



## **The Hoopa Valley Tribe Announces the award of an \$8.2 Million grant from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for the Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative (HVBI)**

**January 20, 2021**

**Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Northern CA --**[Hunter Communications](#) (Hunter), the premier fiber-optic communications services provider in Southern Oregon and Northern California, has been awarded \$8,223,340 from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to provide high-speed broadband internet services to the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, the largest in the State of California. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) allocated the funding as a commitment to bridge the digital divide and to increase broadband deployment in rural and tribal communities.

The Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative Project (HVBI) will be completed in partnership with Hunter Communications, the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District (HVPUD), a chartered tribal entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and [EnerTribe](#), a Native-owned consulting firm specializing in planning, funding and building tribally chartered telecommunications infrastructure projects.

Hoopa Valley Tribal Chairman Byron Nelson, Jr. states “affordable and reliable internet access for our community will have a far reaching effect on our people. The beautiful and rural Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation has needed technological upgrades for decades. As Chairman, I thank the CPUC for helping the Hoopa Valley Tribe achieve this goal. CASF will allow our people to have access to increased opportunities that will have a positive benefit for all”.

“The Hoopa Valley Tribal members share goals of self-sufficiency and self-determination that will depend upon affordable high-speed internet to their homes and their businesses,” says Michael Wynschenk, Chief Executive Officer of Hunter Communications. “Hunter Communications is honored to partner with the Hoopa Valley Tribe to fulfill their needs for high-speed broadband via a wireless and fiber infrastructure deployed across Hoopa Valley on the Reservation.”

“I am so proud to be a part of the solution to meet this long-standing critical need for our community. These CASF funds will have a huge impact on our tribal community, including providing students the ability to adequately access online learning, increasing employees ability to effectively work from home, providing adequate bandwidth for online educational goals, increased access for tele-medicine, improved communications for emergency services and economic development opportunities, says Linnea Jackson, General Manager of Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District.”

“The Hoopa Reservation is critically underserved when it comes to broadband. There are approximately 2,000 residents awaiting essential internet service, including hundreds of school children that need it for learning,” says Forest James, Chief Executive Officer of EnerTribe. “It is EnerTribe's charge to work closely with Hunter and the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District to ensure the needs of the Hoopa Tribe and its citizens are met, and ensure a successful project. I see great potential in the partnership between Hunter and the HVPUD. EnerTribe serves as the project & program management, wireless engineering and installation firm for the project”.

### **Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative Project**

To serve the rural, remote, 92,000-acre Hoopa Valley Tribal Reservation in Humboldt County, Hunter will deploy hybrid fiber optic and wireless middle-mile infrastructure and a last-mile hybrid fiber and fixed wireless network to provide high-speed broadband internet service to approximately 1,198 unserved households. The proposed project will ultimately enable fiber broadband access at speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 25 Mbps upload. In addition, the proposed region is located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 fire-threat districts and route diversity will help provide a safe and reliable network. The project is designed to minimize environmental impact.

### **About Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District**

On June 20, 1972, the Hoopa Valley Tribe adopted a Constitution and By-Laws which was approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and ratified by Act of Congress on October 31, 1988.

On September 22, 1982, the Hoopa Valley Business Council passed Resolution #82-128, which approved the Charter of the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District. For almost 40 years, HVPUD has provided utility services of high quality to our community. HVPUD is excited to add a broadband division called Acorn Wireless to the utility to offer wireless internet services within the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation

The mission of the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District is to provide a level of service and utility resources that enable and advance tribal strategies to grow economic opportunity, build a strong foundation of utility infrastructure, and ensure a framework for quality growth and development on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation.

### **About Hunter**

[Hunter Communications](#) provides ultra-high-speed fiber optic broadband internet, data and voice services to business and residential customers in communities throughout southern Oregon and northern California. With Gig speeds, no data caps, and competitive pricing, Hunter's 2,000+ mile fiber network is nationally recognized for performance and reliability. BroadbandNow recognized Hunter with four 2020 Internet Service Provider Awards, including for fastest business internet speeds in Oregon and among the top 10 nationwide.

Founded in 1992, Hunter is headquartered in Medford, Oregon where the company established a legacy of service excellence and commitment to local communities. Hunter Communications was acquired in 2020 by Grain Management LLC. Additional information is available at [Hunterfiber.com](http://Hunterfiber.com).

### **About EnerTribe**

EnerTribe is a native & woman owned consulting firm that assists indigenous communities in the planning, funding and building of broadband infrastructure projects. EnerTribe has helped fund over \$250,000,000 in project funding for tribes over the past decade. EnerTribe also supports telephone companies and state and federal agencies in their efforts to fund and build infrastructure projects. EnerTribe serves as a project, grant and program management firm as well as a wireless engineering, procurement and installation contractor to tribes, agencies and telecommunications companies. EnerTribe is proud to assist in the construction of the Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative (HVBI) slated to begin in January, 2021.

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