

**From:** David Griffith  
**To:** [CA Broadband Council](#)  
**Cc:** Geoff Neill; "Tracy Rhine"; Paul Smith; Masingale, Katie; "Josh Cook"; "Terry Woodrow"  
**Subject:** Broadband Action Plan Comments  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2020 10:23:20 AM  
**Attachments:** CA\_BroadbandCouncilSubmission.pdf

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Please accept the attached comments on the proposed State Broadband Action Plan.

Thank you

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David Griffith  
Alpine County Dist. 5 Supervisor





**COUNTY OF ALPINE**  
**District 4 Supervisor Terry Woodrow**

**District 5 Supervisor David Griffith e-**

20 November, 2020

California Broadband Council  
[CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov](mailto:CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov)

re: California State Action Plan Comments

We would like to thank the Council and its members and staff for the extensive public outreach you have done towards developing a plan that will result in all Californians having affordable and reliable high-speed broadband. We are very encouraged by the current Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> draft version of the Action Plan and we respectfully offer the following suggestions and comments. We are writing this as individual Supervisors as there was not time to get this on a Board of Supervisors agenda prior to the November 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments.

- All Californians should have access in their businesses, organizations, and residences, to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service. The draft Action Plan specifically only mentions homes, but also needs to mention businesses, organizations, and tribal lands, as high-speed broadband is important for economic development and prosperity. Today high-speed broadband should be part of the infrastructure and is as essential as telephone service and electricity.
- Significant parts of rural and urban California currently do not have affordable, reliable high-speed broadband service.
- Lack of adequate broadband service has hurt rural and urban parts of California that do not have adequate broadband service in terms of improving economic development, education of our children at a time of distance learning, and taking advantage of new technologies such as telemedicine/telehealth.
- As stated in the Digital Equity Bill of Rights, high-speed broadband that helps ensures public safety. Residents in rural areas in particular need reliable access to emergency response services and emergency alert systems in the event of emergencies or disasters.
- Roughly 20 years ago Mexico laid fiber along all major highways in the country. If Mexico could afford to do that then there is no reason a much richer jurisdiction such as California could not do that too.
- California should apply the same standards for broadband service as the Communications Act of 1934 requires. Specifically Section 254(b)(3) of the Act states: "ACCESS IN RURAL AND HIGH COST AREAS.--Consumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas

and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.”

- It will be expensive, but should be paid for with a Universal Service Charge on all internet connections, just as high-cost telephone service is paid for today. This could also provide the funds for subsidies to people of limited economic resources, which is a concern that has been raised by both Sunne Wright McPeak and Martha Guzman Aceves.
- The value of a network increases faster than the addition of new nodes, so connecting everyone will be a winning bet (Metcalfe's law). That is why we have universal telephone service and universal mail service.
- We agree with Sunne Wright McPeak's point that connecting to the "last house" will allow all customers including businesses, organizations, and tribes along the route to connect, but the Action Plan should clarify that it is not just about improving broadband service to homes, but also to improve the service to businesses, organizations, and tribes. It is an economic development issue for those of us in unserved and underserved communities.
- The need for affordable equipment and training on how to use it is important, but if there is no broadband service it will be a waste of money. If everything has to be done at once the effort to improve broadband service will be diluted and be delayed.
- For those of us in unserved and underserved areas, a reasonable goal would be 25 Mb/s down, 3 Mb/s up in two years and 100 Mb/s symmetric broadband service in five years.

We look forward to the continuing progress of the Action Plan, and most importantly, its implementation. If there is anything that we can do to help, please don't hesitate to contact us.



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Terry Woodrow



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David Griffith

CC: California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow  
Senator Brian Dahle  
Alpine County Board of Supervisors