

**Date:** August 1st, 2017

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

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

**From:** Trish Steel

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

- The Broadband Goals & Strategies was presented to all four city councils, and many other groups to gain support. I presented the Goals Document to the Board of Supervisors on July 11th and they endorsed them as well.
- There were a few groups that I met with that did not endorse, and I think that it would be good for future follow-up. The groups I am specifically thinking of are the Chambers of Commerce, Farm Bureau, and Dept of Agriculture.
- I am trying to schedule a next meeting of the Broadband Working Group for October, to start on ideas for a county Broadband Plan.
- UDJ ran a story on the Broadband Goals - <http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/general-news/20170725/mendocino-county-lays-out-first-official-broadband-goals>

### ***NBNCBC updates***

- The NBNCBC Quarter 2 report was submitted to the PUC and is posted online.

### ***BAMC Outreach and provider updates***

- We had a good public outreach meeting on July 14th.
- I am working with a local provider and focusing on the north coast for outreach, and trying to both increase adoption rates where broadband is available, and to identify pockets of unserved areas where there might be enough households to build a feasible business case. I will be attending the Westport BBQ for next outreach.
- Good news for connectivity in the state parks. The state parks superintendent reports that Hendy Woods, Van Dam, and Russian Gulch now have fiber connections. The next step is to get wi-fi on the beaches and campgrounds. Another goal is to get connectivity to Laguna Point harbor seal rookery to set up a webcam.
- Parks are also looking to get a fiber connection to the Mendocino Woodlands and parks are looking to possibly do the trenching themselves. I am trying to arrange a meeting with the

superintendent to avoid a “monopoly” situation that could have negative future impacts (such as, ATT alone lays privately-owned fiber in the trench); a suggestion I’ll make is to also add empty conduit as protection against abuse. Maybe the BAMC would like to pay for something like this from their Community Foundation Infrastructure Fund?

- Follow the Broadband Alliance on [Facebook](#).

## **Legislation**

- [AB 1665](#) This bill had harmful amendments added, which caused many groups to withdraw their support. NBNBCB has been opposed from pretty early on when the CAF exclusion areas became part of the bill. The bill is still active, and Assemblymember Wood continues working with stakeholders including the CETF so no final version is yet available.
- Congressman Huffman’s [HR 2425](#) (Public Lands Telecommunications Act) looks good for passage. Last month’s report said that I was concerned about possible amendments, but found out from the Congressman’s office that the amendments were only small technical changes (whew!). They expect the bill to go to the house floor for a vote soon.
- [Senator McGuire’s Warren-911 Emergency Assistance Act \(SB566\)](#) for notification of rural outages failed to come out of the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communication committee hearing, and so was made into a 2-year bill.
- [SB 649](#) (the small cell bill) has opposition from some city governments because of concerns about the loss of local control, but it is moving strongly along. It passed out of the Senate on May 31st and at last check on 7/18 was in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- This month President Trump unveiled his infrastructure plan and supposedly there is money for rural broadband. However, no details are available so it’s hard to know anything more.

## **Rural Call Completion**

- The RCC moved into Phase 2 with a meeting of the stakeholders Working Group to discuss rural outage reporting. Mendocino sent our OES coordinator Rick Ehlert to participate (I listened in by phone) who did a great job presenting our perspective. In my opinion however, the group was very industry-heavy, and I would like to see more rural counties represented in this group.

Industry presented a proposal to have an “MOU” for rural outage reporting instead of any sort of regulatory change. I have concerns about accountability with an MOU; it also does not address the issue of the “information gap” at the PUC on rural outages since this information would not be shared with the PUC.

**Other kind of interesting items**

- FirstNet submitted their CA state plan to CalOES, which held a series of workshops around the state to share plans and get public safety input. I attended one of these presentation in Redding last week.

AT&T will use their existing LTE network with 150 MHz spectrum to bring FirstNet on-line immediately, while they build out the government-owned 20 MHz spectrum (called Band 14) specific for FN.

Ca coverage maps presented at this meeting showed the Sonoma-Mendocino coast as lacking adequate coverage for the network. I suspect that they will be using their CAF funding to increase coverage, as they do not yet have cross-roaming agreements in place.

The Governor needs to decide by mid-December whether to “opt-in” or “opt-out”. Seven states have already opted-in. The opt-out decision is much more difficult as it would require states to spend their own money and build alternative network that is completely inter-operable; alternative plans would also need approved by FCC, NTIA, and obtain a spectrum lease from FN.

**July Meeting Summary**

07/07/2017	CalTrans #2 Stakeholders Working Group Meeting	Conference Call
07/07/2017	Sen. McGuire on AB 1665	Conference Call
07/10/2017	Senate Committee hearing on AB 1665	Sacramento
07/11/2017	Board of Supervisors Presentation of Broadband Goals and Strategies	Ukiah
07/11/2017	Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting	Westport
07/19/2017	How Broadband is transforming Agriculture	BB USA webinar
07/20/2017	FirstNet meeting	Redding
07/24/2017	Broadband Working Group, 1st meeting	Call in
07/26/2017	LMAC meeting	Laytonville
07/17/2017	First meeting of FB IT Committee	Fort Bragg
07/14/2017	BAMC Public Outreach meeting	Ukiah