

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County



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BAMC: Recorded Outreach Meeting
Friday, June 5th, 2020



BAMC: Agenda June 5th, 2020

- Introductions & Overview
- Agenda revision and approval
- NBNBCB CASF Grant Application - Tom West
- WiConduit - Calvin Sandeen

Community Partners:

- Office of Congressman Jared Huffman
- Office of Senator Mike McGuire
- Office of Assemblymember Jim Wood
- Mendocino County Executive Office
- Supervisor Ted Williams
- Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools
- Mendocino County Planning Department
- Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services

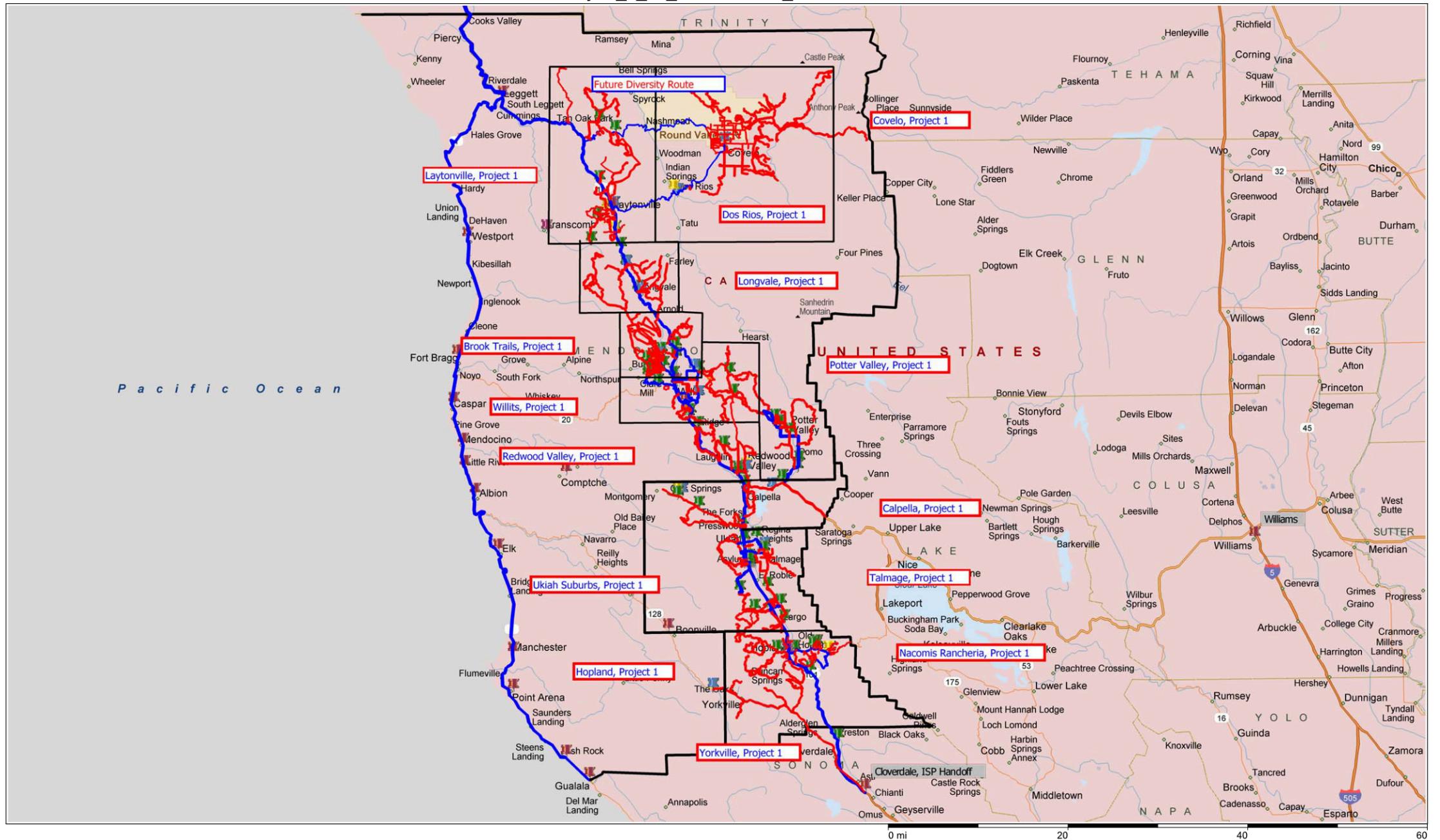
Legislative updates:

- S.3548 - CARES Act
- (H.R. 6723) The Universal Broadband Act
- H.R. 6491 The E-Bridge Act
- SB 1130 Telecommunications: California Advanced Services Fund
- SB 1206 - Local government: broadband infrastructure development project permit processing: microtrenching permit processing ordinance.
- AB-1366 Office of Emergency Services: coordination of communications.
- AB 2421 - Land use: permitting: wireless communications
- Move 2030: West Business Development Center.
- Access Sonoma Broadband updates
- Closing comments and suggestions for future agenda items

North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC)

- In November 2019, the NBNCBC-Mendocino County Team developed a three-year action plan focused on implementing the County's **Digital Infrastructure Plan** with two projects to be funded by grants from the CASF Infrastructure Program. These projects will deploy broadband infrastructure and services to provide broadband access to of Unserved and Non-Served Households in several communities throughout Mendocino County. These projects include:
- **Project 1: 2020 CASF Grant Application** - Unserved and Non-Served Households (HHs) in and around Round Valley/Covelo/Dos Rios, Laytonville, Willits, Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Calpella, Talmage, Ukiah and Hopland
- **Project 2: 2021 CASF Grant Application** - Unserved and Non-Served Households (HHs) in and around Leggett, Branscomb, Piercy, Westport, Cleone, Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Little River, Albion, Elk, Manchester, Point Arena, Anchor Bay, Gualala, Comptche, Philo, and Boonville
- When these two projects are completed, nearly 9,000 Unserved and Non-Served Households across Mendocino County will have broadband access plus hundreds of small businesses. There will also be an advanced technologically robust and diverse infrastructure in place around the county.

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Calvin Sandeen, President

- WiConduit is a non-profit on a mission to close the Digital Divide by deploying broadband infrastructure and services into unserved and underserved communities.
- WiConduit is seeking 100% funding through granting agencies to cover upfront capital expenditures, then generate revenue through the lease arrangement with the partnering ISP to cover its operating costs. After WiConduit covers its expenses, any remaining revenue will be reinvested into its mission to expand broadband into more unserved areas.
- WiConduit prioritizes deploying underground conduit and fiber-optics that it would own, maintain, and lease to internet service providers to operate internet service, and so avoid the above ground threats commonly faced in rural areas, such as trees falling, vehicle accidents, or wildfire damage.
- While fiber-to-the-premise is our primary goal, wireless options will be incorporated into WiConduit's portfolio for project areas that are exceptionally difficult to bring fiber to.

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Legislative updates (Federal)

- S.3548 - CARES Act 116th Congress (2019-2020)
- Provides \$100 million in additional funds to USDA Re-Connect
- Makes \$200 million available for rural telehealth
- Provides \$50 million in grant to museums and libraries for devices and support
- Allots \$30 billion to States for schools use to support online learning.
- H.R. 6723
- House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) introduced legislation to increase a federal program's ability to help with broadband buildout. The Universal Broadband Act (H.R. 6723) would modernize the Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Fund so it can play a bigger role in closing the digital divide.
- H.R. 6491
- The E-Bridge Act, introduced by Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.), would ensure that rural communities could use Economic Development Administration grants to help pay for expanding broadband access.

“H.R. 4227 — 116th Congress: Mapping Accuracy Promotes Services Act.”

The MAPS Act (HR 4227) -- passed by the House of Representatives on December 16, 2019 -- would prohibit any person from willfully, knowingly, or recklessly submitting inaccurate information or data related to the geographic coverage of broadband Internet service to the Federal Communications Commission. Violators would be subject to criminal and civil penalties in the same amounts currently imposed on anyone who knowingly provides inaccurate information to the FCC.

- H.R. 4229 — 116th Congress: Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act.”

The Broadband Data Act makes several changes to the way the FCC collects, verifies and reports broadband data. Changes include:

Eliminating the current data collection model and implementing the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, a system that utilizes geocoding to map coverage. Currently, mapping is based on U.S. Census blocks. Internet Service Providers (ISP) count a block “covered” if one household in that block has 25 Mbps (megabytes per second) internet service or higher. This can result in major data discrepancies as many households may be inaccurately marked as covered.

Requiring the FCC to develop processes for any person or entity to submit broadband availability data to verify or challenge the FCC’s database or maps.

Directing the FCC to update the granular data every six months and to make it publicly available.

Allowing the FCC to contract out the creation and maintenance of the mapping system to a private firm(s) for no longer than five years with a competitive, open and transparent bidding process.

The bill authorizes \$28 million total for FYs 2020 and 2021 for the FCC to issue rules, establish reporting requirements and hire contractors to establish a comprehensive broadband database and maps. Counties support the changes outlined in S. 1822/H.R. 4229

Legislative updates (State)

- SB 1130 Telecommunications: California Advanced Services Fund
- SB 1206 - Local government: broadband infrastructure development project permit processing: microtrenching permit processing ordinance.
- AB-1366 Office of Emergency Services: coordination of communications.
- AB 2421 - Land use: permitting: wireless communications

SB 1130 Telecommunications: California Advanced Services Fund

- Changes the CASF mandate from delivering “High-quality advanced communications services”, to “21st Century-ready communications services to all Californians that will promote economic growth, job creation, and the substantial social benefits of advanced information and communications technologies provide high-capacity, future-proof infrastructure, as defined.”
- 05/26/20 Passed Senate’s Energy, Utilities and Communications W/ McGuire’s Aye vote.

SB 1206 - Local government: broadband infrastructure development project permit processing: microtrenching permit processing ordinance.

- “...Finds and declares that microtrenching, which is critical to the deployment of broadband services and other utility services, is a matter of statewide concern and is not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, this section applies to all cities, including charter cities.”
- 04/01/20 Read a second time and amended. Re-referred to Rules Committee.

AB-1366 Office of Emergency Services: coordination of communications.

- Existing law establishes the Office of Emergency Services within the office of the Governor. Existing law requires the office to develop a plan and timeline of target dates for the testing, implementation, and operation of a Next Generation 911 emergency communication system, including text to 911 service, throughout California. Existing law requires the Next Generation 911 emergency communication system to incorporate certain elements, including public safety communications, as specified.

AB 2421 - Land use: permitting: wireless communications

- Bill excerpt:
- Enabling the rapid deployment of emergency standby generators is vital for public safety to help ensure consumers maintain access to 911 services, wireless emergency alerts, and other public safety communications. Fragmented and lengthy permitting requirements could delay these public safety deployments by many months and in some cases could prevent them altogether.
- Given the urgency of ensuring wireless providers are prepared for fire-threat events, it is necessary to expedite these public safety deployments. This legislation would create a narrow time-limited exemption and a uniform process for the expedited installation of low emission, emergency standby generators rated by the State Air Resources Board and associated storage tanks located within, or immediately adjacent to, an already permitted macro cell tower site.
- Specifically, this legislation will allow wireless providers to prepare for future fire seasons and power outages using an expedited process that does both of the following:
- Applies to the installation of a standard-configuration standby emergency generator at previously permitted macro cell tower sites.
- Provides for local administrative review with a 60-day deadline for local agencies to approve or deny applications.

06/03/20 Passed Assembly Appropriations, previously heard in Asm Local Government.

In both cases it passed unanimously, Assemblymember Wood does not sit on either of those Committees.

MOVE2030

Mendocino Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy

- Our plan is to create a strategic economic framework for the activities and efforts of local governments, agencies, and organizations to create a resilient economy in Mendocino County
- MOVE2030 is a public/private partnership set up to common metrics that will help tell the story of how Mendocino County's resiliency plan can improve the economic condition over the next decade.
- As part of MOVE2030, the ***Mendocino County Digital Infrastructure Plan*** is to develop the digital infrastructure needed to have available and affordable high-speed internet access for 98% of households by 2025. High-speed Internet, for the purposes of this plan is defined as 100 megabits per second (mbps) download speed and 20 mbps upload speed. This is an ambitious goal, but critical for the economic future of Mendocino County and through advancements in technology it is possible.

Access Sonoma Broadband updates



Wrap-up

- Closing comments
- Suggestions for future agenda items

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Photo by B S K from Freemages

Next BAMC Quarterly meeting,
Friday, September 4th, 10 am-noon

