



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County

Benson

Bisbee

Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

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A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION REAFFIRMING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND AUTHORIZING MATCHING FUNDS

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) has been designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District (EDD) for the four-county region of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties; and

WHEREAS, SEAGO is desirous of continuing and expanding activities to advance the economic development of these four counties; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for broadband expansion in the region; the economic shock waves of the pandemic have caused a re-orientation for many industry sectors to allow for remote work and for students of all ages to perform classwork and/or pursue their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, SEAGO, in partnership with the Economic Policy Institute at Northern Arizona University and Arizona Commerce Authority, have performed extensive research and have determined the broadband capacity in the rural parts of the SEAGO region is insufficient to stimulate economic growth and provide resiliency in the event of future pandemic disasters; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2021 the Executive Board authorized SEAGO's application to the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) FY 2022 partnership planning and local technical assistance grant program to improve regional economic development capacity and resiliency by developing a regional broadband expansion master plan covering the four counties within the SEAGO region; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Broadband Plan will improve SEAGO's ability to accurately assess the local digital divide and wealth gaps within regional urban and rural communities and develop actionable insights to close them; and

WHEREAS, said Regional Broadband Plan will prepare SEAGO and its community broadband stakeholders for the next phase of strategic broadband expansion – a regional broadband middle-mile network engineering and design plan; and

WHEREAS, EDA has since awarded said technical assistance grant in the amount of \$197,144; and

WHEREAS, said EDA award requires 40% matching contribution equaling \$131,429.33 from a combination of cash and in-kind resources; and

WHEREAS, in-kind resources pledged by regional broadband stakeholders are expected to be \$78,047.80 and a cash contribution of \$53,381.53 is necessary to meet said grant's matching requirements.

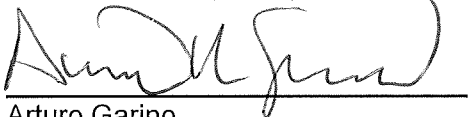
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SEAGO Executive Board hereby reaffirms its support for SEAGO's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA for a Fiscal Year 2022 planning and local technical assistance grant and authorizes the acceptance of EDA's award in the amount of \$197,144; and

THAT, up to \$78,047.80 is hereby committed to assure that SEAGO meets the in-kind matching requirement for the EDA grant, funded through an in-kind match of staff time and program deliverables paid by community broadband stakeholders; and

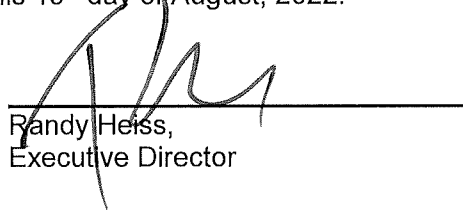
THAT, up to \$53,381.53 is hereby committed to assure that SEAGO meets the cash matching requirement for the EDA grant, and these matching funds will be committed, available as needed, and not conditioned or encumbered in any way that will preclude their use; and

THAT, the SEAGO Executive Director is hereby authorized to sign and execute all agreements, contracts, or documents for the receipt and use of the EDA grant funds.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 19th day of August, 2022.



Arturo Garino,
Executive Board Chair



Randy Heiss,
Executive Director