



Marc D. Blakeman
Vice President
External Affairs

AT&T California
430 Bush Street – Suite 505
San Francisco, CA 94108

T: 415.417.5010
mb3878@att.com
www.att.com

September 19, 2016

Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

AT&T announced last December we would be upgrading our network in the North Coast to increase protection against outages or service disruptions caused by fiber damage. We are happy to report that these upgrades are now complete.

These upgrades provide geographic diversity to over 91% of the fiber in the North Coast. This includes utilizing full diversity along the Highway 36 fiber line. These improvements allow our network to be self-healing when a fiber cut occurs, and will help protect phone and internet services for consumers and businesses in the North Coast from outages.

A second phase of the project, which was added onto the original plan to cover southern Sonoma County, will provide the same benefits to that portion of the network. This phase will be completed by the end of the year.

Diversity upgrades prevented widespread outages during Clayton Fire in Lake County. We are already seeing the positive effects of this project in the region. These improvements enhance our network's resilience and protect services from interruptions by drastically reducing the area and number of customers affected when a fiber cut occurs. The recent Clayton Fire in Lake County provides an example. When the fire burned a section of fiber cable, most wired traffic was rerouted along diverse fiber paths. This maintained service to the greater region and contained the affected area to a much smaller footprint. Wireless services were also rerouted and not affected, enabling critical communication to continue during active fire defense and evacuations. This is an example of a self-healing network.

New fiber line planned. As part of our network evaluation for this project, we identified additional opportunities to fortify the network in the North Coast. We will install additional fiber from Eureka to Trinidad to expand the reach of this redundancy and diversity in Humboldt County. This project is in planning stages and is targeted for completion at the end of 2018.

911 Call Center diversity. The just-completed upgrades mean that the vast majority of 911 Call Centers in the region are on diverse fiber pathways to protect against outages. The new fiber line, once completed, will bring the last remaining 911 Call Centers in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties onto diverse wire centers with protected fiber pathways.

Reliability improvements. Additionally, we have undertaken numerous projects across the region to replace cable and improve outside facilities, which will further improve the reliability of the network.

These initiatives are part of our ongoing effort to make phased upgrades to our network as technology continues to evolve. We remain committed to optimizing the AT&T network in the North Coast with new technologies and increased capacity as they become available.

AT&T continues our effort to keep elected officials and stakeholders across the region engaged and informed throughout the duration of these upgrades. We will continue to meet with stakeholders in the coming weeks to answer questions about these improvements and the additional work planned for the North Coast network.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in the region.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Blakeman
Vice President, External Affairs
AT&T California

Cc: Congressman Jared Huffman
 State Senator Mike McGuire
 Assemblymember Jim Wood
 Assemblymember Bill Dodd
 Members, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
 Members, Lake County Board of Supervisors
 Members, Napa County Board of Supervisors
 Members, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors