

**Date:** March 6th, 2017

**To:** BAMC Executive Committee

**Subject:** February 2017 Broadband Summary of Activities

**From:** Trish Steel

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### ***Broadband Update***

You'll find that the report for this month is a bit shorter than usual. I took a vacation mid-month to get out of the rain and cold for 2 weeks, and enjoy the beaches of Costa Rica.

- The Broadband Goals and Strategies was presented to the Alliance Executive Committee for endorsement, and Katie made some good suggested edits. I made a version 6 of the document and gave it back to the Working Group to approve.
- With the new legislative session, there are some new bills that relate to broadband that were introduced.
  - Congressman Huffman introduced a new federal broadband funding bill - the New Deal Rural Broadband Act.
  - The NBNCBC Oversight Committee met on Thursday, February 16th, and discussed the The Internet For All Now (IFAN) legislation. This meeting was held while I was out of town, but Dan Hamburg was present and participated.
  - IFAN legislation failed to gain traction for various reasons (including that it was flawed), but there is hope: Four other CASF-related bills were introduced last week, although all are simply "place-holders" and do not have substance at this point. Advocates will likely coalesce around one of these bills, maybe AB 1655.
    - AB 854 Curry
    - AB 928 Quirk
    - SB 460 Hueso
    - AB 1655 Garcia
  - The NBNCBC is taking the lead with language for this bill, and we have put our suggested language in the hands of legislators who may sign on as co-authors (Wood and McGuire)
- The PUC also released a "white paper" on high-impact areas to prioritize for CASF funding to get the most "bang for the buck" in their expenditures; they provided lots of detail in their methodology in determining these final 13 areas (none in our county, and only one in the NBNCBC, Bolinas) which included higher-population density areas. This is an informal document, and they have asked for comments. I plan to draft comments for either the Alliance, the county, or both to submit.

### ***PUC Update***

- The carriers have made three requests in regards to the PUC Decision in December which we considered a “victory”:

  1. A “delay” of 6 months in any implementation of the requirements of the decision; this delay was granted by the PUC.
  2. A “stay” of the decision, which means that it’s “on hold” while they try to over-turn the decision. The PUC has not ruled on this request yet.
  3. A “re-hearing” of the decision; this request has not yet been ruled on either.

- Mendocino filed responses to both the delay request and the re-hearing request, by signing onto TURN’s response. They had a very good response to the re-hearing request. All these documents are posted on the BAMC website (scroll down).

**Outreach**

- The Alliance is has developed a name for itself. The Institute for Local Self Reliance (a national group with HQ in DC) referred someone from Sierra County who wants to start a grassroots organizing group to me. I spent a bit of time via email telling about our successes and challenges, and the process we went through in starting out.
- We had our regular outreach meeting on March 3rd, and it was a good meeting, and well-attended.

**Broadband Deployments**

- I mentioned last month that the Anchor Bay Campground (between Gualala and Point Arena) was successful in getting better service to the 39 residents of their campground and their success story is posted on our website. Businesses in Gualala will also be getting better service through this provider as well.
- The provider who wants to deploy new services in an underserved area is moving forward. I can’t share any details at this time however since the project is not yet ready to be announced. I also meet with another provide on a regular basis to discuss possible projects.

**February Meeting Summary**

02/02/17	NBNCBC team meeting	Conference call
02/07/17	Meeting with Fort Bragg Officials	Fort Bragg
02/07/17	Meeting with SeaKay	Fort Bragg
02/27/17	NBNCBC team meeting	Conference call