



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**City of Chico**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2025**

**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

## **CITY OF CHICO SECURES NEARLY \$12.8 MILLION GRANT TO LAUNCH TRANSFORMATIVE UTILITY PROJECT**

**CHICO, CA (January 8, 2025)** – The City of Chico is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$12,746,798.00 grant to fund an innovative fiber utility project, marking a major milestone in its commitment to enhancing connectivity and driving economic growth in the region. This transformative investment will provide the Chapman Elementary School neighborhood and surrounding areas with access to high-speed internet, bridging the digital divide and fostering opportunities for education, healthcare, and business development. “By addressing critical infrastructure needs, the project aims to empower residents and businesses with the tools needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world,” said Mayor Kasey Reynolds.

In February 2022, the Chico City Council took a significant step toward connectivity and modernizing infrastructure by approving an ordinance to establish a fiber utility. This bold initiative reflected the City’s commitment to fostering economic growth, improving access to high-speed internet, and bridging the digital divide for residents and businesses alike. By creating a dedicated fiber utility, the City aims to lay the groundwork for a more connected and innovative future, ensuring reliable, affordable broadband access for all members of the community.

The grant, provided by the Federal Funding Account, which is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission, is part of a broader initiative to support critical infrastructure projects that improve digital accessibility. With these funds, the City of Chico will develop a state-of-the-art network, delivering reliable and affordable high-speed internet to underserved and unserved areas. Phase 1 of the fiber utility project, marked in purple on the map, is projected to connect 9,039 residents and businesses within the designated area.

### **Key benefits of the Fiber Utility Project include:**

- **Improved Internet Access:** Delivering high-speed internet to underserved and unserved community members.
- **Economic Growth:** Enabling local businesses to thrive through enhanced connectivity and new digital tools.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life:** Expanding access to online education, telemedicine, and remote work opportunities.
- **Future-Proof Infrastructure:** Building a network designed to accommodate future technological advancements.

“This grant marks a pivotal moment for our community,” said Josh Marquis, Deputy Director of Information Systems. “Access to high-speed internet is no longer a luxury – it’s a necessity. This funding allows us to lay the foundation for a more connected and equitable future.”

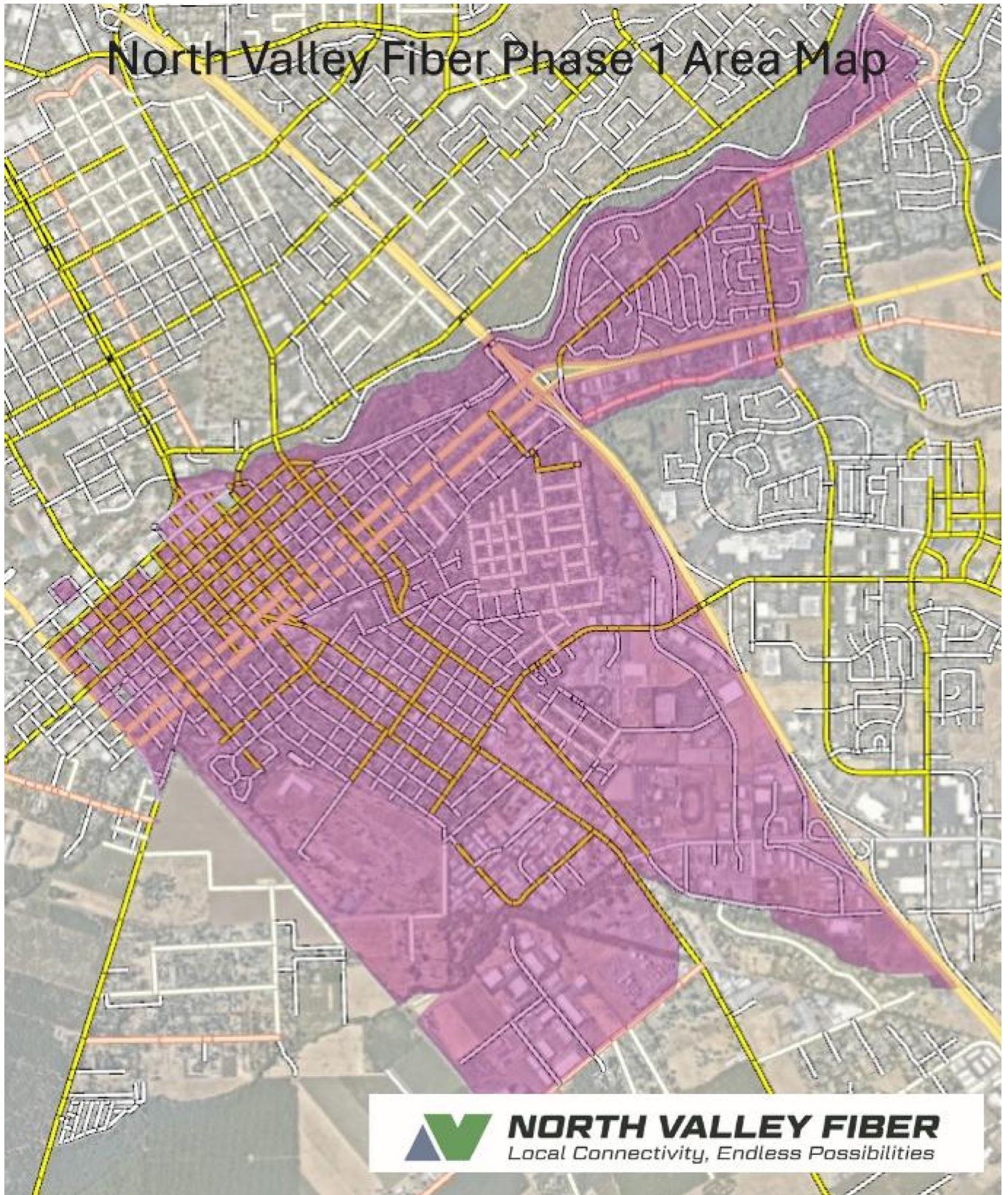
The City of Chico will work closely with local stakeholders, community leaders, and industry experts to ensure the successful execution of this project. Construction of Phase 1 is expected to begin in Spring 2025, with the goal of completing the first phase of the fiber utility network by Summer 2026.

To keep the community informed and engaged, the City of Chico has launched a dedicated website for the fiber utility project. This online resource will provide residents and businesses with up-to-date information on the project’s progress, construction timelines, and key milestones. The website will also feature frequently asked questions and opportunities for community feedback, ensuring transparency and open communication throughout the project. Residents are encouraged to visit the website at [northvalleyfiber.com](http://northvalleyfiber.com) or contact Josh Marquis, Deputy Director – Information Systems, at 530-896-8401 or [josh.marquis@chicoca.gov](mailto:josh.marquis@chicoca.gov) for more information about the project.

*Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States. For more information, visit [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us).*

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# North Valley Fiber Phase 1 Area Map



**NORTH VALLEY FIBER**  
*Local Connectivity, Endless Possibilities*