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## The Connected Communities Initiative

## A SeaKay Project

SeaKay is a nonprofit 501(c)3 California Public Benefit Corporation with a mission to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the not for profit sector. The outcome of our efforts will be improved service delivery as needs for non-profit services continue to surpass the resources available to support these services. SeaKay's intentions are to expand the funding base available to the non-profit sector by creating new resources through private sector sponsorship and community involvement programs.

Connected Communities is a national initiative which is generated from finding common ground between business and social /public benefit objectives. Connected Communities has built a collaborative of major high-tech industry companies that have a common business objective of lowering barriers to broadband access primarily through wireless technology. Wider access will benefit industry by opening up new markets for equipment, applications, and services. Industry sees an expansion of access to the internet as an opportunity to achieve business objectives and give back to the community. The fundamental objective of the Connected Communities is to enable ubiquitous internet access over large rural areas. This serves a public benefit by enabling high speed internet access to a wide range of underserved communities who for reasons of economic, geographic location or disability have not been able to use the internet to improve their situation. Digital inclusion efforts are combined with economic development to create Digital Opportunity where new users are seen as new consumers that can receive value through purchasing on the network and also employment through mobile workforce development.

Connected Communities offers a solution for implementing and operating rural broadband networks using public assets and alternative technologies. These projects have public benefit at their core. The network seeks to provide ubiquitous public access, free when economically possible, municipal services at low rates, public safety prioritization, and assurances to public entities of competitive pricing and financial viability. Network decisions are based on transparent financial controls and governance mandated by the not for profit public benefit regulations.

The network is directed towards serving the public at a grassroots and neighborhood level. Connected Communities implementations include local governance, targeted content and tools to enable efficiencies by local community based organization and public sector agencies consistent with SeaKay's mission.