



**For Immediate Release, April 20, 2010**  
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### **SAN ILDEFONSO RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND WIRELESS INTO RURAL AREAS**

(PUEBLO DE SAN ILDEFONSO, SANTA FE, NM) – The Pueblo de San Ildefonso (San Ildefonso) is the latest recipient of federal broadband stimulus funds, the only Pueblo to receive such funding in New Mexico to date. The U.S. Department of Agriculture officially notified the Pueblo recently that \$1,264,510 will be awarded to the Pueblo through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (“ARRA”) as a loan and grant equally distributed.

The successful application was submitted through the San Ildefonso Pueblo Enterprise Corporation (SIPEC) and its subsidiary company Tewa Communications (TewaCom), which is a wireless internet service provider focused on expanding broadband services to under- and unserved rural communities.

ARRA funding will allow TewaCom to expand broadband wireless internet service to over 2,400 households in the upper Rio Grande Valley. The million dollar project includes:

- The construction of four new towers on the San Ildefonso reservation
- Additional Solar powered equipment (photovoltaic based) to support the system
- Customer premise and networking equipment

Upon completion, TewaCom will be able to reach customers who have inadequate broadband services as far away as Nambe Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, as well as the communities of La Mesilla, El Rancho and Cuyamungue.

According to SIPEC COO Laurence Peña, “We feel that it’s our duty to give back to our community and our neighbors. Broadband services are essential to enhance public safety, health, education and more importantly economic development. Broadband infrastructure is the key to continued growth and sustainability in the region.”

TewaCom successfully implemented a wireless broadband network in 2007 with the help of a RUS Community Connect grant with the aim of providing service to its Pueblo members. Currently 85% of its households subscribe to realize personal, educational and business opportunities.

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“Our main goal is for the surrounding communities to have a choice when it comes to accessing broadband internet,” stated Pena. “Investor-owned telecommunication companies are motivated by profit shares and therefore are averse to risking initial infrastructure investment in rural communities. We plan to fill that need with a local, home grown network. Where your money will stay not only in our community, but our State as well,” explained Pena.

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