

California Broadband Council - Meeting 3
November 15, 2018

MINUTES

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Board Room, 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA.

- Key discussion highlights are in **blue**
- Action Items are noted in **red**

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 3rd meeting of 2018. She provided an overview of the agenda.

Agenda Item 2 – FirstNet Update

Patrick Mallon, Assistant Director, CalOES, provided an update on FirstNet in California.

- Opting-in means that AT&T is allowed to buildout Band 14 in California and plans to build hundreds of new sites through 2027.
- Role of CalOES is to
 - Facilitate information sharing
 - Work to identify coverage needs
 - Focus on multi-jurisdictional planning for emergency communications
 - Provide ESF-2 communications support in the state operations center (SOC)
- Next Steps
 - Continue collaboration efforts and SOC communications support
 - Next CalFRN Board meeting: December 12, 2018, 1:00-3:00 pm

California Broadband Council - Meeting 3
November 15, 2018

Patrick mentioned that the recent Butte County fire identified a huge gap in broadband services in that area. He stated that evacuees were having difficulty connecting to access internet-based services such as filing insurance claims or connecting with adjusters.

The question of *would FirstNet have made a difference in this fire event?*

Kim Lewis with CENIC made the offer, on behalf of Louis Fox and CENIC that CENIC would assist in restoring broadband service in that area.

There was public comment/support to secure 100% coverage in rural areas and to prioritize areas with limited evacuation routes. (Alert Wildfire handout)

Agenda Item 3 – Caltrans AB 1549 Update

Chris Schmidt, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning, Caltrans provided an update on AB 1549 issues.

He provided a presentation on “Incorporating Wired Broadband Facility in State Highway Right of Way” which was similar to the presentation that was made at the Strategic Corridors meeting on September 27, 2018. He added that the meeting was a great opportunity to bring together all the stakeholders for good conversation on the issue. Mr. Schmidt commented that Caltrans planning cycles and provider’s planning cycles do not match and it creates difficulties. He indicated that based on feedback from the stakeholders’ meeting, Caltrans would be looking at other ways to communicate and collaborate as well as training for staff.

Agenda item 4 – Strategic Corridors Update

George Akiyama, Chief Information Officer, Caltrans

Mr. Akiyama followed with a thank you to staff for coordinated the strategic corridors meeting and discussed the need for additional collaboration and communication around this issue.

It was also discussed that there was more to do in this area. It was suggested that the CPUC could be used to facilitate ongoing conversations around this issue and that the CBC can look at areas of statewide concerns for strategic corridors.

The CBC needs to invite legislative participation in these discussions as it offers an opportunity for greater public benefits to provide transparency.

CBC member Martha Guzman Aceves offered CPUC assistance to facilitate more progress in the area.

CBC member Brent Jamison, DGS, inquired about contracting issues for Caltrans and was invited to attend the next stakeholder meeting. -

Sunne Wright McPeak moved that the Summary of the September 27, 2018 Strategic Corridor Stakeholder meeting be accepted by the CBC and posted to the website. It was seconded and the motion was carried.

California Broadband Council - Meeting 3
November 15, 2018

Action Items:

1. Invite key legislators to the next strategic corridors meeting
2. Secure DGS as the location for the next meeting
3. Post the summary of the 9/27/18 meeting on the CBC website

Agenda Item 3 – Task Force Update

Stephanie Tom, Deputy Director, Broadband and Digital Literacy, CDT introduced the topic and commented on the work that each of the task forces had done in the last few months.

Tribal Task Force Update:

Samantha Cypret, Native American Heritage Commission and Tribal Task Force member, provided an update on the survey being conducted of the 109 federally recognized tribes to determine broadband accessibility and needs as follows:

- 19 responses
- Tribes have a mix of access levels from high speed broadband to dialup or no access
- They utilize a mix of access methods such as satellite, cable, and fiber
- Broadband access and computers have been identified as the highest need.

Next steps are to continue the push to reach 100% of the tribes. We can provide a list of the tribes that have not responded. It was also suggested that we work with the Census 2020 group to reach all the tribes.

CPUC Commissioner offered to assist with outreach.

The CPUC Commissioner inquired about non-federally recognized tribes. Samantha replied since the lands are not owned the non-federally recognized tribes would be a second phase of the outreach.

Action Items:

1. Taskforce to follow up for the 3rd time with Census/Gov Ops to seek streamlining efforts.
2. Taskforce to follow up on additional channel for outreach.

Surplus Equipment Task Force:

Seth Hubbert, Tech Exchange, provided an update on the activities of the task force.

The task force partnered with Tech Exchange for a Tech Fair on October 20, 2018 that provided surplus state computers donated by Caltrans to needy families.

Tech Exchange is a nonprofit that refurbishes surplus computers that they get from the state and other companies. They have partnered with school districts to be able to receive the computers.

The CBC needs to take a look at the current law to remove barriers to make it easier for companies such as Tech Exchange to be able to access state surplus computers. This is another opportunity for the CBC to engage legislators.

California Broadband Council - Meeting 3
November 15, 2018

The Surplus Equipment Task Force can work with the Department of Education to identify school districts to assist with a targeted list of schools in demand for computer equipment.

CPUC Commissioner inquired about the funding for non-profit services. -> Task force to request more CASF funding to be allocated to 'adoption' to augment the original \$20M recently allocated.

Action Items:

1. Taskforce to review and recommend the right policy amendment to AB 493.
2. The Surplus Equipment Task Force to work with the Department of Education to identify school districts to assist with a targeted list of schools in demand for computer equipment.
3. Task force to request more CASF funding to be allocated to 'adoption' to augment the original \$20M recently allocated.

GIS Maps Update:

Michael Pierce, CPUC, provided an overview of the CPUC's Interactive Broadband Map.

[The map is the primary resource for broadband policy makers and is revised annually based on data received from providers.](#)

Michael walked through the different aspects and information available on this map.

[Request was made to leverage the CPUC maps and connect with CalTrans.](#) Chris Schmidt approached the stands commenting there is a challenge given the information willing to be shared. Director Tong recommended a non-disclosure be signed to initiate the discussions.

Action Item:

1. The advisory members to initiate to continue discussions regarding this integration of data sets to leverage and complement the existing GIS maps.

Long Term Goals Update

Robert Tse, USDA and member of the task force, provided an update on recommendations for the CBC's goals for 2019.

Next steps for the task force in 2019:

- Continue monthly task force meetings
- Validate the 7 key objectives for 2019
- Create a roadmap for achieving statewide broadband access and adoption goals by 2021
- [Engage key legislators for policy support.](#)

California Broadband Council - Meeting 3
November 15, 2018

Agenda item 6 – Microsoft Airband Initiative

Sidney Roberts, Director of engineering, Airband Initiative Team, Microsoft provided an overview of Microsoft’s Airband Initiative and its application for assisting in deploying broadband in rural areas.

Microsoft is piloting the project in California. They have partnered with the Tribal Digital Village (TDV) in Southern California.

[Chelsea Walterscheid from the Gold Country Broadband Consortium provided testimony that her region is piloting the TV whitespace solutions with Microsoft.](#)

Action Item:

1. The office of Broadband and Digital Literacy to continue discussions to ensure their priorities and next steps are in alignment with the CBC needs and priorities.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comment

Joy Sterling, CEO, Iron Horse Vineyards, highlighted the importance of broadband in rural areas for Agtech. New water laws require farmers to report water usage in real time. For that, real time connectivity is needed. [Joy encouraged the CPUC to enhance the broadband map to include farm fields.](#)

Tom West, representing the 16 Regional Broadband Consortia, provided information and a map identifying strategic corridors that Caltrans should consider when developing plans. He mention that at the CA Summit, they proposed to elevate rural broadband and proposed speeds of 100mbps up and 20mbps down.

Additional Action Items:

1. Advisory members to validate existing legislative Council members, then as needed identify new legislative Council members as appropriate to actively participate and support Broadband initiatives of the CBC.