

California Broadband Council Meeting August 2, 2018

Minutes

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Board Room, 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA.

Roll Call

A quorum was established to begin the meeting.

The following members or designees were in attendance:

1. Amy Tong, Director, California Department of Technology (CDT)
2. Sunne Wright-McPeak, President, California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)
3. Patrick Mallon, Assistant Director, CA Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) (for Dir. Mark Ghilarducci)
4. Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
5. Jerry Winkler, Director, California Department of Education (for Superintendent Tom Torlakson)
6. Brent Jamison, Deputy Director, Department of General Services (for Director Daniel Kim)
7. George Akiyama, Chief Information Officer, Caltrans (for Secretary Brian Annis)

Not present:

1. Senator Ben Hueso
2. Assembly member Mike Gipson

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Chairperson Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Amy Tong welcomed everyone to the 2nd meeting of 2018. She also extended a welcome to the newest member of the Council, Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, who replaced Carla Peterman as the representative of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

AGENDA ITEM 2 – AB 1549 Update

Sri Balasubramanian, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Traffic Operations, Caltrans, provided a brief update on AB 1549.

- Caltrans is currently working with the CPUC to identify priority corridors for broadband deployment.
- A meeting with Caltrans, the CPUC and stakeholders to discuss and determine the strategic corridors will be organized in the near future. The California Emerging Technology Fund has already initiated these discussions and the Broadband Council members will lead this effort.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – FirstNet Update

Patrick Mallon, Assistant Director, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) provided a brief update on FirstNet.

- The California Department of Technology and Cal OES are currently in negotiations with AT&T with a number of commitments made.

- The state continues to work with AT&T to develop a site hardening plan, especially for mission critical sites.
- Next steps include monthly meetings between Cal OES and AT&T and quarterly meetings with stakeholders.
- Dates for the next California First Responders Network Board (CalFRN) were announced:
 - September 12, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
 - December 12, 2018, 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Council Business, Task Force Update

Stephanie Tom, Deputy Director, Broadband and Digital Literacy, CDT, provided an update on the Task Forces that were created by the Council.

- An Advisory Council has been created by leveraging the members of the Long Term Goals Task Force. The Advisory Council will develop a strategic plan for the California Broadband Council.
- All Task Forces have met since the first Broadband Council meeting in April. Each has developed the following objectives:
 - Long Term Goals
 - To re-establish the charter of the California Broadband Council by conducting an in depth review and assessment of the 7 Key Objectives.
 - Surplus Equipment:
 - Shorten “time to community” for surplus equipment from 2 months to 2 weeks.
 - Create smart phone recycle plan to benefit community.
 - Identify and record 3 success stories from the 2014 surplus program.
 - GIS Maps
 - Establish a complete list of key GIS maps and data sets
 - Prioritize which GIP maps support the task forces’ key objectives

Matthew Rantanen, Tribal Task Force member, provided an update on the Tribal Task Force:

- Task Force is currently adding key members to ensure good representation throughout the state.
- Working with the CPUC on mapping tribal lands. Mapping is the key to addressing access issues.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)

Michael Pierce, CPUC, provided an overview of the changes to the CASF by AB 1665 (Chapter 851, Statutes of 2017) and the status of the implementation of these changes by the CPUC.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Closing the Digital Divide

The Honorable Lloyd Levine, UC Riverside, provided a briefing on the white paper “Closing the Digital Divide.”

Key highlights:

- While 87% of households in California have broadband internet connectivity at home, 18% of that is through a smartphone only.
- Defines “meaningful internet access” as have three components:
 - A reliable broadband, internet connection

- A computing device capable of providing sufficient functionality and computing power to support prevalent consumer applications at any given point in time
- The “digital literacy” skills necessary to utilize the programs and navigate the internet, sufficient for a consumer to utilize the use of technology to improve their quality of life.
- Highlights the impact of the digital divide and the need for government intervention
- Highlights how the report quantifies the economic benefits of closing the Digital Divide
 - Increase employment
 - Increase in the GDP
 - How spending on broadband access and adoption benefits the California Advanced Service Fund.
- Highlights policy recommendations and strategies for closing the Digital Divide in California

There was a discussion about convening a forum on broadband adoption that included state agencies that interacted with low income families, the CPUC and broadband providers on how to get these families connected with meaningful internet access.

Public Comment:

Jim Russ, Round Valley Health Services
Kelly Stephenson, HIS

Mr. Russ provided a brief overview of the connectivity issues facing the Round Valley that impact the Round Valley Health Services ability to provide the required services as follows:

- Round Valley is located in a rural area near the Mendocino coast, approximately 4 hours from Sacramento and is only accessible by a narrow, two-lane road.
- Current broadband access is a T-1 line to the health clinic
- When power or broadband access is lost, downtime can last for days.
- Broadband providers have promised to build the needed infrastructure for adequate broadband deployment and access but have not followed through
- Can be cost prohibitive for the small health clinic and town—as much as \$11,000 per month.

Robert Tse, USDA

Mr. Tse provided information about the opportunity to comment on the Broadband e-Connectivity Pilot Program, administered by the Rural Utilities Service of the US Department of Agriculture. The comment period is currently open and comments are due by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on September 10, 2018.

The federal government has appropriated \$600 million for this pilot program for loans and grants for the costs of construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband serviced in eligible rural areas.

Andrew Cardin, Digitalpath.net

Mr. Cardin provided information regarding small internet service providers (ISP). He stated that the CPUC overlooks the small ISPs that may be able to provide connectivity to more rural areas. Since they

are not all regulated by the CPUC, they are not engaged in the Lifeline program. He would like to find ways to get more connected with the state and programs.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2018, 1:00-3:00 p.m., same location.

The meeting was adjourned.

Action items:

- Strategic corridor meeting with Caltrans, the CPUC and stakeholders to be coordinated by California Emerging Technology Fund.
- Create a forum on broadband adoption to include state agencies that interacted with low income families, the CPUC and broadband providers on how to get these families connected with meaningful internet access. Effort to be led by Hon. Lloyd Levine.