

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

January 21, 2004



RE: Public Meetings for community groups who may be eligible to obtain grants money to fund the provision of telecommunications services to currently unserved rural areas of California.

TO: Interested Participants

Assembly Bill 140 (Ch. 903, Stats. 2001) creates a new program funded by up to \$10,000,000 annually through January 1, 2006 for the purpose of expanding telecommunications service to currently unserved rural areas of California. The California Public Utilities Commission oversees the grants program and has established eligibility criteria for community-based groups to obtain grants to build telephone infrastructure to their communities. We are scheduling Public Meetings in five locations throughout the state to explain the grants program to community groups who may be eligible to receive grants.

We invite all interested community groups to attend and learn more about the eligibility criteria and limitations for this new program. For example, no group may receive more than one grant per year and no group may receive a grant in excess of 25% (\$2,500,000) of the total fund for the year. Entities providing feasibility studies whose applications are rejected may still be eligible for reimbursement for the cost of the preliminary feasibility study. Applications will be accepted from qualifying community-based groups starting this fiscal year (2003-4). Please join us at any of the following locations and learn more about this exciting Grants Program. For those communities currently without telephone services, it could change your world.

PUBLIC MEETINGS DATES
(All Meetings begin at 7:00 PM)

February 2, 2004 (Monday)

Coachella
City Council Room
1515 6th Street
Coachella, CA 92236

February 4, 2004 (Wednesday)

Independence
Board of Supervisor's Room
224 N. Edwards Street (U.S. 395)
Independence, CA 93526

February 9, 2004 (Monday)

Lakeport
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
225 N. Forbes Street 1st floor
Lakeport, CA 95453

February 10, 2004 (Tuesday)

Eureka
Eureka City Council Chambers
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

February 12, 2004 (Thursday)

Susanville
Fairgrounds – Jensen Hall
195 Russell Avenue
Susanville, CA 96130

Questions regarding the Public Meetings or the Grants Program to fund rural telecommunications infrastructure programs (AB 140 Implementation Project) should be addressed to Mary Jo Borak at 415 703-1879 or via email at bor@cpuc.ca.gov.