

**Date:** June 6th, 2017

**To:** BAMC Executive Committee and Board of Supervisors

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

**From:** Trish Steel

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### ***Broadband Goals and Strategies***

- A presentation on our Broadband Goals and Strategies was made at each of the four City Council meetings, some of the MACs, the Fort Bragg Chamber of Commerce, and at the Fire Chief's Association. The purpose of the presentation was to update them on our work, and ask for their endorsement. I felt like all the presentations were well-received, and all the city councils agreed to bring the topic back at their next meeting for endorsement.
- The BWG met on May 12th to update the Broadband infrastructure conceptual design map.
- Info is posted on our website.

### ***PUC White Paper on CASF Reform***

- PUC staff is being pro-active and looking to reform the CASF program. They produced an 85-page white paper, and then held a half-day workshop for input. I attended the workshop via webinar, because I feel that reform of the program to remove barriers to entry is important. We have no applications because no providers apply, even though all our residents pay into the fund via user fees. I then personally contacted over 10 providers in our area and encouraged them to provide input into the program and have been working with the consortium to develop draft comments for NBNBC to submit.

### ***Legislation***

- Last month I was part of a CalTrans stakeholder group that met in Sacramento to develop a framework for guidelines for the AB 1549, the Broadband Conduit Bill that Assemblymember Wood passed last year that moves us towards "dig once." The next meeting is in June or July, and I plan to stay involved in this important issue. There is a draft CalTrans map which provides a clear visual where they are doing projects in the state. You might want to check it out and if you have any thoughts about this map for me please let me know. Click the Layer List icon to bring up the layers for the map. You might have to zoom in until the specific layer becomes active/turned on. Clicking on any active layers inside the map will bring up an information pop-up.
- AB 1665 - The Internet for All Now (IFAN) unfortunately is a "good bill gone bad" because of last minute changes by industry. The NBNBC does not support this bill any more. It has passed out of the Assembly on June 1st, and now goes to the Senate. We hope the bill does not pass

the senate. You can get legislative updates on this (and other legislation) and read articles on this bill [here](#).

- SB 649 (the small cell bill) is getting a lot of attention by city governments because of the loss of local control concerns. It passed out of the Senate on May 31st and now goes to the Assembly.
- The FCC issued a Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on the Open Internet on May 17th. Basically, they want to repeal 2015 Open Internet Order when Internet was re-classified from an unregulated “information service” to a regulated “telecommunications service” under title 2. This is a big topic getting a lot of attention nationally. Chairman Pai calls this NPR “Restoring Internet Freedom.”
- The FCC also plans to de-regulate the Business Data Service (BDS) market and has opened a proceeding to do so. BDS services are wireline “always on” connectivity that businesses such as gas stations, banks, ATMs, police, etc use. We could see prices that business have to pay for high-speed broadband from incumbents (AT&T) go up as price caps are removed. I have read most of the Order, and dissents, and it’s not clear to me the implications, nor do I think anyone really knows. FCC Commissioner Clyburn makes dire predictions in her dissent.

### **Outreach**

- Our last meeting on Friday May 5th had almost no attendees (me, Mike Nichols, Dan Hamburg)! I think this had something to do with a problem sending out the agenda so that some folks didn’t receive it (MCN upgraded their servers the night before, and my over-ride of sending multi-person emails was maybe reset. Not sure what happened but it appears some emails didn’t go through). However, new CF board member Kathy Wylie called in, and we had a great hour-long discussion with her about broadband, so that was productive.
- Our next meeting is July 14th, so hopefully we can have a better turnout.
- Follow the Broadband Alliance on [Facebook](#) if you don’t already!

### **Other kind of interesting items**

- PG&E has applied for a license from the PUC to be a “telecommunications” provider. In their application they say that they only expect to have “1-5” subscribers so they obviously plan to partner with another company (AT&T?) to provide services. I have heard rumors that Ukiah will be a pilot “air-gig” area, but I have no idea if there is truth to this rumor or not. Comments in response to their application from consumer groups express concern.
- Century Link wants to merge with Level 3 (L3), which will be more consolidation in the middle-mile fiber market. L3 has fiber leaving from the Manchester Landing Cable on the coast and going west over to Highway 5. I don’t know how or if the sale will have any affect on Mendocino.

- A report came out last week by a Taxpayer Association saying muni-network are financial disasters, but the Institute of Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) came out with a rebuttal which I posted on our website.

***May Meeting Summary***

05/03/17	Ukiah City Council	Presentation
05/08/17	Fort Bragg City Council	Presentation
05/10/17	Fire Chief's presentation	Presentation
05/10/17	Willits City Council	Presentation
05/10/17	Meeting with MCOE re low-cost adoption programs	Meeting with Theresa
05/17/17	Coast Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	Presentation
05/23/17	Point Arena City Council	Presentation
05/12/17	Broadband Working Group Meeting	Infrastructure Design Map
05/25/17	CASF program Improvement Workshop	Webinar 1-5 pm