



Trillion Partners, Inc.
9208 Waterford Centre Blvd., Suite 150
Austin, Texas 78758

March 11, 2011

Federal Communications Commission *Delivered via ECFS & email*
Attention: Ms. Gina Spade, Deputy Division Chief
Ms. Erica Myers, Wireline Competition Bureau
Ms. Dana Bradford, Wireline Competition Bureau

Telecommunications Access Policy Division
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re:

Appeal
School District: Kings Canyon Unified School District, Reedley, CA
Funding Year: 2005
FRN Denied: 1335796
Form 471 Application Denied: 482378
Reason for Denial: Gifts

Dear Gina, Erica and Dana:

On November 3, 2010, Trillion filed a Master Appeal Summary with the FCC on ECFS, as well as provided the Master Appeal Summary to you via E-Mail and in hard copy. In the Master Appeal, Trillion provides the rationale as to why USAC's mass denial of funding is without merit. Please accept this Individual appeal for the Kings Canyon Unified School District, along with the Master Appeal Summary, as well as the Appeal that will be filed by the applicant, as the appeal in its totality.

USAC alleges that Kings Canyon Unified School District received valuable gifts which tainted a fair and open competitive bidding process as the basis for denial of funding. Trillion denies USAC's allegations. In fact and in all instances, the meals, gifts and gratuities that Trillion provided to the applicant were in full compliance with all applicable (FCC, state and local) competitive bidding and procurement requirements at the time. Please also note, in February of 2009, Trillion instituted a Code of Conduct for its employees that prohibits meals, gifts or gratuities of any kind and is stricter than the new rules put in place with the FCC Sixth Report and Order, FCC 10-175.

One such gift noted in USAC's allegations was attendance at Visionaries in Technology Education Counsel ("VTEC"). Trillion provided the description of VTEC, which was an educational conference for existing Trillion customers after they were under contract, in a letter to Mel Blackwell of USAC dated June 8, 2009. VTEC was a participant-driven conference focused on education-oriented best practices. The main goal was improving education and the

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application of technologies to achieve this goal. Guest speakers included nationally renowned speakers including a University professor and a learning technology expert, neither of whom were associated with Trillion. Each participant shared their thoughts in an open discussion forum on what they generally thought would shape education in the years to come.

Expenses associated with the VTEC conference in no way affected any competitive bidding process and only applied to existing customers who wished to discuss, present, and learn various education oriented topics with their peers and experts. This conference was in full compliance with all applicable FCC, state and local procurement guidelines that were in effect at the time.

It should also be noted that one gift provided to Kings Canyon Unified School District was the only gift in all of Trillion's denied customer applicants that USAC alleged was not within compliance of State and Local procurement law. USAC stated *"This amount not only exceeds the federal gift standards, but also exceeds the limits set by California procurement laws that require any employee of a school district to report any single item that exceeds \$50."*

USAC is wrong on this allegation and in fact the expenses related to Mr. Jerry Edmonds are fully compliant with California procurement guidelines. Specifically, the \$50 reporting requirement is not applicable to the expenses for Mr. Edmonds in October, 2006 because he was a speaker at the California Education Technology Professionals Association (CETPA) conference (See attached CETPA agenda). The expense occurred at this conference. California statute, CA GOV CODE § 89506, states that expenses for "transportation and related lodging and subsistence" are not limited by the \$50 reporting requirement if the expense relates to a speech given on a governmental purpose:

§ 89506. Travel payments, advances and reimbursements

(a) Payments, advances, or reimbursements, for travel, including actual transportation and related lodging and subsistence that is reasonably related to a legislative or governmental purpose, or to an issue of state, national, or international public policy, are not prohibited or limited by this chapter if either of the following apply:

(1) The travel is in connection with a speech given by the elected state officer, local elected officeholder, candidate for elected state office or local elected office, an individual specified in [Section 87200](#), member of a state board or commission, or designated employee of a state or local government agency, the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech, and the travel is within the United States.

(2) The travel is provided by a government, a governmental agency, a foreign government, a governmental authority, a bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in [Section 203 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#), a nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under [Section 501\(c\)\(3\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#), or by a person domiciled outside the United States which substantially satisfies the requirements for tax-exempt status under [Section 501\(c\)\(3\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#).

Overall, the amounts spent on meals or other routine business expenses were trivial and could not have possibly influenced a decision that would ultimately be made by the School Board. Furthermore, no member of the School Board or decision maker received any such expense. The fact is, Trillion invested \$728,677 million to date in order to construct Kings Canyon Unified

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School District's network providing critical services with a total contract value of \$2,313,866, while the amount of the routine business meals and expenses only amounted to \$360.25 on average per year across the entire school district.

In summary, this applicant's actions were in full compliance with FCC, state and local procurement guidelines in effect at the time, as described in the Master Appeal Summary. Therefore, the customer's actions did not, in any way whatsoever, improperly affect the competitive bidding process.

It would be a travesty if this application were to be denied based upon a retroactive application of the new rule defined in the FCC Sixth Report and Order. Trillion respectfully requests that this appeal be granted.

Sincerely,

Trillion Partners, Inc.

Attachments:

- Master Appeal Summary dated November 3, 2010 as previously filed on November 3, 2010 under ECFS Number 2010113403548
- Funding Decision Commitment Letter (FCDL)
- CETPA Agenda

Cc:

Ron Reich, Intel Capital
Peter Pitsch, Intel

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Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letter

Funding Year 2005: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

February 09, 2011

Emerson Tripoli
KINGS CANYON UNIF SCHOOL DIST
4122 East Feemster
Visalia, CA 93292 2427

Re: Form 471 Application Number: 482378
Funding Year: 2005
Applicant's Form Identifier: KCD471Y8-WAN
Billed Entity Number: 144054
FCC Registration Number: 0006743595
SPIN: 143025872
Service Provider Name: Trillion Partners, Inc

Service Provider Contact Person: Virginia Bryant

Our routine review of Schools and Libraries Program (Program) funding commitments has revealed certain applications where funds were committed in violation of Program rules.

In order to be sure that no funds are used in violation of Program rules, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) must now adjust your overall funding commitment. The purpose of this letter is to make the required adjustments to your funding commitment, and to give you an opportunity to appeal this decision. USAC has determined the applicant is responsible for all or some of the violations. Therefore, the applicant is responsible to repay all or some of the funds disbursed in error (if any).

This is NOT a bill. If recovery of disbursed funds is required, the next step in the recovery process is for USAC to issue you a Demand Payment Letter. The balance of the debt will be due within 30 days of that letter. Failure to pay the debt within 30 days from the date of the Demand Payment Letter could result in interest, late payment fees, administrative charges and implementation of the "Red Light Rule." The FCC's Red Light Rule requires USAC to dismiss pending FCC Form 471 applications if the entity responsible for paying the outstanding debt has not paid the debt, or otherwise made satisfactory arrangements to pay the debt within 30 days of the notice provided by USAC. For more information on the Red Light Rule, please see "Red Light Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" posted on the FCC website at http://www.fcc.gov/debt_collection/faq.html.

Funding Commitment Adjustment Report for
Form 471 Application Number: 482378

Funding Request Number:	1335796
Services Ordered:	INTERNET ACCESS
SPIN:	143025872
Service Provider Name:	Trillion Partners, Inc
Contract Number:	A10-CA-KINGSCYN-010405-W-SA
Billing Account Number:	559-637-1210
Site Identifier:	144054
Original Funding Commitment:	\$201,600.00
Commitment Adjustment Amount:	\$201,600.00
Adjusted Funding Commitment:	\$0.00
Funds Disbursed to Date	\$39,759.90
Funds to be Recovered from Applicant:	\$39,759.90

After a thorough investigation, it has been determined that this funding commitment must be rescinded in full. During the course of a review, documentation provided by you and/or your vendor indicated that there was not a fair and open competitive bid process free from conflicts of interest. The documents provided by you and/or your service provider indicated that, prior to/throughout your contractual relationship with the service provider listed on the FRN, you were offered and accepted gifts, meals, gratuities, or entertainment from the service provider, which resulted in a competitive process that was no longer fair and open. Therefore, the commitment has been rescinded in full and USAC will seek recovery of any disbursed funds from the applicant and service provider.