

North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium

**The North Bay/North Coast Broadband
Consortium
(NCBCBC)**

**4th Quarter Report
to the
CASF**

April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

Submitted July 13, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

The vision of the **NBNCBC** is to have the persistent digital divide in Marin, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma counties eliminated. The mission of the **NBNCBC** is to:

- 1) Develop a strategic broadband plan for each county based on “last mile” community needs, and integrate the county plans into a regional plan.
- 2) Determine current actual broadband access and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 3) Assess and aggregate unmet demand throughout the region, based on a county’s ground-truth data.
- 4) Identify potential funding sources to improve broadband deployment and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 5) Encourage broadband service providers to use identified funding sources to improve broadband deployment and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 6) Work with broadband service providers to develop a long-term strategic plan for keeping broadband deployment and adoption standard, or above, throughout the region.

The primary goals of the Year 1 Annual Work Plan, Project Schedule and Budget are to:

- complete the development of community-based “last mile” plans for those unserved and underserved communities in each of the four counties; and,
- work with providers to facilitate the development, funding, and implementation of specific projects that will bring broadband infrastructure and services to these communities.

There are three measurable deliverables in the Year 1 Work Plan.

Deliverable #1 Produce a report covering each county’s: 1) involvement of the wide range of stakeholders (*Activity 1.1*) and (*Activity 1.2*); 2) completion of ground truth surveys validating broadband availability and access (*Activity 2.1*); and 3) status and progress in working with telecommunications providers to launch and implement projects that will provide broadband capabilities to serve 98 % of the county’s households (*Activity 2.2*) and (*Activity 2.3*).

Deliverable #2 Produce a report that includes: 1) a conceptual design for a countywide infrastructure plan for each county (*Activity 3.1*); 2) an initial set of “last mile” conceptual designs for communities in each county (*Activity 3.2*); and, 3) a conceptual design for a Region I Infrastructure Plan that links the county plans together (*Activity 4.1*). This report and designs will be used as a guide for the implementation of infrastructure projects and as a yardstick to measure progress (*Activity 3.4*) towards the 98% household access goal.

Deliverable #3 Issue a progress report assessing the availability of and the needs for adoption programs in each county. (*Activity 5.1*)

These deliverables and the associated activities are shown in Chart 2.1 below. **NBNCBC** will measure its performance against these tasks and deliverables in the Year 1 Work Plan on a quarterly basis using the Chart 2.1.

To execute the Year 1 Work Plan, **NBNCBC** is organized as follows: The four county governments are directly involved with the work of **NBNCBC**. As part of their participation in **NBNCBC** each of the four County Boards of Supervisors approved a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to have Sonoma County act as the financial agent to administer the CASF Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia grant of \$250,000 over two years. Each Board also appointed a County Supervisor to serve on the NBNCBC Oversight Committee. The members of the Oversight Committee are Steve Kinsey, Marin County; Dan Hamburg, Mendocino County; Diane Dillon, Napa County; and, Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County. Tom West, the Consortia Manager, serves as the non-voting chair. Through the members of the Oversight Committee the interests of all the constituents of each county are represented.

The day-to-day operation of NBNCBC is being carried out by a Management Team that includes the Consortium Manager and a County Manager and Deputies for each county. The members of the Management Team are Peter Pratt, Barbara Layton and Barbara Thornton, Marin; Trish Steel and Steve Dunicliff, Mendocino; Anthony Halstead, Napa; Mike Nicholls and Steve Sharpe, Sonoma; and, Tom West for NBNCBC.

Most of the work of NBNCBC is carried out at the county level. Each county has an advisory group or a task force driving the work.

The Oversight Committee meets officially on a quarterly basis, or as needed. Each county manager is keeping his Oversight Committee member informed on an ongoing basis; often meeting on specific topics.

The NBNCBC Management team meets at least once a month and often has special conference calls between meetings. Email exchanges occur daily keeping team members aware of ongoing activities in each of the four counties.

II. SUMMARY OF THE 4TH QUARTER

There are six major activities in carrying out this two-year effort. Within each activity, there are several tasks to be executed. In the Year 1 Work Plan we are only dealing with the first five activities.

During this fourth quarter of Year 1 most of the time and energy of each county team was spent on **Activity 2.3** and on **Activity 3.2**. The county teams worked to bring together providers and priority communities to develop broadband plans and projects that would meet the needs of those communities. And, to work on finding the funds, including submitting applications for CASF grants.

There has been some progress. Interestingly, several providers are developing services for communities in these counties using their own funding resources. Only one project, the Sea Ranch Homeowners Association, has made a grant application for CASF Infrastructure funding. There are a couple projects close to being ready for submission of a grant application. However, it has been rough sledding for NBNCBC and each county team to get providers and communities to come together to launch much-needed projects.

In addition to these two activities, we were to produce brief county reports identifying the status and need for adoption and training program, **Activity 5.1**. As you will note in that section of this report we still have work to do to complete the report in Sonoma County.

As for **Activity 1.1**, **Activity 1.2** and **Activity 2.2** we believe we have engaged the

communities and major entities and have kept them informed throughout the year.

We completed the mobile ground truth-testing project, **Activity 2.1** by the end of the third quarter.

Although **Activity 3.1** commenced in January 2015, we were not scheduled to put forth much more effort this year. **Activity 4.1** was launched in April 2015 with the work continuing into Year 2.

As shown in Chart 2.1, we believe NBNCBC has achieved 100 percent of its target for **Deliverable #1 and Deliverable #2**. For **Deliverable #3** we believe NBNCBC has achieved 90 percent of its target. The remaining 10 percent involves Sonoma developing its final report based on the results of the survey it conducted in this quarter.

Chart 2.1 FY Year 1 Performance Measures: Outcome Metrics

DELIVERABLES	Projected Completion Date	1st Qtr % Achieved	2Qtr % Achieved	3Qtr % Achieved	4Qth % Achieved
Deliverable #1. Status and Progress Report on <i>Activity 1.1 and 1.2 and Activity 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3</i>	6-30-15	65%	80%	90%	100%
Deliverable #2. Status and Progress Report on <i>Activity 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 and Activity 4.1.</i>	6-30-15	0%	10%	70%	100%
Deliverable #3. Report on the Availability of and needs for adoption programs <i>Activity 5.1</i>	3-31-15	0%	10%	70%	90%

It should be noted that Marin County has taken the **NBNCBC Year 1 Work Plan and Deliverables** as a guide and developed its own specific county- based Year 1 Work Plan to reflect its needs and priorities, but remain consistent with the overall **NBNCBC Year 1 Work Plan**. The other three counties are following the **NBNCBC Year 1 Work Plan**. As can be noted in this report each county is progressing at its own pace.

The following provides details on the tasks and outcomes achieved by **NBNCBC**, as a whole, and by each county this quarter.

1. Activity #1: ENSURE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT---Deliverable #1
1.1.Engage Community Leadership

- 1.1.1. *Meet, engage and seek input from County Supervisors;*
 - 1.1.2. *Meet engage and seek input from the leaders of cities, towns, census designated places, and tribal communities;*
 - 1.1.3. *Meet, engage and seek input from school, library, health care, public safety and government agency leaders;*
 - 1.1.4. *Meet, engage and seek input from countywide advisory groups;*
 - 1.1.5. *Meet, engage and seek input community and business groups; and,*
 - 1.1.6. *Meet and inform community media (newspaper, radio, TV etc).*
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NBNCBC Consortium. As stated before, most of the tasks in the various activities are being carried out at the county level by the county teams. This was especially true during this quarter. Each county team worked with various communities and constituencies through its advisory groups and task forces. Unlike previous quarters we did not have any consortium wide efforts focused on community involvement.

Marin County. As we stated in our last quarterly report, and as amplified in several sections below, the work of the Marin Broadband Task Force (MBTF) during the last half of our first year was focused in three (3) primary activities:

1. Support of access providers and a community organization coming forward to seek CASF infrastructure grants for communities in the under- and un- served areas of rural West Marin. Sections below give specifics on the number of Priority Areas now being worked on.
2. The analysis and multi-agency planning relating to the E-Rate Modernization Orders of FCC (July, December 2014) to determine how these new frameworks may drive the expansion of middle mile optical fiber throughout Marin County was previously reported in our quarterly updates. As detailed below, MBTF has recently launched initial pilot surveys of outside plant (OSP) optical fiber in this regard.
3. Continued work on Adoption and training efforts coordinated by the Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA). This work will see the start of a middle school adoption program in the Q3 2015.

Additionally, MBTF fully supported NBNCBC's efforts during this time to ensure that regional right-of-way opportunities are being presented for optimal achievement of public policies promoting the goals of multi-carrier competition and investment in regional telecommunications infrastructure.

As previously reported, MBTF devoted significant effort and time in the first half of the Consortium's first year to the issue of ground truth testing and the reality that mobile wireless service is not an effective substitute for wired broadband infrastructure. As we have also previously expressed, MBTF is particularly appreciative of the attention and time of both CPUC-CASF staff and our NBNCBC colleagues that has been devoted to this issue.

Mendocino County. The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) is the advisory group that works with the NBNBCB for Mendocino County. The Chair of the BAMC is also the deputy-county manager of the NBNBCB. Through the BAMC and their monthly public outreach meetings, we have an established forum for public discussion, input, flow of information, and education. During the 4th quarter the BAMC held three (3) public outreach meetings at the county seat in Ukiah, and which included participation by Supervisors Hamburg and Supervisor Woodhouse along with many others. The agenda for our meetings include a standing item for updates from the Mendocino County office of Education, the Executive Office, Libraries, Public Safety, Economic Development and Financing Corporation, and a technology update. Agendas and meeting notes are distributed to an email list of about 250 people as well as being posted on our website www.MendocinoBroadband.org

In April we also offered the opportunity for residents to learn more about the technology of Fixed Wireless by offering a tutorial by our Technology Chair Brian Churm. Fixed Wireless is technology through which many of our rural communities will receive service, and yet many people have questions or concerns about how it works. The notes from this tutorial are also posted on our website.

The media continues to show interest in our work and activities. The Broadband Alliance sent our public safety liaison Randy MacDonald to Washington DC to participate in a rural Telecom Policy Briefing, hosted by Public Knowledge and sponsored by Congressman Huffman. Randy made a presentation on network reliability and the Erosion of our 911 System. His policy briefing and a link on YouTube to the hearing are both posted on our website <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/data-and-reports/>

The largest paper in the county, the Ukiah Daily Journal, featured two prominent articles on the front page about Randy's trip, both before and a follow-up article with a photo afterwards.

The BAMC continues to social media to share information and increase public visibility with a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/BroadbandAlliance>

Napa County. Given that the CPUC Broadband Availability Map and the FCC Broadband Map indicate the over 98% of Napa County is served, the Napa Team continues to focus its energies on identifying and working with real pockets of need in the County.

The County Library provides a keystone for the citizens to gain access to vital information. Soon the Library will increase its broadband speeds to 1 Gig thanks to the statewide public library initiative sponsored by the State Library and CENIC, the education and research network for California. As a result of new funds appropriated in the State Budget, Napa will join other public libraries across the State.

Over the past two quarters the Napa Team worked with The County's

Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs Division (County Housing Authority (CHA)) to develop a project plan to bring broadband to the County's three migrant housing centers. The project would impact the residents and allow the County Library to expand access to information, basic literacy classes, additional ESL and digital literacy support to the 500 annual residents. The plan was to use the remaining CASF grant funds to cover the capital costs of the project. Unfortunately, the County could not cover the ongoing costs based on the quotes from the only provider in the area.

Sonoma County. Access Sonoma Broadband (ASB) continues to meet monthly. Topics in the 4th quarter included: Health Services and Telehealth, Local Broadband/Telecom infrastructure financing and special districts (LAFCO), pending legislation, local permitting/environmental issues and the County project to utilize abandoned conduit infrastructure. We engaged our state legislative team in support of pending broadband legislation. We continue to work with Joy Rd. Connect group on broadband deployment feasibility. We attend monthly Broadband Alliance of Mendocino meetings. During this quarter we attended a 911 Broadband legislative meeting in Sacramento with Senator McGuire and Cathy Emerson. A legislative meeting was held with Assemblyman Dodd's and Senator McGuire's Santa Rosa staff. Monthly update presentations are made to EDB Board and staff members. A monthly presentation is made to the Russian River Resources Alliance. This quarter we reviewed Minority Adoption Rates with the Los Cien Executive (Latino leaders) staff. We regularly hold briefing meetings with Supervisor Carrillo for Oversight Committee purposes.

1.2. Maintain Community Commitment throughout the Life of the Project

- 1.2.1. *Conduct annual briefings of the county supervisors;*
- 1.2.2. *Hold quarterly meetings of the Oversight Committee;*
- 1.2.3. *Meet regularly with countywide advisory groups;*
- 1.2.4. *Meet "in-person and hold "open" conference calls with interested groups in each of the counties to discuss and seek input on specific issues and opportunities;*
- 1.2.5. *Maintain a web site;*
- 1.2.6. *Publish an electronic newsletter quarterly;*
- 1.2.7. *Issue special reports, as appropriate;*
- 1.2.8. *Issue proactive news releases, as appropriate; and,*
- 1.2.9. *Form ad hoc task forces, as needed.*

NBNCBC Consortium. The fourth official Oversight Committee meeting was held on June 18, 2015. The major agenda item dealt with the issue of **"Deploying Competitive Telecommunications Infrastructure along the Route 101 Corridor"**. We discussed the potential impact the SMART ROW and the WilTel fiber conduit, owned by Sonoma County and some of its municipalities, could have on the development of broadband in this region of California. A specific concern was expressed that the current independent negotiations each of these entities is having with one specific carrier could potentially thwart the proper use of these assets to serve our counties and those north of us. Actions have been

taken to request meetings with each of these entities to determine if there can be some mutual benefits achieved.

The county advisory committees and task forces meet on a regular basis. For instance the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) and Access Sonoma Broadband (ASB) meet monthly. The Marin and Napa task forces meet regularly.

NBNCBC does not maintain an independent web site. It relies on the BAMC web site to host its official information. Reports and other documents are posted on this site. Access Sonoma Broadband also hosts web pages on the County of Sonoma website, including topical news items, reports, and meeting schedules.

The second newsletter was issued June 30, 2015.

Marin County. As reported in our previous quarterly reports, the Marin Broadband Task Force (MBTF) has maintained routine inter-departmental communications as funding projects are pursued. Represented directly on MBTF, in addition to County Supervisor Steve Kinsey, are the County Administrator's Office, Department of Public Works, the Information Services & Technology Department, and the Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA).

MTA is further comprised of representative of county and municipal government comprising all Marin County jurisdictions except the City of Novato. Over the last several months, MTA has begun a new strategic planning initiative which speaks to both the going forward role of local video services regulation under law, regulation, and a changing marketplace; and to the role of the County and its municipalities in broadband development.

In the second half of the Consortium's first year, MBTF has successfully inaugurated work with the information technology (IT) senior leadership of the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE). This work examines how recent reforms by FCC to the federal E-Rate regulations may be best accessed for benefit of the 35,000 K-12 pupils served by Marin's 19 school districts.

Mendocino County. Please see activity 1.1 above.

Napa County. Please see activity 1.1 above.

Sonoma County. We conducted four ASB meetings (see above). In addition we also attend NBNCBC management and Oversight Committee meetings. We responded to several inquires regarding local broadband services. We update and maintain the ASB web site. ASB is responsible for the updating and maintenance of the ASB web pages.

2. Activity #2: ASSESS, DOCUMENT AND MONITOR THE UNMET BROADBAND NEEDS THROUGHOUT EACH COUNTY

2.1. Assess the Broadband Demands and Needs of all the Communities throughout each County--- Deliverable #1

- 2.1.1. *Initiate the Ground Truth Surveys, using the CPUC process, in Marin and Napa counties first focusing on the unserved and underserved communities, as reported by CPUC reports and continue working towards a complete county assessment of broadband needs;*
- 2.1.2. *Extend the use of the CPUC Ground Truth Survey process already underway in Mendocino and Sonoma counties working towards a complete county assessment of broadband needs; and,*
- 2.1.3. *Compile a progress report for each county of its finding as a result of the ground truth surveys.*

NBNBC Consortium. NBNBC conducted an extensive Mobile Wireless Ground Truth Testing project in three phases between November 2014 and February 2015. We submitted each phase report to the CPUC. In March we learned our results were inaccurate because we did not correctly follow the CPUC procedures. In late March CPUC staff provided us corrected results and agreed to post them on the California Broadband Availability Map.

We have yet to reissue the final report with the corrected results. However, counties are proceeding to work with the new and “official” results.

Marin County. As mentioned above, MBTF spend considerable time during 2014, and into 2015, engaged in an interactive process with CASF staff and NBNBC colleagues to examine CPUC’s guidelines for the statistical recognition of the results of the Mobile Wireless Ground Truth Testing program.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of CASF staff and our Consortium colleagues in this important undertaking.

Additionally, in July the MBTF is scheduled to review the work of the County’s retained telecommunications consulting firm relative to the seven (7) Priority Areas for targeted CASF investment in rural West Marin vis-à-vis the progress being made toward CASF grant applications for these areas. This review will be further complimented by the consultant’s data and GIS mapping of the clusters of un- and under-served households in Marin County which do not concentrate in the Priority Areas. Strategies will be developed for this lower density communities following the data analysis and review.

Mendocino County. In late 2014, Mendocino County experienced a Telecommunication outage that affected roughly 20% of our residents, many for 45 hours. We documented this outage in our “Broadband Outage report.” As a result of the publicity around this report, we received a call from the Government Accountability Office requesting an

interview about this outage, how it affected residents, and what has been done since that time, and overall network reliability. Four members of the NBNCBC consortium and 3 GAO staff had a very good two (2) hour discussion about these topics.

Mendocino County continues to encourage residents to provide ground-truth feedback via the CPUC survey, which is prominently displayed on the Home page of the Broadband Alliance Website, in both English and Spanish www.MendocinoBroadband.org.

In preparation for CASF grant applications, much data was collected via the California Broadband map at the census block level for served, unserved, and underserved areas. As much as possible, attempts were made to talk with residents from specific areas to determine if their experience correlated to the mapping data, and to determine where wireline service ended within specific census blocks.

Napa County. In December 2014 the Napa Team identified nine (9) priority areas including: Calistoga area, Pope Valley, St Helena, Oakville, Monticello Rd., Rim Rock, Wild Horse Valley Rd., Browns Valley, and American Canyon. As a result of the NBNCBC mobile ground truth testing in Napa County two of these areas, Browns Valley and American Canyon have been determined as served.

Given that some of the other seven areas may be deemed served by wireline or fixed wireless capabilities, the Napa Team plans to conduct ground truth testing for fixed wireless and wireline services in key priority areas. We are presently seeking models to emulate.

Sonoma County. ASB participated in the overall NBNCBC ground truth testing in Sonoma County. The results confirm that all five (5) areas are either unserved or underserved. Consequently, ASB and the Sonoma Team continue to focus on developing projects for the first four priority areas. For the fifth area, The Sea Ranch Home Owners Association has worked independently of NBNCBC and has developed a plan and has submitted a grant application for CASF Infrastructure funding.

2.2.Consult and Involve Major Service Entities in each County—

Deliverable #1

- 2.2.1. *Engage with the County Office of Education (COE) to understand the broadband needs and long range plans for providing the school districts and schools access to broadband connections back to the COE;*
- 2.2.2. *Work with the County Library (LIBRARY) to understand its broadband needs and long range plans for providing the branch libraries access to broadband connections back to the County Library and through the Library to other libraries in the region and statewide;*
- 2.2.3. *Work with the major County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), under California’s Statewide Interoperability plan, to understand the broadband needs and long range plans for providing all the PSAPs in the county access to broadband connections back to the County PSAP and through this backbone to all other County PSAPs statewide;*

- 2.2.4. *Work with all the health care facilities in the county to understand the broadband needs and long range plans;*
 - 2.2.5. *Work with the County and municipal government IT organizations to determine their broadband needs and plans;*
 - 2.2.6. *Work with incorporated city councils, community services districts and other government entities to ensure their broadband needs are incorporated; and,*
 - 2.2.7. *Produce a written document that reports the progress and status of implementing the broadband plans of these special services entities.*
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NBNCBC Consortium. This activity and the sub-activities are being carried out at the county level.

Marin County. During the last weeks of the Consortium's first year of operations, MBTF cooperated with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) to conduct the first field surveys of public school facilities in Marin County, as those facilities are located proximate to existing competitive optical fiber network routes. This work will form the basis of specific cost - benefit analysis of the potential application of the FCC's E-Rate Modernization Orders released in July and December 2014 to the needs of Marin school campuses.

Mendocino County. The Mendocino team of NBNCBC interfaces with various groups, such as the Mendocino County Office of Education, Mendocino College, PSAPs, and our libraries through participation as our Public Outreach liaisons at our monthly meetings. For example, we recently collaborated with our Library Director to produce a survey on public assess computers to collect data as part of our adoption work.

The Alliance liaison Randy MacDonald reports on the progress of FirstNet and other public safety issues at our monthly meetings as a standing agenda item. As reported above, Randy recently went to Washington DC as part of a Rural Telecom Policy Briefing panel discussion. In May we did outreach to all of the health care facilities to provide updated information about the TeleConnect Fund grant program.

We continue to have strong steady support from the Board of Supervisors for our work, and we are also starting to get participation of city council members at our outreach meetings. We feel this participation is an important part of our work that lies ahead.

Napa County. As stated earlier Napa Library is implementing high-speed connectivity through CENIC's CalREN statewide network. Napa expects to install 1gbps services at the County Library in late summer 2015 and the other 3 locations in the fall/winter. The Library applied for a grant to assist in covering some of the initial costs of equipment, but has been guaranteed full funding regardless of the application's outcome.

Sonoma County. The Sonoma Health Services Department made a presentation to ASB on the tele-health technology services and programs it offers.

Likewise, the LAFCO made a presentation to ASB on the pros and cons of forming an economic zone within the Community Services District for financing broadband infrastructure projects.

2.3. Involve and Work with Telecommunications Providers---

Deliverable #1

- 2.3.1. *Initiate meetings with current major and local telecommunications providers, wireless ISPs, and cellular providers in the county to learn of their current offerings and future plans to deploy broadband to the communities throughout each of the four counties;*
- 2.3.2. *Determine the interest of each company in cooperating in this project;*
- 2.3.3. *Assess whether or not their current assets and future plans can be utilized to help meet the broadband needs in the counties and communities they serve;*
- 2.3.4. *Confirm those providers that do have such assets and are willing to work with the consortium in designing and implementing infrastructure plans to meet the needs countywide and in the communities they serve; and,*
- 2.3.5. *Produce a report that documents the results of these interactions with the providers.*

NBNCBC Consortium. The Consortium Manager and the Management team met with the De Novo Group and SeaKay in March to discuss potential collaboration on deploying broadband in various priority areas across the four counties. There were follow-up meetings held mid-April. Subsequently, individual counties have met with SeaKay and DeNovo.

Marin County. Starting earlier in the Consortium's first year, MBTF was able to add Zayo Group Holdings Inc. (NYSE: ZAYO) to the list of carriers and providers with network facilities in Marin County with which we are in communication. We are in discussions with Zayo as to how its facilities may be used to provide middle mile / backhaul for access providers in the under- and un- served communities of the County.

In coordination with this undertaking, a potential CASF applicant conducted the first field survey in a West Marin community in mid-May for a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network design. The results of that survey are now being incorporated into a design which MBTF expects will be part of the first CASF application to be filed for an area in Marin County.

MBTF is working with two (2) other access providers to similarly develop access network applications for CASF funding. The County's retained consultant has made available detailed data and mapping for these providers to examine as their planning moves ahead.

Mendocino County. The 4th quarter Mendocino County team has focused efforts on the few providers who have shown interest in a CASF

application. Because our small local providers do not have the capacity and resources for the CASF application process, the Broadband Alliance offered to all providers working in the county the possibility of resources to help develop and submit a CASF application. Surprisingly, only one WISP responded, and we have since worked with the Community Foundation to help that WISP fund a grant-writer.

Deputy-county manager Steel has been working with AT&T to develop improved communication with AT&T for reporting of broadband outages to the public, and has involved interested parties such as staff of elected officials, public safety, and the media in this process. It seems to have paid off- a meeting with ATT was held in late June that included the Sheriff, Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director, our local Supervisor, and staff from Congressman Huffman, Senator McGuire, and Assembly Member Wood. This greatly needed meeting was a possible turning point in communication, as concrete actions items were discussed, including participating with the county OES in emergency training situations. We hope that ATT follows through on their talk. A follow-up meeting is scheduled in two months.

Napa County. The Napa Team met with both De Novo and Seakay to discuss possible expansions in the County. De Novo's interests were more aligned with coastal counties. There has not been any additional follow through with SeaKay.

The Napa Team worked with Valley Internet on their installing an infrastructure upgrade in the three Farm worker Centers that provide room and board to migrant farm workers. Unfortunately, the two entities could not agree on the ongoing costs. The County just does not have the budget to meet the proposed prices of Valley Internet.

Sonoma County. Various providers attend the ASB monthly meetings, which are open meetings.

ASB has developed a collaborative relationship with AT&T and hold monthly meetings with Rhuenette Alums, the AT&T's Director of External Affairs.

We also meet regularly with Dan Jasper, CEO of Sonic.net, a local and regional ISP. Ongoing meetings were held with Judy James, representing Comcast Business Development, regarding expansion of their services into the Joy Road and Cazadero areas. She informed us that their analysis yield results that would not make it profitable for Comcast to serve those unserved areas.

The County released a RFP to lease unused county owned conduit to serve communities, county and anchor institutions. Sonic was the sole provider to respond. Due diligence and negotiations are in process. As noted above, NBNCBC is asking the County to meet to discuss its concerns about the scope of the RFP.

We continue to work with wireless providers and during the 4th quarter

service was extended to the Armstrong Woods Headquarters office. Wireless expansion continues to make incremental inroads into unserved areas.

We also met with Sonic's CEO and the Joy Road group to determine if they could join forces to bring broadband to that community. At this time, Joy Road Connect is also exploring a wireless solution to satisfy its needs.

3. Activity #3: INCORPORATE THESE BROADBAND NEEDS INTO COUNTYWIDE AND COMMUNITY-BASED PLANS

3.1. Develop a Countywide Plan based on the Assessed Needs-- Deliverable #2

Marin County. MBTF appreciates the Consortium's development of the "ideal" county backbone theoretical routes. We will have new proposed middle mile routes developed in 3Q and 4Q of 2015, as we continue to support route surveys, mapping, and identification of revenue targets for such routes.

As referenced above, as MBTF sees potential applicants move forward with CASF applications for our registered (with CPUC) Priority Areas, we are working to determine how our lower density 'clustered' areas may also benefit from CASF funding and associated support.

Mendocino County. The NBNBCB has mapped an "ideal" fiber backbone plan, but until there is a way to fund these fiber routes, we have to work with what exists. Providers have varying access to affordable backhaul for our patchwork of unserved and underserved communities.

The Broadband Alliance considered hiring an engineering firm to develop a fiber-feasibility plans for specific communities, but we learned from Sonoma County going through this process that the resulting plans are very expensive (millions of dollars) and communities cannot raise the CASF "match" amount that might enable a provider to step up and apply for a CASF grant to serve their area.

Instead, we decided to spend money to help providers develop their CASF grant application, which would create a community-based plan. The Broadband Alliance offered such support to all providers in the county, but only one provider responded to the offer. That provider is now actively working on a grant application for the Albion area.

As a possible result of our work in the 3rd quarter encouraging all providers to consider CASF applications, there are a few areas where the local ISP is improving service to reach the minimum standards to declared "served". This is good news; however, we would like to see these same providers expanding their footprint to the many households that still need service, rather than just upgrading the areas that they already serve. There are some WISPs that are starting to provide line-of-

sight services into new areas, but because the number of households with line of sight is limited, expansion will hinge on more extensive building out of the network.

In preparation for CASF grant applications, much data was collected via the California Broadband map at the census block level for served, unserved, and underserved areas. As much as possible, attempts were made to talk with residents from specific areas to determine if their experience correlated to the mapping data, and to determine where wireline service ended within specific census blocks. As part of our efforts to map county broadband infrastructure, a new population density layer was added to our county map for use by providers for project planning. The map is an extremely large file and so is posted on the county website as “Broadband and Population Density- working draft”

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/CountyMaps.htm>

Napa County. As part of NBNCBC we have mapped an “ideal” countywide fiber backbone conceptual plan. At this point we are focused on identifying pockets of unserved and underserved communities. Our primary strategy for Year 2 is to work on verifying wireline and fixed wireless capabilities in our priority areas. As a result of that effort envision bringing this conceptual plan forward in the Year 2 Work Plan.

Sonoma County. As part of NBNCBC we have mapped an “ideal” countywide fiber backbone conceptual plan. We have shared this conceptual design with members of the community, including county officials. Part of this design involves using existing conduit that the county and five communities own as a result of a vendor abandoning it. As stated earlier, NBNCBC has requested to meet with the County to determine if these resources are or can be used to address county and regional needs.

3.2. Assist Communities to Develop and Implement Access Plans— Deliverable #2

Marin County. As outlined in Section 2.3, above, MBTF is actively engaged in working with providers and community groups on access network development planning. We are especially pleased that in the last quarter, this planning work resulted in the first actual field survey needed to design a fiber access (FTTP) network in contemplation of a CASF application.

Mendocino County. We are assisting communities to develop and implement plans in various ways. Recently we offered financial resources in the form of a grant from the local Community Foundation to providers to help complete a CASF application. Other assistance includes researching census blocks, on-going dialog with providers, and market research to help develop a business case (Sherwood Road).

A three-year effort is also coming to fruition in regards to an update to county regulations for small, low-powered broadband projects. Currently, *any* small project requires a major use permit from the county. In 2012 the Broadband Alliance brought together county planners and providers in an effort to find a streamlined, simplified process for these broadband projects. In June 2015 the Planning Commission recommended approval of revisions to the Wireless Guidelines and Inland Zoning code that allows for development standards that would exempt projects from a major use permit. This next goes before the Board of Supervisors in July or August for approval. Revisions to our Local Coastal Plan that would create a similar streamlined process for coastal areas is an important next step.

Napa County. No major activity this past quarter. We are now turning our attention to the potential for project development in one or more of the underserved areas out of the mobile ground truth-testing project.

Sonoma County. We have engaged with the Greater Joy Road group and completed a feasibility study and financial model. The group is now soliciting letters of intent based on pro forma loan information and financial match information provided by potential match funder. We have identified a potential provider that would seek a CASF grant.

We have also completed conceptual designs and cost estimates for Dry Creek and Cazadero areas. We are scheduled to begin outreach to Dry Creek area during the 4th Quarter. The Sea Ranch Priority Area submitted their project to CASF for approval and funding. Greater Joy Road group has erected their website to solicit LOI for FTTH Project. Potential funding and provider sources have been defined.

3.3. Develop Time-Action Plan for Implementation **NO TASKS IN YEAR 1 WORK PLAN.**

3.4. Facilitate and Monitor the Overall implementation of these County and Community-based Broadband Plans

Marin County. We are not aware of any other community-based broadband infrastructure projects now ongoing in Marin County, other than those referenced in Section 2.3, above.

Mendocino County. The Broadband Alliance will continue to monitor and report on the progress of local plans, and to assist as needed.

Napa County. None at this time.

Sonoma County. We are not aware of any other community based broadband infrastructure ongoing other than The Sea Ranch Project. However, we have held Investor meetings with EB-5 Regional Center staff and three Sonoma County Supervisors and conducted an investor meeting regarding Joy Rd. project.

4. Activity #4: INTEGRATE THE COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND PLANS INTO A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION---**Deliverable #2**

4.1. Aggregate the Broadband Needs of the Counties into a Regional Needs Statement

- 4.1.1. *Collect, organize and analysis the county broadband needs to determine the interfaces at the county boundaries;*
- 4.1.2. *Working with the confirmed providers start developing a regional conceptual design based on the broadband needs throughout the county;*
- 4.1.3. *Working with providers create a preliminary conceptual design;*
- 4.1.4. *Assess the gaps in the current infrastructure;*
- 4.1.5. *Develop preliminary cost estimates to complete this conceptual design;*
- 4.1.6. *Review the preliminary design and cost estimates with county leaders and participating telecommunications providers;*
- 4.1.7. *Modify preliminary design and costs; and,*
- 4.1.8. *Produce and share the conceptual design for the region.*

4.2. Develop Time-Action Plans for the Implementation of the Regional Plan

NO TASKS IN YEAR 1 WORK PLAN.

4.3. Facilitate and Monitor the Implementation of the Regional Plan

NO TASKS IN YEAR WORK PLAN.

5. Activity #5: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ADOPTION AND TRAINING PLANS AND PROGRAMS--- **Deliverable #3**

5.1. Update Data on Existing Adoption and Training Programs

Marin County. As referenced in the first section of this report, the work is continuing on the planning for adoption and training efforts coordinated by the Marin Tele-communications Agency (MTA). MTA reports that a new adoption program will launch at the middle school level in the Q3 of 2015.

As reported in our most recent quarterly report, we also have a conceptual plan for the expansion of broadband infrastructure in public housing in the County. Unfortunately, as of now we join our colleagues in Napa County in facing the difficulty of proving how new broadband networks in our public housing communities may be supported on a sustained multi-year basis, given funding reductions faced by our housing agencies.

Mendocino County. Mendocino County's adoption rates are among the lowest in the state, which is partially due to the lack of consistent and affordable internet access. The Broadband Alliance completed a comprehensive assessment of free public access computer availability and digital literacy programs that are found throughout the county. The full report will be distributed through our email list, and is posted on our website at (reports/adoption report) at <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/data-and-reports/>

This report recommends that improvements in both access and digital

literacy programs be developed in all towns and cities to address this growing need so that local residents are prepared for the economic and educational realities of the 21st century. Since the report has been published, we have been working to find ways to finance various adoption programs and to support local non-profits and libraries in support of digital literacy programs. We are collaborating with the Community Foundation and meeting with non-profits to develop a program proposal to submit to the Bechtel Corporation for funding such programs. Another possibility that has been investigated is the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program and we are continuing to research other potential funders.

Napa County. No Activity planned.

Sonoma County. At the beginning of this quarter we developed and distributed a survey to gather data on existing adoption programs. The results of the survey are still be compiled and the report will not be ready by the end of this quarter.

5.2. Develop Implementation Plans for Adoption Programs

NO TASKS IN YEAR 1 WORK PLAN

6. Activity #6: EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONSORTIUM

NO TASKS IN YEAR 1 WORK PLAN