



Tribal Council Resolution 2021-17

Support for ATC to apply for the Reconnect Grant from USDA

WHEREAS; Skagway Traditional Council is a federally-recognized tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 as amended, and works to provide social, economic, and cultural benefits to its tribal members.

WHEREAS; Alaska Power & Telephone Company, through its subsidiaries, provides telecommunications services within the community of Skagway, as well as surrounding areas.

WHEREAS; high-speed, affordable broadband connectivity would be tremendously valuable to our tribe, and can help facilitate new economic development, distance learning, telemedicine opportunities, cultural preservation and exchange, and other benefits desired by tribal members, businesses, and families.

WHEREAS; AP&T subsidiary Alaska Telephone Company (ATC) is applying for USDA ReConnect funds to develop infrastructure for an advanced fiber optic network that would serve our community and tribal members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. Skagway Traditional Council hereby certifies its consent and support for ATC's efforts to apply for ReConnect Funds to develop advanced broadband infrastructure for the community of Skagway.

Section 2. Skagway Traditional Council asserts that ATC's proposal should receive the maximum allowable points in socioeconomic need scoring categories, which are as follows:

- Rurality of Proposed Funded Service Area
- Economic Need of the Community
- Affordability
- Socially Vulnerable Communities

We request the full points be given despite apparent flaws with USDA demographic data and map layers.¹

Section 3. Skagway Traditional Council hereby requests that the Secretary of Agriculture prioritize ATC's proposal to the fullest extent possible due to its proposed funded service areas including tribally- and ANCSA-owned lands qualifying as Substantially Underserved

¹ Economic Need and Socially Vulnerable Community designations appears to be inaccurate, and inconsistent with actual conditions within rural and tribal communities in Alaska.

Trust Areas (SUTA).²

Section 4. Skagway Traditional Council agrees it will provide, when possible and allowed, additional approvals for other right-of-way that may be required for a USDA-funded project, on commercially reasonable and typical terms.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Tribal Council of the STC

held on 12/3/2021 at which a quorum was present by a vote of

3 IN FAVOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAIN, 2 ABSENT.



STC – Acting Tribal President
Printed Name Jaime Bricker



STC – Acting Tribal Secretary
Printed Name: Marla Belisle

² 7 USC § 936f specifies the Secretary “(3) may give the highest funding priority to designated projects in substantially underserved trust areas;”