcement, cultural practices and language preservation, Tribal governance, and other benefits currently precluded by the lack of broadband connectivity in southeast Alaska resulting in a substantial number of unserved or underserved households; and

WHEREAS, AP&T subsidiaries AP&T Wireless (“APTW”) and Alaska Telephone Company (“ATC”) are applicants to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) ReConnect Program Round 4 for award of funds to deploy broadband infrastructure through advanced fiber optic networks that would serve the southeast Alaska rural communities of Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, and Whale Pass;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby certifies our consent and support for APTW's and ATC's efforts to apply for USDA ReConnect Program funds to deploy advanced broadband infrastructure for Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, and Whale Pass for the benefit of unserved and underserved Tribal citizens and their rural communities, a substantial number of whom are low-income households; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida hereby requests that the USDA ReConnect program evaluate the AP&T application for the southeast Alaska rural communities of Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, and Whale Pass appropriate to its siting within the aboriginal Indian lands of Tlingit & Haida as the regional tribal government for southeast Alaska, which includes the APTW and ATC proposed funded service areas, and accordingly, score for the APTW and ATC proposals the maximum Indian tribe qualified points allowable (the U.S. Census map of tribes does not designate an Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA) map for Tlingit & Haida due to its regional boundary as all of southeast Alaska (all of the State of Alaska east of the 141st meridian)); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida hereby requests that the USDA ReConnect program award the highest available score to the APTW and ATC applications earned because they support the OneUSDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, which seeks to provide economic diversification and sustainability within the Tongass National Forest region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida asserts that the APTW and ATC proposals should receive the maximum allowable points in socio-economic needs scoring categories, which are as follows:

- Rurality of Proposed Funded Service Area
- Economic Need of the Community
- Affordability
- Socially Vulnerable Communities

Tlingit & Haida requests the maximum available points be awarded despite apparent flaws with USDA demographic data and map layers that underreport the actual level of poverty (Economic Need and Socially Vulnerable Community designations appears to be inaccurate, and inconsistent with actual conditions within rural and tribal communities in Alaska);

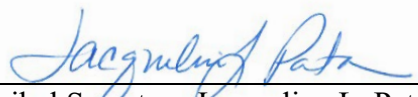
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida hereby requests that the USDA ReConnect program award the ATC and APTW proposals all available scoring eligibility and preferences due to the Tlingit & Haida support for the applications, the benefit Tlingit & Haida Tribal citizens will gain from these projects if funded, and the siting of the projects' proposed funded service areas within the Tlingit & Haida aboriginal Indian title lands, which qualify as Substantially Underserved Trust Areas ("SUTA") (7 USC § 936f specifies the Secretary "(3) may give the highest funding priority to designated projects in substantially underserved trust areas).

ADOPTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata