Hello California Broadband Council (CBC),

Tule River Tribe has a fiber cable network (Fiber To Home) and so far all residences within the fiber cable network have a broadband access, the challenge that the fiber cable network doesn’t cover the entire reservation there are many residences outside the network border in addition to the many residences that inside the network borders but they are not compliant (CPUC) standards or they are not able to pay the cost of running the conduit to their residency or they may don’t have electricity or service pole.

All these obstacles left a lot of tribal members and their families without internet and phone services and this situation has a negative impact on student’s families and elders, students need internet for online school, education, and distance learning; also, elders need internet/phone for telehealth, and some other tribal members need it for telework especially with the absence of any other alternative solution such as cellular service.

In Tule River Tribe Telecommunications department we have the expertise and the knowledge and recently we increased the download speed to 100M (it was 12M), but we still need help with funding to extend the Tribe fiber cable network to cover more locations also to help tribal members with the cost of running the conduit to their residences especially many of them living in trailers.

Also, we need to have access to the 2.5 GHz to utilize wireless technology to deliver the internet service for some residences that is very hard to reach out by fiber cable network.

Conclusion:

Tule River Tribe need:
1. Funding to expand the existing fiber cable network.
2. Funding for running conduit to residences.
3. Access to 2.5 GHz over the tribal land.
4. Funding to build a new 2.5 GHz 4G LTE over the tribal land.
5. Consulting in the 4G LTE technology solutions.
6. Funding to help covering the expensive internet service provider invoices ($72,537.6 per year).
7. Funding to expand and upgrade the C.O.
Best greeting,

Robert Makhlouf
Interim Telecom Director
Tule River Telecommunications Dept.