COUNTY OF MONTEREY

Chris Lopez, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

599 EL CAMINO REAL
GREENFIELD, CA 93927
DISTRICT3@CO.MONTEREY.CA.US
TELEPHONE: (831) 755-5033
385-8333
FAX: (831) 796-3022

April 22, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for Golden State Connect Authority's CalDEP Track 1 Application – Connected Communities: A GSCA Rural Digital Equity Initiative

Dear California Department of Technology,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) and its Track 1 multi-county application to the California Digital Equity Capacity Subgrant Program (CalDEP).

The County of Monterey is committed to advancing equitable access for our residents by working through our community services departments and in collaboration with community partners. Our mission closely aligns with the goals of the California State Digital Equity Plan, which strives to ensure that all Californians—regardless of income, location, ability, or language—can fully and meaningfully participate in the digital world.

We strongly support GSCA's leadership in coordinating a regional approach to digital equity planning and implementation across rural counties. Their application reflects:

- A collaborative model rooted in local needs;
- A commitment to building inclusive digital ecosystems;
- A realistic plan for implementation through second-tier subgrants and cross-sector partnerships;
- And a strong alignment with State goals to close the digital divide for Covered Populations.

We expect this effort to generate meaningful, measurable improvements in broadband adoption, digital literacy, device access, and workforce participation—especially among underserved residents in rural and unincorporated communities.

This letter represents our enthusiastic support of GSCA's application, and our intent to collaborate with GSCA and its county partners in advancing the proposed digital equity outcomes.

Sincerely,

Chris Lopez, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors