

Date: February 2nd, 2017

To: BAMC Executive Committee

Subject: January 2017 Broadband Summary of Activities

From: Trish Steel

Broadband Update

- January 11, 2017 - The NBNBCB sponsored a “Legislative Day in Sacramento” in which we met with 6 representatives (Senators Doddd, Wiener, McGuire and Assemblymembers Aguiar-Curry, Wood, and Levine) to discuss the Internet For All Now legislation. This is upcoming legislation to bring back the CASF state broadband program; unfortunately, there have been concessions made in order to get votes needed for passage, which greatly weakens the potential good of the bill. There has been a fair amount of discussion on this between consortia members, within the county, and with legislators. As proposed, without changes, we can’t support this legislation.
- January 19th, 2017 There was a celebration of PUC Commissioner Sandoval’s 6 years of service on the PUC held in San Francisco. She has been a great support for our county, and so I attended to show our appreciation. She specifically thanked Mendocino County in her speech, and said that she was thinking of our county when she pulled her “3 all-nighters” (her husband piped up and said “more than 3”) when she wrote the 180 page proposed decision. This decision of course was approved by the full PUC in their December meeting.
- So I guess I should bring this up now as well - the carriers were not happy with the Proposed Decision. On January 27th they submitted a letter to the CPUC requesting a 6-month delay for the implementation of the requirements of the Decision. Mendocino county responded by signing onto the formal response comments of TURN asking the PUC to deny the carrier’s request. You can find Mendocino County’s letter [here](#).
- I plan to start getting endorsements for the Broadband Goals and Strategies that the Broadband Working Group developed. Please watch for an email about this, asking for the endorsement of the Alliance to this document.
- There are new USDA grant funding programs available, and on 1/26/17 I shared information with the carriers. (removed) was interested and responded back, and asked about areas that need service. I provided information with him about our priority areas, and made introductions for him as well and said that I’m ready to support and work with him on projects. I do not know how the current administration policies may impact these federal grant programs, but I would guess they will be impacted in a negative way.
- Congressman Huffman is also introducing a new federal broadband funding bill - the [New Deal Rural Broadband Act](#).

- I signed on behalf of the Alliance onto a public interest letter opposing the repeal of the FCC privacy rules that were put in place in December of 2016 (and not yet enacted). Here's the letter: http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/privacy_coalition_anti_CRA_letter_final.pdf

Outreach

- Our January 6th Public Outreach meeting was well attended, including Supervisor Viegas from Glenn County, 2 reporters for local papers, and the Pt. Arena Mayor.
- For our next meeting on March 3rd, I would like to help educate on the E-rate program. Vicki Terbovich from the Sonoma County Library will be attending, along with Dave Smith our IT guy from MCOE. I have invited the County Librarian Karen Horner as well, but she has not yet confirmed whether she will attend. There have been some changes to E-rate and we hope to learn more about potential leveraging of these programs.
- The next meeting of the NBNBC Oversight Committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th, 3:00 (call in meeting, using our usual conference number with) I will be gone during this time, so please contact Dan Hamburg for details of the meeting if you want to join.
- I will be traveling from Feb 8 - Feb 19, and out of email contact.

Broadband Deployments

- Anchor Bay Campground (between Gualala and Point Arena) was successful in getting better service to the 39 residents of their campground. They shared their success story with me, and I have posted it on our website, and encourage you to take a look.
- The provider for the campground, SkyFiber, is also deploying new services to some businesses in Gualala.
- I connected the "cyber wholesaler" who provided bandwidth to SkyFiber with a potential provider who wants to deploy new services in an underserved area. I can't share any details at this time however.
- US Cellular is upgrading their Cellular coverage in Covelo; I spent time with one of their techs going through the provisions and standards of the new streamlined permitting process, which they will probably use for the upgrade.
- AT&T is moving ahead with the CAF2 project areas. The Alliance organized a meeting between AT&T and county planners to discuss issues they have identified with their sites. I thought it was a very productive meeting.

- Unfortunately, the EPA planning grant that the City of Willits applied for was not selected. This was a disappointment as we really thought that we had a great proposal, and we had strong letters of support as well. I have asked the grant administrator if they can tell us why we were not selected, but I have not yet heard back from him yet.

January Meeting Summary

01/06/17	Alliance Public Outreach Meeting	Ukiah
01/11/17	Meetings with six legislators on IFAN legislation	Sacramento
01/16/17	Meeting with TURN (Regina Costa)	Laytonville
01/18/17	Meeting with AT&T and Building and Planning	Ukiah
01/19/17	Commissioner Sandoval reception in honor of her 6 years of service at the PUC	San Fransisco
01/31/17	Meeting with potential new WISP provider	(removed)