

## California Broadband Council

March 2, 2022

### Meeting Recap and Transcript

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 9:45am PST via virtual conference.

#### Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Council Chair Russ Nichols welcomed Council members and attendees.

#### Roll Call

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Member		Designee	Present	Absent
California Department of Technology Director	Russ Nichols		X	
Member of the Senate	Ben Hueso	Sarah Smith	X	
Member of the Assembly	Mike Gipson	Dr. Angelo Williams	X*	
California Public Utilities Commission President	Alice Reynolds	Darcie Houck	X	
California Office of Emergency Services Director	Mark Ghilarducci	Mitch Medigovich	X	
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond	Geoff Belleau	X	
Department of General Services Director	Ana Lasso	Brent Jamison	X	
California State Transportation Agency Secretary	Toks Omishakin	Lori Pepper	X	
California Emerging Technology Fund President	Sunne Wright McPeak		X	

California Department of Food and Agriculture	Karen Ross	Michael Flores	X	
State Librarian	Greg Lucas		X**	
Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor	Christina Snider		X	

\*Dr. Williams was arrived a few minutes and left a few minutes early.

\*\*Mr. Lucas left a few minutes early.

## **Agenda Item 2 – State Broadband and Digital Literacy Updates**

Scott Adams:

- Introduced new Broadband Initiatives Manager Laura Sasaki.
- Provided an overview of broadband stakeholder engagement.

## **Agenda Item 3 – 2022 Broadband Focus and Discussion**

Scott Adams:

- Explaining Broadband Action Plan review and revision processes.
- Provided a recommended Council focus for 2022.

## **Agenda Item 4 – Middle-Mile Update**

Mark Monroe provided a Middle-Mile update

## **Agenda Item 5 – Last-Mile Update**

Darcie Houck provided a Last-Mile update.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Affordable Connectivity Plan**

Sunne Wright McPeak and Susan Walters presented an opportunity to lead universal adoption of high-speed home internet connectivity.

Scott Adams provided an overview of Council member and partner agency Affordable Connectivity outreach.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Affordable Connectivity Plan**

Scott Adams provided an overview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Infrastructure Investment and Job Program and comments submitted by the Broadband Council.

Jonathan Lakritz provided an overview of the comments submitted by the California Public Utilities Commission.

## **Agenda Item 8 – Broadband For All Portal Update**

Laura Sasaki demonstrated the new Broadband For All Portal.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment**

Staff noted written public comments were submitted by (attached):

- Lori Serles

Public comments were made by:

- Kelley Stephenson
- Mason Carroll
- Robert Gemmell

Mr. Nichols asked Council members if they had any concluding comments.

Mr. Nichols thanked Council members, presenters, and attendees and noted the next meeting is Wednesday, May 25.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

(meeting transcript attached; video and presentation slides from the meeting posted to Council web site)

#### Attachments

- Transcript.
- Written public comments

## Transcript

Good morning, everyone. I'm Russ Nichols. I am the chair of the CBC and the acting director of California Department of Technology. Going in behind Amy Tong, who is now our Secretary of government operations, as of yesterday actually sworn in. Congratulations to Amy. And fortunately, I have her here as a crutch to help me through this should I step on my own toes in this proceeding. So good morning, everyone. We are using a slightly different format than we have in the past. The only people that will have their cameras on are the council members, and all council members and when we get to the public comment section of the meeting, anyone that would like to speak will have to use the raise your hand functionality in zoom, which can be found in the reactions area on the lower bar of the Zoom client that you're using, raise your hand we'll recognize you, and our meeting administrator will open up the capability for you to turn on audio and video. And as soon as your comment is done, we will remove that capability and go back to just the board members on camera. So we appreciate your participation and your understanding with configuration settings to keep everyone secure and to maintain the sanctity of our meeting. We've had a lot of activity since our last meeting, which was back in October. A significant portion of the state activity connects to the work that council has done in developing and moving the state broadband for all action plan forward. And that work is complemented and supported by other efforts and you'll hear a lot more about the meeting that's in this meeting. We also have a very full agenda this morning. So we're going to go ahead and jump in. We'll start with roll call. Jules will you take, call roll-call of the members.

Morning acting director Nichols.

Here.

Miss Smith.

Here.

Dr. Williams.

Commissioner Houck.

Here.

Deputy Director Mitch, I'm having problems this morning.

Mitch Medigovich here, thank you.

Apologies. Mr. Belleau.

Yes, here.

Deputy Director Jamison.

Present.

Deputy Secretary Pepper.

Here.

Miss McPeak.

Present.

Deputy Secretary Flores.

Here.

Mr. Lucas.

I'm here.

Miss Snider.

Here.

We do have a quorum, a couple of friendly reminders and a few new items. There is time at the end of the meeting allocated for public comment. Members and presenters, please raise your hand when you'd like to speak so we can unmute you. Presenters, please queue to advance slides and also let Laura know when you are done presenting. And then a new reminder, and this is specifically for those on the phone, if you're going to want to make public comments, please email or text [cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov](mailto:cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov), again [cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov](mailto:cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov) with the phone number for which you are calling indicating that you would like to make a public comment will remind people again about that right before the public comment period. Russ back to you.

Alright, thank you very much, Jules. And just a reminder for the committee members with the configuration that's in place now when you would like to make a comment or ask a question, the Raise Your Hand functionality. It'll take just a second for us to turn you on and then you will be able to proceed with your question or your comment. So thank you very much. At this point, I'll turn the baton over to Amy Tong and we will then move into the broadband and digital literacy update with Scott Adams. But first Secretary Tong, the floor is yours.

Thank you, director Nichols. Thank you everyone. It's a pleasure to be continue to, here and join the council and perhaps my last one as part of the council as I move towards my new role, but I have no question at all that director Nicholas continues to carry this council forward with a great support from every single council member I on the other hand, get to be an audience that I will still participate but from the audience seat. And then in my new role of Government Operations. Department of Technology is part of the portfolio that I support. So rest assure that I'm still going to be very involved in broadband and not only broadband for all but as well as the middle mile initiative. So you can't get rid of me just yet. I'm still here. With that, without further ado Scott Adams.

Thank you, Secretary Tong. Appreciate that. Okay. Can everyone hear me? Great. Next slide please. Thank you, Laura. Okay so, as far as the update from office of broadband and digital literacy as Russ has said, there has been a great deal of work that has occurred between you know, our last meeting on October and now we are going to briefly touch upon, you know, the following updates. Really excited to announce that we have a new staff member at the broadband office. She's a familiar face to many of you Laura Sasaki, who previously was a broadband program manager at the California State Library is now working as a broadband initiatives manager for our office and we're very grateful to have her you'll get a chance to meet her and hear from her in a presentation at the end of the meeting on the broadband for all portal. One thing we're going to touch on is we've really been looking hard at all the need for engagement across the broadband for all spectrum of the many initiatives and programs. So

we're going to touch on work that we've done to develop an external stakeholder engagement plan. We're going to talk through the work that we have done on the broadband for all action plan review and revision process which will have its own separate item. We will go over the NTIA IJA broadband funding programs and in there talk about the high level you know, points from the Broadband Council's response to the NTIA's recent request for comment. And then the portal is something that we've been working very, very diligently on and Laura is going to demo that, next slide. So really quickly as Russ and Amy has said there's so much going on in the broadband space in California, that what the opposite broadband and, you know, has been working to do is to really acknowledge the California Broadband Council really since 2010. Being the central, collaborative and meaning body in California that's been pushing at the state level to promote broadband deployment and adoption and as we all know, and continue to want the public to know that our work has been was significantly refocus in response to COVID when the governor issued his broadband executive order, and there's the items in the executive order, and then the directive to have the Broadband Council, develop the Broadband for All Action Plan, which in many ways is a playbook for the state of California to close the digital divide. It's not, you know, complete or comprehensive but it is a good chunk of work and represents, you know, a large part of the state's digital equity focus. And then additionally, you know, in last year with SB 156, that very grateful I'm sure all of us are that the governor and the legislature passed SB 156 and allocated the \$6 billion in funding to address the broadband infrastructure both on the middle and the last mile that are, you know, administered by the Department of Technology in the broadband office and the Public Utilities Commission respectively. Next slide. So given that, you know going back and giving that local setting we really acknowledge and appreciate the power of engagement that broadband for all is not just something we talk about in our offices or here at the broadband council. It's an effort of many stakeholders, not just the council members and other state entities but local and regional entities that have been working very hard for many years to implement their local plans. We you know acknowledging that broadband for all including the middle mile broadband initiative is marshaling government and community and industry together to close the digital divide. It's really a big focus of ours to do coordinated engagement of external stakeholders that supports these efforts by really these four points here that it's critical to streamline knowledge sharing and communication across key partners. Really want to ensure last mile connectivity to catalyze opportunities and health, education, economic development and more. And so that's, you know, connecting the middle mile to the last mile and, you know, the broadband adoption efforts and the digital literacy efforts. Next really, continuing to expand and deepen relationships through bi-directional engagement with partners across the state then, and those are engagements that would occur outside of, you know, the broadband council or the middle mile advisory committee, and then really, demonstrating Californians that the state is working to meet their community's needs and in partnering with them. Next slide. Just real quickly, I think all of you know as much or more than I who the external stakeholder categories are, this list is not prescriptive. It's not exclusive. There are many more but this is an acknowledgement of, you know, to the partners that we will, you know, collectively be working with broadband council members and others over the following years to push forward broadband for all, next slide. And, you know, as far as the approach to the external stakeholder engagement plan, again, we're sketching out a framework and working with other state partners to flesh it out, but we'll continue to get feedback from broadband council members. The key principles behind it are just really we want there to be and understand there needs to be a focus on equity, access, inclusion and ease of engagement. And meeting folks where they are. Second, having those engagements be, as I said before, both meaningful and bi-directional and the third principle is broadening Californians awareness and understanding just in the states and our partners broadband equity efforts, and then the five core elements of the stakeholder engagement plan is really going to be ongoing engagement with governing advisory bodies, regular briefings with state legislators and staff, quarterly broadband for all summits and other convenings to engage the public and local community stakeholders, coordinated engagement with last mile stakeholders on all those efforts with our partners PUC and others, and then aligned public

communication to communicate progress on the middle mile and the broadband for all which are underneath our office and so, this plan again, there's a lot of engagement that's going to occur, we expect to have it complete by you know, sometime this month, and begin scheduling those engagement interactions in the very present future. And so, I think that's it I like to stop and open-up for questions. If you can unmute Amy.

All right. Well, we'll get the hang of this soon. And so I do want to add on to what Scott mentioned in terms of, there's going to be a strong focus on stakeholder engagement not only through the broadband for all initiative that is inclusive of the middle mile initiative, and before I hand over the moderating of this meeting to Director Nichols, I do want to have a special call out for the advisory members to the California broadband council who some of them are also joining in audience today. That's Joy Sterling, Michael Berman and Matthew Wren, Robert Tse and of course Amanda Martin for CNRA. I probably left somebody out as I'm looking at advisory members, we are taking a lot of the feedback on of course Stewart Drown, how could I forget that from GovOps? We are taking a lot of the feedback from these advisory members to the California Broadband Council. And those are really are good channels of communication and input as the council working along with the middle mile advisory committee to continue to reach out to community it you would only see more and more of these engagements as we get into more and more information that are ready to be shared. So with that. I hand it to you Director Nichols.

Thank you, Secretary Tong. Alright, just a reminder for the council members to raise your hands if you have questions or comments. And so at this point, do you have any question or comment for Scott on the broadband and digital literacy update he provided? Not seeing any. We'll move into the next topic which is the 2022 focus and discussion. Scott is up again. So Scott, please take the baton.

Thanks Russ. Next slide please, Laura. So I think the first thing we want to touch on is the action plan review process. If you all recall the broadband for all action plan calls for revising action items at least annually at the October 2021 broadband council meeting which was the last of last year council members voted to approve the broadband offices staff recommendation to allow us to engage with action item owners to review and revise the Broadband Action Plan items. So over the last handful of months, our staff has worked with action item leads from the various partner agencies to review the action plan items to assess if they needed revision and to revise those that were needed. Next slide please. What we came up with in consultation with the action item lead owners were that these six action items. Item 1 on ensured standards among state grant funding and related programs which CPUC leads. Action item 5 encroachment permitting process and rights-of-way management (CalSTA). Item #6 permitting processes and all levels of government to enhance those which is Department of Technology. Item #9 setting reliability standards which is the PUC and then 16, promote affordable broadband services and devices Department of Technology and item 23, bolstering partnerships around infrastructure and adoption funding and that is Go Biz. Next slide please. So on action Item #1, really sort of a minor revision but, but fairly significant and that is to recommend shared standards among all state grant funding related broadband programs. The current language which is shown here, a direction to define broadband with dual definitions, a baseline definition to match the FCC standard of 25/3, and then a goal of 120 megabytes that reflect the Governor's Executive Order. That revision that the PUC recommended, and we agree with them, is that for 1A that we define broadband with dual definitions, the first being that unserved defined at 25/3 and second underserve defining 120 megabits per second. Really the justification for this is that these changes will align with California's definitions of federal statutes, standards, and funding requirements. And I think I'll just go through all these real quick and then we'll have questions or comments at the end. Next item please. So Item#5 on which is CalSTA, improving encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-away a minor change here the current language, references

continue improving encroachment permitting process and rights-of-way management. The revision that we discussed with CalSTA and agree with is that instead of saying continue is just improve state encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-way management. The justification here is that the current language implies that this is going to be a continuous or frequently change process that could lead to inefficiencies and confusion among stakeholders. So that is a revision that has been made. Next item please. For the Department of Technology, enhanced permitting processes at all levels of government. A minor update here nothing to the substance of the actual action item itself. We thought it would be important to update the key parties to include the California Department of Transportation who is doing significant work on this and partnering with the broadband office on streamline permitting at the state level on the middle mile, including Go Biz, because we're working with them to develop a local permitting guide a playbook and then the California Emerging Technology Fund, because they've been critical in working with metropolitan, planning organizations, and consortiums. Again, the justification here is that these are significant partners we're working with already and that by listening to key parties, it reflects their leadership on those efforts and partnership. Next item please. So item #9, again, is a PUC led effort. It's you know, to set reliability standards. The current language of this item is to establish standards for middle mile and backhaul resiliency and reliability. The revision is to establish standards for network resilience and reliability. Much of this stays the same. You know, there's the added language about recent experiences responding to wildfires throughout the state can be leveraged to identify shortcomings and network resiliency and reliability. The justification on this is that the CPUC has an open proceeding, addressing network resilience and reliability for last mile networks and tier 2 and 3 fire threat areas of the state and addressing areas of the state would happen in subsequent phases of the proceeding. The next item please. So for action items 16, again, is a Department of Technology item, it relates to promoting affordable broadband service and device offers. Really, the only revision that was made here, but it's significant is that to include key parties. Meaning, including the Government Operations Agency, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services, as these are agencies that can support responsibilities related to subsection A, the overall item number 16. Next one, and this is the last one. Action Item 23 is about bolstering partnerships on infrastructure and adoption. We had a really good conversation with GoBiz about this and thought that it would be meaningful to add an additional role for the planning group called out in this action item. And that would be to identify its facilitate opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure and communications methodology established and executed under VaccinateAll58 to provide resources and information on adoption programs. So more broadly, you know, this, this action item to really leverage existing state programs to continue to help support promote and raise awareness of affordable to get internet service offers and devices and that just made a whole lot of sense. The other suggestion here was the update key parties to include the Department of Health, the Natural Resources Agency, CalEPA and the California Business Consumer Services & Housing Agency. And again, these the justification for these changes is that it reflects the importance of broadband adoption strategies and acknowledges the potential for leveraging the state's existing programs. For additional boots on the ground outreach, and so, those are the, you know, the revisions that, you know, have been made for this year and want to move on to the next slide real quickly. Part of the direction from the last meeting was also to really lay out the future focus. So we have this graph here, which really shows an approach that we would like to take for the next three meetings for the year and it's really following that chart that we had at the beginning of the meeting, which is, you know, looking at broadband for all this the state's overall program and having substantive updates on the action plan on the middle mile initiative on the last mile efforts from the PUC adoption and digital literacy efforts. And you'll see that that the meeting has been allocated to receive substantive updates on the action items that were teamed short term, and then July would be on action plan items that we're deemed long term and the October meeting would really be again, taking a look at where we're at and making a recommendation for the following year. One thing we want to continue to stress for the council members and the public is that all of that action



items are continuing to move forward and there's been some really great and significant progress. In addition to the broadband council meetings, the CDT and our office are having monthly sometimes, you know, twice monthly meetings with action item lead agencies to track progress and support implementation in any way that we can and don't want to skip Laura Sasaki but she's going to show you a cool tool on the broadband for all portal where we can share information about this later. And I think that's it for this portion. We could stop for questions or comments from the from the council members.

Thank you, Scott. Just a reminder to the council members if you have questions or comments, the Raise Your Hand button is under reactions lower right of your zoom client please go ahead and and hit that now if you have questions or comments, Scott, thank you for that update. Obviously a lot of activity. And in the next few presentations, you'll actually see huge investment in the state moving this forward. So Secretary Tong.

Thank you, Director. I actually, by the way, I think as Katherine is managing all of this. She was so proactive knowing that I was going to speak I already unmute me prior to raise hand, we should do the same for Sunne, but Sunne just doesn't even have herself muted anymore. So that's good for you Sunne. I do want to echo the sentiment, as I was looking through all of this. Oh my goodness. Let me lower my hand first. Just the amount of input. Scott, you and your team has collected from the various task owner or item owner, as well as the number of entity that have responded that took to heart of this annual update that was, put the new update process that was put forward so that the plan can be kept fluid and up to date, which was one of the real commitment when the action plan was developed at the end of 2020. And for the council members that were involved if you recall, it was one of those that, hey the plans are out there. And typically, a plan like this could become easily become stale, especially with it was always also in the midst of dealing with COVID response. So I just want to take a moment to applaud our task owners, and many of you are represented on this council members, who took the effort to make this update and those updates look very, very good. I'm really really pleased with it. So thank you for that.

Thank you Secretary Tong.

And Miss McPeak, I saw you nod, I don't know if you had an additional comment or not.

I do not. I would just agree.

Okay, thank you very much. Any other council members have questions or comments for Scott.

Okay, thank you, Scott for staying on top of that and making the constant improvements to help drive this forward and update those items in the action plan. All right, we'll transition now to Mr. Mark Monroe. Deputy Director of broadband and middle mile initiative, and he'll provide a middle mile update, Mark.

Good morning. I'm Mark Monroe, the Deputy Director for the state's middle mile broadband initiative and I work with Scott and Laura on this important middle mile component of the broader broadband for all effort. As most people here are aware, the MMBI project involves developing a network of more than 8000 miles of middle mile to connect unserved and underserved communities throughout the state. The \$3.25 billion in federal funding provided in the 2021 budget act is expected to be sufficient to help Caltrans construct approximately three quarters of the 8000 mile system with any shortages addressed through the leasing of existing infrastructure, as most should be aware of any other, the federal funds appropriate for the middle mile project must be under contract by December 2024, with the project completed by December 2026. So there's a bit of a program update since I last reported to the broadband council, CDT

has continued to move forward or move towards the development of the broader system beyond the 18 initial projects that were announced at the middle mile advisory committee meeting this last November. While Caltrans has begun its pre-construction work, such as planning and design on the 18 initial projects, CDT has also worked with Caltrans to look at broader opportunities throughout the state. CDT has asked Caltrans to look for additional existing transportation projects for planning and construction that are planning construction to add fiber to. In the short run, Caltrans has identified more than a dozen potential projects that are expected that they're in construction or expected to be in construction by the summer to which fiber could be added and then over the longer term, Caltrans has been looking at which projects that are again under the, going to go into construction and could be completed within the federal deadlines over that, you know, between now and December of 2026. They're looking at more than 80 projects where fiber could be added. CDT is also working with Caltrans on the broader planning efforts ahead of identification of the final system. The two key areas that Caltrans is working on involve environmentally sensitive areas and then other areas where the number of utilities come together and they've experienced past challenges. And you know, obviously one of the real benefits of using Caltrans here is that they, they already have done assessment as part of their transportation projects and they have a solid understanding of where these environmental challenges are as well as the, the utility challenges and so they're, they're also trying to go through and identify the riskiest areas there and get started on those. And then finally, SB 156. requires an annual status report and CDT is finalizing that and that should be coming out soon as well. Next slide. We are, CDT is currently working on finalizing a procurement of fiber and associated materials. We're trying to get ahead of the, any supply chain risks in competition for fiber as much of the country starts to ramp up its efforts we want to be able to to kind of be at the head of the line and to have purchased, purchase the supply of these materials in particular fiber in the years to come so that we will be getting it as we need it for construction projects and don't experience delays due to that. And I think a lot of people will remember that, that, that at the end of this last year 2021, the PUC approved about 12 CASF projects, contingent upon CDT approval of these, applications were submitted to PUC for funding prior to the administration's MMBI proposal this last year. And so really the, the process is that we're meeting with the recipients to look at their maps to look at and see where there's a potential for projects that overlap or don't want to move. Obviously move forward with the ones that don't but also we want to look for opportunities for co-builds and to see where we can partner with the recipients and not duplicate efforts as they move forward with their projects. So, CDT has begun meeting with PUC and the recipients to address this. With that. I'm happy to answer any questions the members might have.

All right. Thank you, Mark. Just a reminder for the council members anybody has questions or comments, please raise your hand and you'll pop up on the screen and we will recognize you, turn on your video or your audio. Alright, not seeing any. Thank you very much Mark. I appreciate that. We will transition now to CPUC Commissioner Houck to give us an update on the last mile. Commissioner? And Katherine, is her audio locked? It is. Okay, can you hear me now? There we go.

Yes. Okay.

Great.

Thank you. So good morning, everyone. I'm pleased to be here this morning to report on the progress that the commission has made on our last mile program efforts with regards to both some of our new programs created under the governor's broadband package and in regards to our legacy CASF programs. So before we get into the slides, I wanted to start by making a few announcements regarding recent actions that the commission has taken related to the last mile efforts. I'm going to discuss each of these in more detail with the slides but I think they're

important enough where I wanted to highlight them up front. So last week at our February 24 Commission voting meeting, we adopted a local agency and Tribal Technical Assistance program, this program was a part of the governor's broadband package from last year and will support last mile efforts, the program provides reimbursement to tribes and local agencies for pre-broadband deployment project costs. We're excited to have these rules established and we believe increasing the capacity for local agency partners is crucial for success in reaching rural, urban, underserved and tribal areas. We also just launched a website with program information and I invite everyone to check that out. There's informational webinars, program guidelines and other information after the presentation. We'll put the link in in the chat for those of you that want to look at that website. I also want to mention that yesterday, we released an amended scoping memo in our CASF rulemaking and this amended scoping memo presents proposed rule changes for the adoption consortia and broadband public housing accounts and presents questions for response regarding both the rule changes, the proposed allocations, and the broadband loan loss reserve fund that was established by SB 156. So again, it also puts forth some proposals regarding the CASF fund allocations for the next three fiscal years. And again, we're requesting comments on the allocations along with the rule changes and the loan loss reserve fund. The scoping memo includes additional information on how to file comments as well as scheduling so I encourage you to take a look at the rolling if you haven't already and to submit comments either party comments or public comments, and if you have any questions about that, please reach out to our public advisor or my office or staff at the PUC. And then the last announcement before getting into the slides is just that we've scheduled our annual CASF workshop for April 19. The agenda still being developed but we're anticipating presenting on work that we're doing over the last year on the last mile and middle-mile last-mile effort. So I encourage you to join us in save that date for your calendar again, that's April 19. Okay, and if you can go to the next slide.

Commissioner Houck, I apologize if I can interrupt you for just a moment. Mr. Medigovich from-- sorry, Mitch, I'm going to mess up your name now, I've got it in my head, had his hand up and I think I missed it at the end of Mr. Monroe's presentation, go ahead Mitch.

Yes, thank you, Russ. My question was two questions. First was programmatically, are we looking at, or do we have the capacity that our funding for this, just moves into a revolving account so that as opportunities continue year after year, or do we have to execute on a fiscal year calendar? That's the first question.

So in terms of the appropriation, that the legislators appropriation of the 3.25 billion, it's a little unusual, in that it actually has a period of availability that is consistent with the federal guidelines in the budget. You can always tailor those, there's kind of a standard period of availability. So we don't have to do anything more than, you know, the 3.25 billion was all appropriated in the 2021 budget act. There are other components of the broader \$6 billion package that I think are, or were earmarked for it's a bad word to use, but but yeah, identified for years, two and three. But yeah, for in terms of the middle mile initiative, all of that funding has been appropriated. And so, and we can use it over the period allowed by the feds, the federal government. Thank you that clears that up.

The second question I had was, are we, do we have a directed middle mile plan, like objectively or are we moving towards targets of opportunity based on those Caltrans projects that were being laid and we're just doing those in conjunction of all those functional areas, or how are we evaluating privatization?

Yeah, no, absolutely. And so, SB 156 certainly does specify a number of priorities I think the ones that everybody really wants to, to focus on are the underserved and unserved communities throughout the state. That's, I mean, that is the equity lens that we're really trying to solve for

here. There are a number of communities that just don't have access or don't have affordable access, and we're trying to solve for that. So when this proposal was put together, the PUC had worked with their the telecom companies to, to identify where, where there were gaps, where the unserved and underserved populations were throughout the state, and worked with Caltrans to come up with an initial map of how one would connect those communities using the state highway and that's really the the genesis of this. So that was kind of the initial plan. This last fall pursuant to SB 156, the Public Utilities Commission went through a process that I think Commissioner Houck is going to talk us through a bit here, where they went through a public process to kind of refine that, get comments on that map and and then this past December they had provided, we published a kind of a map that is very similar to the map that was produced last spring, but it's got public comment added to it. And so that really serves as the the initial map that we're building off of. And so we're in a process now, now that we have that map out there where we're working with GoldenStateNet, or third party administrator to truly develop the broader system. You know, it's a network so everything has to plug in and be fully operable, and be able to function as a network. So we're in the process of designing that. And so the, the Caltrans efforts I mentioned really are an effort to get ahead of that process. Knowing that as we you know, similar to what we did with the 18 projects where we had an early understanding from the PUC staff that that there were these 18 areas, 18 projects where we couldn't move forward, we knew a solution was needed, and we moved forward with a solution ahead of the broader analysis that PUC was doing. Now we're in a situation where we are, we're working with the GoldenStateNet to kind of get a better understanding of how to progress with all of the remaining projects and how, how we move forward with a series of projects that build out the entire network. But ahead of that, we're also working with Caltrans to move this as quickly as possible since really the pre-construction construction phases of the project, those are going to take the majority of, take the majority of the time.

Okay, thank you very much. I appreciate that. And Mitch, I gave you the thumbs up so I addressed his question there, again, with the new configuration to be unmuted, people have to request that so the thumbs up response is greatly appreciated. Mitch, thank you. Alright, with that Commissioner Houck, I apologize for the interruption there and we'll let you continue your presentation.

We have an additional hand being raised by a Mason Carroll.

Mason, go ahead.

First, I'm not sure this...

Hello? No, hello, sorry. Can you hear me?

Yes. And I'm sorry, Mason, at the end of the meeting is when we will do public comment. And so if I can have you hold your comment until the presentations are done, then we will call on members of public interest Thank you.

Yes, just raising my hand to make public comment. Thank you so much.

Perfect. Thank you very much. All right. Commissioner Houk. Again, I apologize for the interruption. Please continue.

No problem. That's what we're here for is to answer questions and get information so that so I'm going to talk about, give an overview of the CPUC's broadband responsibilities including the new responsibilities under SB 156 and AB 164. So each of the boxes on this slide illustrates our responsibilities in the areas of middle mile locations, last mile initiative, and our supporting

programs. So the middle mile locations, we've worked to help identify routes and priority areas using public process. We reported on mapping and analysis to the California Department of Technology for use in their program implementation and project development. On the last mile initiative, there's a \$2 billion total funding amount that is being implemented through our California advanced services or CASF fund through the federal funding accounts and the funding is available for awards to applicants with broadband last mile infrastructure project. Our supporting programs through the California Advance Services Fund include \$66 million, currently authorized to assist with broadband infrastructure deployment and adoption in public housing in tribal communities and unserved areas. We have the new responsibilities regarding the loan loss reserve program, which is a \$750 million funding amount to enable local governments, nonprofits, to secure financing for broadband infrastructure and then we have our Technical Assistance Program, which is \$50 million of funding to help local governments and tribes for broadband infrastructure investments. Other programs that we have that also provide support include our lifeline in California teleconnect fund but they're not specifically falling under the CASF program. So if we could go to the next slide. So I'm briefly going to talk about our middle mile efforts and expand a little bit on what the PUC has specifically done. And Mark did a great job talking about the efforts overall but what the CPUC has done is the timeline is here July 2021, SB 156 and AB 164 became law. Between August and October of last year we focused on the public comment process for our broadband for all proceeding. SB 156 gave us 90 days for public comment and we were able to meet that goal and get the information back within that timeframe. The broadband for all proceeding then we collected and analyzed all of the additional data request and the public comments that we received. We issued determinations that we concurred with the initial project locations, and then in December of last year through January of this year, in coordination with CDT, we released additional analysis maps and data. And this included the public comment map that Mark had mentioned, locations without broadband access at 25 megabits per second download and three megabits per second upload, and then Caltrans scheduled project maps. And then we've been working on the remaining analysis in coordination with the Department of Technology and we anticipate that that analysis is going to be released through our broadband for all proceeding sometime later this month. And then through 2023 and 2024, we anticipate updating locations as needed. And again, this was done through a formal public process in our broadband infrastructure deployment proceeding, which is rulemaking 20-09-001. President Reynolds is the lead commissioner on that proceeding and my Bagley Keene partner between the two proceedings with the last mile and middle mile effort, so we can go to the next slide. So, this slide presents the timeline and efforts that are being done with the Technical Assistance Program, which has a budget allocated of \$50 million and applies to tribes and local governments to facilitate deployment of last mile broadband infrastructure projects by providing reimbursement for technical assistance pre-project development cost. And again, this slide has the, the timeline and the red dot shows where we are right now. So again, law went into effect in July of 2021. In September through October of last year, we issued a staff proposal with program rules. We took opening comments that were due on September 30, reply comments October 13. We then analyze the stakeholder comments and drafted a proposed decision with the program rules. The technical assistance proposed decision was released in January on January 21. And then we had two comments on that proposed decision that were due February 25. And then we adopted the decision again at our last meeting on February 24. We intend to meet and do outreach with local governments and tribes in March and April of this year. And then we expect to start accepting applications to award funding between May and December. And I know that's a huge timeframe and we fully intend to accept applications on the sooner end of that timeframe. But we do want to do the outreach in March and April and make sure we're ready to go and those applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. And again, this was done through our CASF rulemaking proceeding which is our 20-08-021. And that information is there at the bottom of the slide. So if we could go to the next slide. So our last mile initiative timeframe. So this is the allocation of \$2 billion in federal ARPA funds to connect unserved and underserved communities to last mile broadband service through the federal funding account. And, again,

we've got a very ambitious timeframe as required by federal rules. And we're addressing creation of this account again through our broadband for all rulemaking which again, is listed at the bottom our 20-09-001. And this, we released several rulings soliciting public feedback on the proposed last mile funding through this proceeding. Final proposal concerning program rules and funding distribution is anticipated to be released later this month. And we expect to open cycles accepting applications around June of this year, through the end of this year and so then walking through this timeframe again in August and September, we developed program rules proposal, we re-scoped the broadband infrastructure deployment proceeding and assigned resources to program development and implementation. There was an interim report to the US Treasury Department and the Treasury released capital project fund allocations. And October through December of last year, we released a ruling with program rules, proposal and allocations for public comment. Stakeholder opening comments were due November 15. On the program rules and reply comments were due on December 15. For the funding allocations in the January to March timeframe, the US Treasury Department released a final program spending guidelines. We reviewed the public comments and finalized program rules and released a proposed decision on the program rules. The April to June timeframe, we anticipate that we'll be able to adopt the final decision, begin accepting applications from providers to review for alignment with program rules and policy objectives. There's a second quarterly report to the US Treasury and then the July-December timeframe we expect to award funding to applicants and then ongoing reporting will occur with the US Treasury Department. See, go ahead to the next slide. So this is the California Advance Services timeline and so in addition to the broadband funding allocated in last year's budget, through AB 14 And SB 4, it was the funding was extended for the California Advance Services Fund, infrastructure public housing adoption, and consortia accounts. In December, we acted on the outstanding CASF infrastructure applications and since then, we've turned our attention to developing draft program rules for other CASF legacy accounts, including the public housing account, adoption account, and consortia account. These proposals were included in the amended scoping memo that I mentioned earlier. And this ruling also included an amended proceeding schedule for receiving comments on the proposals. So again, it's important for us to hear from stakeholders and we really encourage you to submit responses to the questions presented in the ruling. And again, we've set an ambitious schedule here targeting a proposed decision issuing in time to open a new application cycle for these accounts in July of this year. So, again, as I mentioned, in addition to these legacy account rule change proposals, our amended scoping memo and the CASF rulemaking provides proposed allocations for the overall CASF program which may be distributed across the sub accounts in fiscal years 2223, 2324, and 2425. The calculation of the proposed allocations for the upcoming fiscal year began with the Historical Fund allocations and staff proposes to increase these historical funds for the broadband public housing account, the adoption account, and the consortium account in the subsequent years. We note that these increases are intended to address the expanded eligibility criteria and expanded scope of reimbursable costs for these programs that were either required by the 2021 broadband bills or that may be necessary to fulfill the requirements of these bills. And let's see. So again, we are currently taking comments and have detailed information in the ruling and just really want to encourage stakeholder feedback because that is going to be critical for us and making our final decisions on these important programs. So I'd like to go to the next slide. So last year's budget also created a new state funded loan loss reserve program to assist local governments in deploying public networks with the goal of expanding the ability to secure financing to build broadband infrastructure. We began soliciting feedback from stakeholders prior to issuing this ruling, and then the ruling that was issued yesterday has more specific questions that we're looking for feedback on. This is a new program for the commission and we want to hear from stakeholders again, to make sure that the program is going to meet the needs of the constituents. And we also, as I noted earlier, believe it's going to be critically important to have public partners to be able to expand broadband to some of the harder geographically reachable areas in the state and we anticipate releasing a staff proposal in third quarter of 2022 and adopting program rules in early 2023. Targeting accepting applications for this in the spring of

2023. The funding here comes from the general fund rather than the federal funding so we have a little bit more flexibility on the timing. Again, this is the timeline showing where we're at which is where the red dot is, July 2021 well I guess, to July 2022, that's a big time frame but so we're doing our outreach now, we're taking comments and again, we're hoping to get a proposal out as soon as possible and expect to release draft rules in between July and September of this year. And then analyze the comments between October and December and be ready to vote on a decision early next year and be ready by April-June of 2023 to start accepting applications, and again, and that's all being done in our formal proceeding rulemaking 20-08-021. Okay, next slide. And I guess that is our last slide here, so I guess if there's questions, that was a lot of information and I think I went through it pretty fast.

Thank you, Commissioner. Let me remind the council members if you'd like to make a comment or have a question for the commissioner, raise your hand. And while you're doing that, let me remind folks that may have joined the meeting late we are using a slightly new configuration. Towards the end of the meeting when we open it up for public comments, folks can raise their hand and we will call on them. It will take us just a minute to unmute each individual one at a time and then we'll remute you after your comment. And also, actually Sarah Smith, let me call on you first with a question for the Commissioner.

Hi, can you guys hear me all right.

Yes.

Great.

Just a question for Commissioner Houck about the timeline for the CASF applications. I know that you kind of mentioned that there, it seems like it's a longer period of time between the passage of the bills last year and rolling out applications. Do you guys have, I know you're in the process of allocating funds that were authorized under 414. Do you guys have an estimate of when the next round of infrastructure grant money will be available under 414?

So as we said, we're in the process of revising the rules right now. And so we're anticipating to move forward with this year's allocations and I'm just trying to make sure I have got the right timeline up here that I'm looking at.

So if, so maybe I can rephrase my question a little bit differently, which is are this year's applications being done under the legacy program because you guys are in the process of revising the rules. And then probably next year's will be 414 or...?

So, we're hoping to adopt the rule the new rules soon so that we can move some of the funding around I think we talked about having more allocations for the allocation consortium and public housing account so we would have the same funding level for this year but shift a higher percentage of that to those accounts so we could move forward and start accepting applications as soon as we adopt that decision. And then we would go into a new round looking to increase the amounts next year. So as soon as, we're hoping to adopt that decision, and a relatively quick timeframe. So if you look at the March timeframe we're looking at, we've issued the ruling with the proposed program rules that has those additional allocations for those accounts and then we're taking public comments and we expect to adopt the final program rules sometime between April and June of this year. And then we expect that the new funding rounds for both the adoption and public housing accounts will begin in July of this year. And that way, we can get those moving and get those awards done as soon as possible for this year, and give us time to do what we need to do to increase the surcharges for the following years. So I hope that answers your question and makes sense.

Yeah. So in terms of timeline for the adoption, Public Housing Consortium accounts we're looking at kind of in the next fiscal year, or by the start of the next fiscal year. And then for the infrastructure grant account, I'm assuming because we're actually, you would have to go through the process of looking at the surcharges. We're talking about some months later.

Well, we will be just having, we will be shifting the allocations within the accounts. So we would still be moving forward with, with all of them and then the surcharge increases. We're looking out for the next fiscal year. So what we're hoping to do is adopt these new allocations for all the accounts in April-June timeframe. We could start moving forward with allocating funds in July.

Okay. I'll circle back with CPUC staff, I think to get more details about timeline. Thank you.

Yes. And I would ask, suggest to you also look at the ruling we issued yesterday that has a lot of detail and provides all the allocation dollar amounts for each of the accounts that are being proposed and the specific timeframes for how this would be administered and what we're proposing with increasing the surcharge. Thank you.

Perfect. Thank you, Miss Smith. Miss McPeak, did you have a question, I saw you put your hand down.

I was only going to share what Commissioner Houck just did from the scoping memo issued yesterday.

Perfect. Thank you very much. Mr. Carroll, we noticed your hand raised, we've got that noted for the public comment at the end of your session. So we'll call you at that point. We would like to remind everyone we still have three agenda items. So we are a bit pressed for time. But we'll move through that. I'd also like to acknowledge that Dr. Williams has joined us representing Assembly Member Gibson who was not able to join at the very beginning of the meeting but has subsequently joined. With that, let me transition to President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund, Sunne Wright McPeak, and she will provide an update on the affordable connectivity plan. Sunne.

Thank you, Chair Nichols and welcome. And thank you to Secretary Tong. Let me say that again, Secretary Tong, for having last meeting said we really needed to focus on the affordability question, as has the administration for vaccines. This is actually item 16. Primarily item 16 in the Action Plan, and we're grateful that today the scope of that, of the key partners was expanded today. So if we go to the next slide, I want to provide you an overview of the affordable connectivity program. Let's change the slide I think it's coming up. Is that true for everybody? Thank you. I am actually going to be joined today by our senior vice president, whom I'll introduce in just a moment. Our purpose in bringing today this report is an update on the action plan but also to focus on the California Broadband Council continuing to provide the leadership to address affordability and to take advantage of the federal program called affordable connectivity program that has now replaced the emergency broadband benefit program. We want to focus on three things which is assessing the magnitude and need and the opportunity for California. Proposed just set a goal on the digital divide being closed in the next three years that matches the timeframe. That Mark Monroe addressed that Commissioner Houck just focused on and then to support enhanced strategies that are already in our broadband for all action plan. So just for a moment, the magnitude of the opportunity is that according to the University of Southern California, we have over 5 million households in California eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). What we know is that the federal government has appropriated \$14.2 billion for ACP. Now if we were looking at just California's fair share with this usually 15% of any federal dollars for poor households since we have 15% of all low-income households in



the nation live in California. Our fair share would be 2.1 billion. However, as you're going to hear from Susan Walters in just a moment, the federal program of 14.2 billion if just those who were enrolled in EBB and they get rolled over into automatically ACP, were to receive their subsidy, it would last only four years. All of this is intended to have a sense of urgency for those of us in California to get to a greater number of the 5 million households who are eligible. So if we look at achieving qualitative goal of universal adoption, and Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia just introduced AB 2751. So we looked at those targets for signing up eligible households. Assembly Member Garcia in that bill proposes 90% of eligible households of the 5 million by the first of 2024 and 95% of those households by January of 2027. So that would be getting to 4.5 million households by 2024. And then we want to engage all state agencies including those who are just added as key partners to item 16 and deliver a continuing back to the California Broadband Council on a quarterly basis. The pace that Scott Adams is setting as Amy has observed is really essential for us to make sure we're holding ourselves accountable. So if we go to the next slide, I just want to introduce my colleague, Susan Walters. She is going to talk about the program that actually is, is illustrative of why we can get this done in California and she will tell you everything about the ACP program that you ever wanted to know. Susan has been our Senior VP from day one. She oversees all of our adoptions and she is the key partner and working in LA County for the last few months. Susan Walters.

And Katherine, you may need to unmute Ms. Walters.

Terrific, thank you Katherine. All right. As I mentioned, the affordable connectivity program right, began in January. It provides \$30 a month just so everybody is aware and one person in the household has to qualify under one of the programs listed. So you see that many of these qualifying events are programs run by the state you know, various state departments, school districts and counties. So your engagement is really essential in achieving the goals Sunne just outlined. Next slide, please. I want to talk for a moment about performance for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program right, which just transitioned to the Affordable Connectivity Program, or ACP, in the last six and a half months of 2021. Over 1 million California households enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit. And that's terrific, but it's not enough. So it's important to notice that January's enrollment number indicates a lower activity level than we had in December. And we think that's primarily because there really was no advertising in January. The other note here is this map where Cal State Chico is providing regular updates with the data so you'll have access to this and can see county-by-county census, track-by-census track, how progress is going. Next slide please. So there's a lot of information here but the point of this slide is to really help you understand the scope of eligibility, and how well we're doing and how much more we need to do. You'll notice the smaller counties have had higher success in getting enrollment, which tells us we need more focus on the larger counties to help them boost their enrollment. Next slide please. So this slide gives you two reasons we have heard consistently since 2008. When we began doing regular surveys, people who are eligible have told us since 2008, that they're not aware of discounted offers. And they cannot afford market rate prices. Next slide. So you'll see on this next slide the results of the LA County Board of Supervisors decision of November 16 last year to turn this around. CETF did a three week advertising campaign with the county and we increased enrollment so you can see by 43%. You can also see it was on a downward trend. So it's significant that we were able to enroll, you know 43,000 new households into EBB at the end of the year. This was also cost effective for the county just under \$7 per enrollment. And that's because CETF had already done the research, tested the ads in the LA County just needed to rebrand the materials and was ready to go. You'll see on the next slide some of the materials. We did this in multiple languages, right in culture in languages are reframe. And these materials were available and ready. So that LA county could be up in just a couple of weeks in the marketplace. So let's talk about the paid media in the marketplace on the next slide. This is a targeted marketing campaign to increase awareness with a call to action. We need sign up for EBB. You'll see it generated over 16 million impressions. That's how many times

somebody saw one of the ads and we used all channels possible. Right...TV, radio, print, social media. And we had tremendous results. Recall from the last slide this generated 21,000 applications, right as part to the website that we were promoting in addition to the calls, right to get to those 43,000 new enrollments. And then the next slide shows you on earned media that we were able to generate actually 38 stories placed from our press event. And this generated an additional 5 million impressions, which of course contributed to that significant increase. You'll also notice we were not shy about using community media. This was an important piece of the overall effort. Sunne, back to you.

And on the next slide. We want to focus on the fact that most of the signups of the 1.2 million in California were actually for mobile service for many homes, especially those with children in school, an adult taking a course to improve skills or the need for telehealth a different kind of connection with a different kind of device at home is needed. The good news is that ACP allows that home broadband connection as well as on a mobile phone for data. So we want to understand how great an opportunity is now presented to us for California to get our fair share of funding for our lowest income household. And the last slide is our summary of the call to action that we want to respectfully submit to the broadband council to consider. It aligns with the broadband for all action plan that we focus on the next three years and get to 90% of eligible households by 2024 and look to then 95% in the next five, three following years to 2027 that we enlist all states, state agencies, counties, school districts to promote ACP. That mobilization that can be done, as we just showed from LA that be can be done by a state agency by all counties is what makes a huge amount of difference. We need to have funding for advertising. It can be fairly modest to get a pretty big impact. We want to invite the ISPs to contribute to the public funding of that advertising, that we look to the new resources that you will hear about from Scott that the federal government has available but to engage community-based organizations, as long time experienced with a track record digital navigators to assist households who need help to sign up for ACP with performance metrics. We need to have performance metrics inserted here in terms of households we sign up and that we could continue to work together. We're making all of these goals hitting the mark and providing quarterly reports to the Broadband Council. That concludes our presentation, Chair Nichols.

Thank you.

Laura, can you bring the slides back up? There's one more slide.

All right. Thank you and let me remind all of the members of the council, raise your hands if you have questions.

I'm sorry, Russ. There's one more slide.

And I think this next slide, the next slide is to remind us all, all the work that was done by the broadband council for EBB and promotion in the past but Scott, you're going to do this slide.

Well, yeah, it's more just complimentary, like we discussed Sunne and that is, yes want to acknowledge the past effort that a number of members, the Broadband Council and partner agencies have done including Department of Education, the Library, GoBiz have ever really worked to promote the Emergency Broadband Benefit via webinars and distributing materials and then total alignment agreement view that this work needs to be leveraged and expanded to promote the affordable connectivity program because that's a \$14 billion program that unlike EBB, which was temporary in response to COVID. This is potentially three to five year program that can provide a sustained subsidy to you know, support adoption rates really hit the affordability you know, problem for a lot of the you know populations. I do want to say that just in the wake of our last meeting, we did meet with the government operations agency and other

departments to do the, you know, begin the work of action item 16 which is, you know, how can we leverage and integrate you know, information about EBB and ACP into existing programs. The, you know, there's some lag time there because of the transition from ABB to ACP, but really great conversations and opportunities and gaps identified that are going to be the opportunities leverage in the gaps addressed in 2022. As you mentioned that will be sort of mentioned in the in the next presentation after the members comment on this but so spot on and appreciate your, CETF's and other council members' leadership and just focus on adoption affordability is critical parts of the broadband for all program and how essential it is for us to consistently and persistently at a micro level you know, in language work with partners to you know, address this issue. So I will stop there. I'm sorry, but really excited about this. This program and the opportunity presents for broadband for all in California.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. We'll go to Miss Walters and then to Secretary Tong.

Okay, just really quickly, I hope I'm not stealing anybody's thunder but the GovOps folks just as an example of what's coming in 2022, they have a team of canvassers almost as what I would call them folks who are going door-to-door in neighborhoods that have lower vaccine rates, right, address questions about COVID. And they are now taking, they built a partnership with LA County and are going to be focusing in specific zip codes in LA County and taking this information and really serving a role much like digital navigators as well, to help get this information out and it's just, it's a great example of you know state working with other entities.

Thank you. Secretary Tong.

Yes, thank you. Just I want to echo the, you know how amazing the work and really appreciate the very thorough presentation Miss McPeak and Miss Walters. To Scott's point, this is one of the remaining items, remaining item as in not like I'm walking away from broadband, but I think it's one of the key item that was raised last year and really see the progress that's already being made this year in the first meeting of 2022 but also wanted to support that this needs to be continued to be accelerated for the fact that this is the A through Z and I always say right, as Miss McPeak notes this, that you could focus on getting that network bill, getting the last mile connected, but if we ultimately do not have a good robust program to help people adopt in a way that they could as well as in affordable manners, then all of the work getting up to that point, it doesn't still serve the household that needs the connectivity. So I just want to continue to lay out this big picture and really encourage the California Broadband Council to continue to be the champion of this adoption at the end, because there's a good focus on the middle mile, very good focus on the last mile thanks to CPUC but we need an advocate and continue to put this on top of people's agenda. That adoption, that outreach that really going out knocking on the doors if needed to be to help people to understand there are programs to help them is something that we really need to make it into a campaign approach. And I just, you know, in my role in GovOps and whatever we can do there from a supporting aspect to help amplify this please do let us know and I'm really, really excited about this as well.

Hey Russ, I don't mean to, to put anyone on the spot but I'm wondering if our partners from the Library or CDE you know, we all participated on a on a panel and I had meetings with them our monthly check-ins, I know they've got some, some cool plans in the immediate and near future. You know, Mr. Lucas or Mr. Belleau if you guys want to share those or if you don't mind, I'm happy to speak to those.

Katherine if you can unmute Mr. Lucas, looks like he has comment. Thank you for bearing with us with the new configuration. It takes a moment for the technology component after Katherine unmutes someone before the speaker can actually unmute themselves.

Mr. Lucas, can you please raise your hand so I can find you?

It's Greg L.

Well, we went to all that trouble. It's Greg Lucas. We went to all that trouble to unmute me so that I could say Scott, why don't you go ahead and since you have the floor.

Well, just you know, great. Your support and your team within the Library is just been really great to work with. And so, you know, we met with, you know, your folks on the action items we're working on and they shared with us that they're having a webinar on the affordable connectivity program with the branch offices next week. They're gearing up to imminently send out information, you know, like materials to the branch libraries on the ACP, which is really like the kind of leadership and example we'd love to see from other areas and then, the digital navigator program that you all are piloting for the Library, providing devices but also working to have those folks support assisting residents sign up for either ACP or other affordable offers is exactly the kind of thing that we need to find capacity for at a bigger level across the state. So just wanted to commend you and your team for really leaning into that.

Thank you, and we noted your response there, Mr. Lucas. Thank you. All right. Thank you, Scott. Any other questions or comments from the committee for Miss McPeak or Miss Walters? Right, not seeing any, thank you. We are running a little bit late. So we will the, the overall meeting will run a little bit long to make sure that we have time for public comment. So we will not be cutting that off. We have noted a number of folks that, that have questions to ask. So with that, we need to unmute Mr. Lakritz and Scott Adams as they will be presenting to us on the infrastructure investment and jobs act programs. So Scott, let me turn it over to you as we're getting Jonathan unmuted.

Thanks, Russ. Yeah, so this is a really big deal is, is we have, you know, are really attempting to do and demonstrate here at the broadband council is that Broadband for All is really the state's program and there's many components, you know, from access to affordability to, you know, devices to digital literacy that are all important and we've got the plan together in a good framework of a plan. We've got resources, but there's a need for more resources to get the kind of support and capacity on implementation. So, I wanted to just touch on the NTIA funding that was included in the recent infrastructure bill. Next slide, please. Real broadly, I know we're running short, so I'm going to breeze through these. The recent infrastructure bill included \$65 billion dollars to allocate towards broadband in the United States. 48 billion of that will be allocated or administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration through six key programs. The first is the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program, or BEAD. That's going to have 42 billion total dollars to support broadband infrastructure, deployment and adoption. California is anticipated to get an initial allocation of \$100 million dollars. And then further funding amounts we determined, you know, granular, you know, mapping data that Jonathan could speak to, you know, and maybe articulate on developing a five-year plan. There's the digital equity planning grant to help states develop digital equity plans, there's \$60 million in total there, so California is going to get an allocation based on that. After the planning grant, once the digital equity plan is developed and submitted to the NTIA. There are two separate funds, one for digital equity capacity grants and digital equity competitive grants, and this chart is going to be up on the website, so I won't go through each particular field here, but there's, you know, almost \$3 billion to support digital equity efforts. There are two other programs; they're critically important to the state here. There's the Enabling Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure that really, you know, would go a long way to, or not a long way, but could be used to augment the state's current middle-mile initiative. And then the additional 2 billion for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, which, you know, California, you know, very committed to ensuring that all of our tribal nations and governments have the broadband

capacity that they need. So, next slide. Given how important this is, wanting to really commend and recognize the broadband council, you all very quickly, you know, contributed to, you know, the broadband council responding to the NTIA's Request for Comment on the implementation of these programs. Over 550 entities in the nation commented on that, but I think California and the broadband council demonstrated your leadership on this. The public wanted to share the real six high level points that we stress to the NTIA is that their program should support comprehensive data collection and rely on existing state investments in mapping and data analysis. The CPUC has done a great job helping put California ahead of the game and we would prefer to have, you know, California's data, you know, help determine our allocation. The next bullet is really that NTIA program should include upfront funding for state staffing and system development and planning stages. The next is that, you know, an acknowledgement that any NTIA funded projects would benefit from meaningful community engagement and stakeholder input. We also collectively stress that NTIA should acknowledge the value of the state's existing efforts and programs and ongoing community and public input. So, you know, when we look at this, we talked about California's broadband for all program, that's really, you know, the executive order, the action plan, you know, the initiatives called out in SB 156 in the budget, those really are a comprehensive plan. And so, those in addition to the work that's done at the local level need to be considered as we develop our five-year plan and our digital equity plan. The last few points are just really stressing that programs should support inclusion of small and unique entities to create opportunity and competition, and that projects should meet a robust set of minimum requirements for performance, reliability, affordability and digital equity. And so, again, broadband council, thanks for your collective action on weighing in, your voice collectively makes a big impact. And now, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague, Jonathan Lakritz, at the PUC to speak to their aligning and concurrent comments with the broadband council. Jonathan.

Thank you, Scott. Hello, I'm Jonathan Lakritz. Thank you for advancing the slide. Hello, I'm Jonathan Lakritz, the branch manager of the group implementing the broadband investment act of the CPUC. I'm going to speak about the comments of the CPUC file, these comments focus on the broadband equity access and deployment, or BEAD funding. I'm sorry, as Scott mentioned earlier, we complement the California broadband council comments. We appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with CDT and the other broadband council members on the comments. I will summarize the CDT's recommendations that we made to help them to guide the NTIA in distributing the BEAD funding. First, regarding mapping, as Scott said, we encourage the NTIA should fund broadband data and mapping and require broadband data collection to comply with the new Federal Communications Commission's new broadband data and mapping protocols. We encourage the NTIA to recognize and reflect in allocating funds, for local factors drive the cost of new broadband infrastructure, noting that in California there are particularly large numbers of high-cost areas. NTIA should fund network investments that support resiliency, similar to the leadership that California has taken to improve resiliency in high threat zones subjected to wildfire and other natural disasters. We encourage the NTIA to give funding incentives to broadband programs to integrate infrastructure and digital equity to make broadband accessible to all. And finally, the CPUC urged that precision agriculture should be eligible for funding. This concludes my summary of the CPUC comments and I'm available to answer any questions, thank you.

And there's one more slide here, Russ, before we go to comments, because I knew, top of mind, for the council members and the folks watching, what are the timelines and next steps? So, things are still evolving and being developed, but on the BEAD program where there's the most significant amount of funding, we expect that the Notice Of Funding Opportunity will be out in May or June. I actually think it might have been pegged for June 8th. Some of the dependencies are that the state will need to follow Letter of Intent and then submit a five-year action plan on the digital equity planning grant. Again, anticipate the NOFO in June and again the state must designate a digital equity entity and submit a Letter of Intent. Both the capacity and competitive

grants will follow the completion of those plans and then we're tracking because we know that the council members are really interested in this, that both on the Enabling Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. Those are, you know, to be determined, but we will keep you posted as more details and information come out. So, that is the end of our presentation on this.

Thank you both Scott and Jonathan. Any comments or questions from members of the council? Remember that you'll have to raise your hand to be recognized. Sarah Smith, you have your hand up. Katherine, if you can unmute her, please. Go ahead, Sarah.

Hey, yes, sorry, just for a point of clarification, because I noted that there were kind of two different presentations on NTIA comments. One appeared to be based off of the broadband council's input. But I do believe the PUC also went over recommendations, I'm just clarifying, are those areas where there may be differences between what was filed on behalf of the broadband council versus what was filed by the PUC, since the PUC did file on behalf of the State of California a separate set of comments to NTIA. Was the summary of the PUC's positions, or their recommendations, kind of those items, that differed? I guess that's what I'm asking. Since there's two different set of comments that were submitted for California.

Sure, I can start. This is Jonathan. I'm happy to clarify and, Scott, feel free to add to it. The PUC's comments, I believe, complement the broadband council's comments, and I summarized the key points that our agency raised in the comments to be filed with NTIA, but I believe that the comments are complementary to each other and stressed the overall path we're taking in California with this historic investment in broadband.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Commissioner Houck.

Yes, and I just want to reiterate what Jonathan said. I think we work closely with the Department of Technology, and looking at the comments, they were complementary. I also just really briefly wanted to go back to Sarah's earlier question about the infrastructure and just make sure that I was clear that there's two infrastructure avenues that we're dealing with. One is in our broadband for all proceeding that's dealing with the \$2 billion federal funding. And that timeline set out in the slide on last mile initiative and we are looking to start allocating funds, hopefully, in July and that decision should be coming out very soon. The allocations I was talking about were tied to the CASF infrastructure fund, which is the state money and our focus is really trying to get the larger dollar the federal funds out as soon as possible. So I just wanted to make sure that I was clear that we are working very diligently and infrastructure is a big focus but we have a timeline on the federal funding that's being handled in the broadband for all proceeding, and then the legacy funds for CASF, the state funds are handled through the other proceeding. And, again, please reach out to our staff or to my office, but I just wanted to make sure that there's two different streams for the funding going on. So I hope that helps clarify the question you had earlier Sarah.

Thank you, Commissioner. Alright. Other questions or comments from any members of the council? Alright, not seeing any. We will move on to our last presentation this morning. Prior to opening up public comment again, a reminder to anybody that has public comment, when we get to that portion you can raise your hand and be recognized. Or you could send your question to the email address that was mentioned earlier and we will repeat that again as we stop and start the public comment process. Moving on to our next update, it's an action plan item really coming to life. Action Item Number 21 calls for the creation of a portal to enable easy access to

broadband information and tools to serve as a central repository. Laura Sasaki our broadband initiatives manager will present this update. Laura.

Thanks, Russ. Good morning, everyone. The broadband for all portal is the result of the executive order and then the subsequent broadband for all action plan and Russ actually covered a couple of the items on this slide, which is that it's really here as a central hub and repository for folks to come and learn about everything going on with broadband for all in California. So it has a page with mapping and speed testing, resources and toolkits for implementation and planning for broadband, sample plans, and best practices, digital skills, training tools, and information on affordable internet offers for devices as well as state and federal funding and that's eligible. So with that, you're gonna have to bear with me for a moment I'm going to switch over to the portal itself. So give me just one second.

And Laura, while you were doing that, I think you had another slide about, you know, expected users and it really is we showed that earlier slide about the stakeholders really you know, the first iteration of the broadband for all portal is, is for, you know, the broadband council, the statewide partners, the local and regional partners, the school districts, all of these organizations that are aligned working on broadband for all and, and also focusing on individual users, but also we're sensitive to and knowledge that individual users impacted by the digital divide you know, may not necessarily at this point be going to a website to get information about how to get that so that was this first iteration to speak to the alignment and collaboration that's necessary for all those working on broadband for all. I'm sorry, Laura.

No, that's perfect. Thank you. So this is our landing page. This site was developed with the amazing office of enterprise technology web team and the office of broadband and digital literacy with some of our other partners. So the the homepage when you first land here, really has the framework of broadband for all and as the overarching principle that we are working towards, including all of the broadband initiatives. So that includes the broadband for all action plan, the middle mile broadband initiative, and the last mile and adoption programs. Each of these cards here links out to an internal page and then for the middle mile broadband initiative that jumps off into CDT's MMBI site and the last mile adoption program page goes out to the CPUC's broadband programs. We have some information about broadband availability in California essentially that one in five Californians don't have broadband services and then the investment that California and the Newsom administration is making in bringing broadband to all Californians. We've got some background information on broadband for all and that just kind of gives the history of how we got to where we are today including information on the council. The navigation on the left kind of summarizes where we are the executive order broadband for all action plan information on SB 156. And a little bit about the portal itself. We have areas for some trackers and these are just for accountability. And as we talked about earlier in the presentation today, just kind of tracking where we're at with broadband for all. So with the executive order, we have the executive order items and then knowing that they've mostly rolled up into the action plan we also map those over to the action plan item that they correspond to. And we have another tracker for Action Plan progress. This has all 24 action items. We will not scroll through all of those this morning. But it has a summary of what the action plan is if you're just dying for more information you can click on the 'About' for more, and it gives you the pop out version of that, lets us know who the key parties working on this are and then the status once it's been completed or if it's in progress. Some areas for partners these are our broadband for all partners, folks working towards broadband for all we have an area for planning and this is going to hopefully grow and expand exponentially as we iterate on this portal but we have a lot of broadband planning resources, there's toolkits, there's best practices for folks kind of identify where they are in the process, get an idea of what other successful programs have looked like. We have the resources and toolkits, sample plans, we've got cities, counties, and then regional areas and again, we hope that this rose greatly in the future. Digital inclusion and digital equity

plans, and then some links out to digital skills training tools, and I just want to give a shout out to the California State Library we have their career pathways featured here today. We have a funding database for state and local funding. This is searchable again, those of you who know, know that it came from the California State Library so I'm just gonna focus on that real quick. You can actually filter this by the type of entity you are and then further by the type of funding that you're looking for. And again, we have another pop out that has additional information and links out to where folks can go to learn more about or actually apply for those programs. The affordable service programs this is something that's really exciting and it's available both in the partners menu and also to residents and individuals. So if they need help, maybe they can actually go and work with some of these partners. We have partnered up with everyone on the California Emerging Technologies Fund for this service. So I'm going to put in a zip code and click on Find Offers. And I'm going to click some of these items that may apply to my household. What it does is it brings up offers that are available specifically in your zip code. We focus in and feature the affordable connectivity program. Again, this is part of the promotion for ACP and making sure that there is awareness around the program and information available and then links out to additional service provider offerings and in many cases, the ACP may actually zero out the cost of these low cost offers. So it's really important that folks look at that as they're looking for affordable offers. Sorry to make you seasick here, but we also have device offers a little bit further down the screen. This takes you out to participating providers that have low cost offers for devices. And then last but not least, we have our partner organizations that link out to all of the organizations that we are working with on broadband for all this is a very long page right now, again, it will probably be expanded out and in the future. But this includes broadband council members, consortiums, MPOs, and other partners that we're working with and I don't want to neglect we also have links out to the CPUC's inter- uh, their interactive Broadband Map and speed testing for folks to either contest speeds tests in their area or they can also this is the page for that or they can also run a speed test at home. There are a variety of options for downloading that and running that for a wireline test. So thank you for bearing with I know that we're a little bit over time but wanted to get through that and that is, concludes our presentation on the portal. So open to questions.

Perfect. Thank you, Laura. That is amazing progress. Thank you and the team for all of the efforts that you put into that. It's great to see that coming alive. So for the council members, anybody that has questions again, please raise your hand. We'll start with Secretary Tong.

Yes, thank you, Director. I just want to express how, you know, I don't even know what the word is. But this is amazing, amazing progress and thinking that, you know, there's so many efforts out there and then we did hear from the community that you know, there's a confusion of who's doing what and how the middle mile last mile adoption and Broadband Council, how this all connect together. So the challenge was put forward to the Office of Digital...Broadband & Digital Literacy to say, hey how can we pull all of this coming from an end user aspect, someone that doesn't need to know all of these acronyms yet can go to a central place to look for information and totally understand that this is a version one and in the spirit of getting something out there rather than you know, timely rather than waiting for perfection. This is just amazing, amazing work from when the task was given to you all the challenge was given to you all to be able to demonstrate. I'm just so, so pleased with the progress and very much looking forward to what is to come. And I mean, what is already out there. It's already amazing. So thank you so much team.

Thank you, Secretary.

Commissioner Houck.



Yeah, I just wanted to echo this is really, really impressive and I'm looking forward to adding the link to this page to our broadband page and my website so people can access it. This is just very, very impressive. So thank you for all the work on this.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Commissioner. Any other comments or questions for Laura? With that, thank you very much, Laura, for that presentation. And thank you to all the presenters today. There was an immense amount of information, lots of work going into the preparation for this to provide that information out to the public. So thank you again. As a reminder, this information will be posted out on the website for people to pick up later. So again, thank you. We will now move into the public comment period and Jules, if you will take over and facilitate that process, I would appreciate it.

Certainly, again in order to allow everyone who'd like to make a public comment to do so. We respectfully request public comments be no longer than two minutes per entity, and one entity and one person per entity for those on the phone who would wish to make a public comment. And again, this is only for those on the phone, please email or text [cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov](mailto:cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov). Again, [cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov](mailto:cabroadbandcouncil@state.ca.gov) with the phone number for which you are calling and indicate that you would like to make a public comment. We'll go ahead, we did have one submitted public comment from Lori Serles. I don't see her here. If she is if she could raise your hand that would be great. And if she's a phone person, we'll catch her at the end. And her public comment was basically about certain geographical areas and only having one broadband option and feeling that it's a monopoly and wanting to know what the plans are to address the situation. We will go ahead and attach that public comment to the meeting recap and transcript for Zoom if raising your hand and as chair Nichols mentioned before, it does take a couple minutes or a couple seconds for Katherine to unmute you, a box will pop up that says the host would like you to unmute upon when you see that box please go ahead and unmute. Katherine, could you please unmute Kelly Stevenson.

Thank you. I apologize to the last presenter if this was mentioned already, but will that portal be made available to the public?

Yes, it will be.

Okay, but not at this time?

Scott, did you want to speak to that real quick?

Yeah, it's uh, it will be made available to the public and broadband council members and others sometime in the next day or two and we fully welcome folks to you know, to go through it and provide comments on how we can improve it.

Perfect, thank you. I look forward to reviewing that site.

Katherine, could you please unmute Mason Carroll. Again, we appreciate everybody's patience. Well, he's an...well, he's...goes through the process of unmuting himself. Mr. Carroll?

Hello, can you hear me? Yes, we can. Oh, great. Okay. Hi. My name is Mason Carroll. I'm the lead engineer over here at [monkeybrain.net](http://monkeybrain.net). We're an independent internet service provider in the Bay Area with about 20,000 subscribers. MonkeyBrain has participated in both the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and CASF program, and we've seen firsthand how much benefit it's produced for our low-income customers. Using those programs, we're really excited to

speak in support of the middle mile fiber program. It's a real historic opportunity to change the internet, the internet service game and in California you know, we MonkeyBrain is, we're independent provider and we would love to expand to further out in California. And middle mile fiber is a really important part of that. Basically areas where we can't get affordable fiber we can't even analyze to see if they're going to be good locations to expand. You know areas with good backbone fiber or you know, generally well served. So, we also want to speak in support of California actually going ahead and building their own fiber rather than rather than just leasing fiber. I think it's really important if the state has goals and where they want to, they want to be in the driver's seat on where they want to build the fiber and expand the network. They really want to be the builders of it. If you enter in lease agreements, it's essentially going to be largely a giveaway to incumbent providers who are just going to rebuild and upgrade their existing network through various processes. They're going to certainly prioritize areas with higher revenue density as they're building the plans. And of course, we're going to have the same problem where areas that needed the most are going to probably be the last to be served. And that will happen at all different levels. But I really think of Cal State wants to be in the driver's seat, they really need to build it. Furthermore, we don't need more in you know, middlemen and brokers to enter the game. We want more fiber built. And lastly, we you know, when doing an analysis, the introduction of the merchants who brought them benefit it's really important for particularly when you're analyzing a market the number of people who subscribe an area really make or break, so you have a take rate of say 25% that you know, it may be a colossal money loser, where if there's a 35% take rate, the business works. So even if the EBB can push up the take rate and especially the most low-income markets that really could tip the scales into making expanding into a new area sustainable. So we really support all of these initiatives from the middle mile, the last mile, and they're all key pieces of the program. And I encourage you to keep pushing even if you get recommended by us from incumbents to stop. You really should keep going. You're doing great work. Keep it up.

Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Katherine, can you please unmute Robert Gemmell.

Hi, can you hear me? We can, go ahead. Oh, fantastic. Thank you so much. My name is Robert Gemmell. I'm with the California area Office of Indian Health Services and I'm curious about is there still a California Broadband Tribal Task Force as one part of my question. The other question is how, how can we point tribes toward resources regarding their underserved tribal locations? If they want to engage with looking at those maps and making sure they're represented?

So the first part is, is there still a Tribal Task Force?

I will answer this question and say that, you know, knowing how important it is, you know, connectivity on tribal lands that the Office of the Governor's tribal advisor in concert with some of the other broadband council members developed last year, the first ever California Tribal Broadband Connectivity Partnership Summit to really, you know, convene folks, albeit during COVID. It was online and there were some constraints there but a significant number of the tribal leaders and government folks, bringing them together with you know, broadband council members, state partner agencies like Caltrans that were involved in permitting a lot of the local folks and federal agencies to connect them to funding so there is a huge commitment to tribal connectivity and engagement. Along that I see, it looks like my partner from, calling from PUC Jonathan, did you want to comment on this?

Katherine, if you can unmute Jonathan Lakritz, please. Go ahead, Jonathan.

Yes, thank you. Thank you for the question. We would welcome at the California Public Utilities Commission, we have had a Tribal Technical Assistance Program for about a year and a half or

two years. And it's an opportunity for tribal nations to seek funding for technical systems as they consider their options to meet the broadband needs. And we would welcome an application and we're happy to discuss that with you further. And also, Commissioner Houck pointed out earlier, we the commission recently approved the Local Area Technical Assistance Grant Program, which will make additional money available to tribal nations to assist with developing solutions for broadband needs. And I will put my information on our website in addition, I will put into the chat, my email address, you can feel free to contact me.

Excellent.

Chat is disabled.

Yeah, chat is not enabled for me so if you, if...I'm sorry, can you just tell me your email address, I'll just write it down.

Sure, no problem. It's Jonathan.Lakritz@CPUC... (Charlie, Paul, Unicorn, Charlie) .CA.GOV.

Thank you very much.

Right now, I'm not seeing any more hands. Again, if there's anybody on the phone, nobody's submitted anything. If you think you can't email from your phone, you can go ahead and text from your phone from a text message. Is there anybody else on Zoom who'd like to make a public comment? I think that's it for right now. There is a public comment box on the website for anybody who wants to make one at any time. So, I'll throw it back to you to, Chair Nichols.

Alright, thank you very much, Jules. At this point, any of the committee members have additional questions or comments to offer at this point? Well, thank you very much everyone for attending today. Thank you for the patience as we work through this new tool, a new format for the first time. I do really appreciate all of the effort that went into the presentations, the content that was provided, and your willingness to struggle through that tool with us as we become more and more comfortable. Thank you again, and we will be conducting the next meeting. Actually, Scott, do you have that date? I just lost it off of my...

Yeah, it's in...Jules.

Uh...May 25

There you go. It's May 25<sup>th</sup>, and also want to let people know that what wasn't shown on the portal is that there's a meeting tracker section at the bottom of the portal page where you can find information on when the next Middle-Mile Advisory Committee Broadband Council meeting and other events are going on as well.

Thank you very much, Scott. My screen froze there for a moment. Those are on the website. We appreciate all the interest and support and everyone attending today and with that, we will adjourn this, this CBC meeting. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you next time. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

---

**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 2:58 PM

[REDACTED]

Yes please.

I appreciate the follow up and chance to voice my opinion.

Thank you  
Lori

Sent from my iPad

> On Feb 14, 2022, at 2:39 PM, CA Broadband Council <CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov> wrote:

>

> Good afternoon.

>

> Would you like to make a public comment at the March 2 California Broadband Council meeting? We should be posting the agenda soon and allocate time at the end of each meeting.

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lori Serles [REDACTED]

> Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 6:55 PM

> To: CA Broadband Council <CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov>

> Subject: Eliminating monopolies

>

> CAUTION: External Email. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

>

> Hello,

>

> I live in an area that only has one cable option, Cox. And I pay the price for that. It's a lot more expensive than my previous Spectrum service in my last home. Companies have monopolies and therefore no motivation to provide good service or to keep prices competitive. Is there is any plan to address this situation. Broadband is an essential utility, not a luxury. If there is anyone I need to write to or other actions I can take I would be willing and appreciative of the information.

>

> Thank you

> Lori of Laguna Niguel

>

> Sent from my iPad