

## California Broadband Council

May 25, 2022

### Meeting Recap and Transcript

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday May 25, 2022 at 9:50am at 1001 I Street, Sacramento and via virtual conference.

#### Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Council Chair Russ Nichols welcomed Council members and attendees and led a moment of silence to honor those impacted by the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

#### 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	Jennifer Osborn	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

\*Remote attendance.

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

Scott Adams:

- Introduced new broadband staff member Cole Przybyla.
- Provided updates on action plan revisions, portal tracker, external stakeholder engagement, and broadband roundtables.

## Agenda Item 3 – Action Plan Updates: Short-Term Action Items

Action plan owners presenting updates on short-term action items.

Rob Osborn of the California Public Utilities Commission provided updates of the following action items:

- #1 - Adopt shared standards among grant-funding programs
- #9 – Establish standards for and backhaul resilience and reliability
- #11 – Establish framework to define broadband service affordability standards
- #19 - Collect more granular and accurate broadband data to build out the California Interactive Broadband Map
- #20 - Leverage the CPUC's cost model to inform broadband planning and investments
- #22 – Identify additional opportunities to provide technical assistance to local governments, Tribes, nonprofits

Kaina Pereira of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development provided an update of the following action item:

- #2 - Identify alternative financing opportunities with government and philanthropic partners

Elizabeth Dooher of the California Department of Transportation provided updates of the following California Transportation Agency's action items:

- #4 – Implement a Dig Smart policy to install conduit as part of any appropriate and feasible state-funded transportation project
- #5 – Improve state encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-way management to accelerate broadband deployment

Scott Adams of the California Department of Technology provided updates of the following action items:

- #6 – Explore actions to enhance permitting processes at all levels of government
- #21 – Establish a Broadband For All

Budge Currier of the California Office of Emergency Services provided an update on the following action item:

- #8 – Regularly coordinate and convene jurisdictions implementing next-generation 9-1-1

Brian Carter of the California Department of Aging provided updates of the following action item:

- #15 – Analyze the needs of aging population for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and identify programmatic and partnerships

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

Mark Monroe from the California Department of Technology provided a Middle-Mile update, focusing on a budget change proposal, procurement, materials, a statewide system level map, and next steps.

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

California Public Utilities Commissioner Darcie Houck provided a Last-Mile update, focusing on last mile initiatives and supporting programs, local agency technical assistance, the Loan Loss Reserve Fund, the Last Mile Federal Funding Account, California Advanced Services Fund grants, and the Broadband Public Housing Account.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Broadband Adoption Update**

Sunne Wright McPeak and Susan Walters from the California Emerging Technology Fund provided an update on broadband adoption, focusing on the Affordable Connectivity Fund, activities to move the state toward universal adoption, and how CETF is tracking Affordable Connectivity Program eligibility and enrollment.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – NTIA IIJA Broadband Programs Update**

Scott Adams provided updates of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Infrastructure Investment and Job Programs.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Public Comment**

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

- The California Cable and Telecommunications Association.

Public comments were made by:

- David Griffiths.

Mr. Nichols thanked Council members, presenters, and attendees and noted the next meeting is Wednesday, July 27.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31am.

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

#### Attachments

- Transcript.
- Written public comments.

## Transcript

We are recording.

Thank you, Katherine. Good morning, everyone, thank you for the patience this morning as we struggle with some technical difficulties. We believe we're all set up now, and so thank you for joining us for the May 2022 California Broadband Council meeting. I'm Russ Nichols, I'll be the chair today. This is our first meeting in the hybrid format, so we have folks both in the room and joining us online and so we will be working through this. As we go through, we have an immense amount of content today because we've made great progress, and in a moment, we'll have Jules perform the roll call and jump into the content of the meeting, but first let me ask you all to join me in a moment of silence in honor of those folks that lost their lives in that unspeakable tragedy in Texas yesterday. All right, thank you very much. All right, Jules if you would run through the roll call and give the speaker instructions for participating in the meeting.

Certainly, good morning. Before we do roll call, we'll review microphone instructions for committee members. For those members attending in person, please click the speak button on your microphone console to speak, the button will show a red border when your microphone is on. Please click the same speak button to turn your microphone off if you don't turn it off, we will hear everything. That speak button will not show any color when the microphone is off. For committee members attending remotely, you should be able to mute and unmute yourself. We will begin roll call. Director Nichols?

Here.

Miss Smith?

Here.

Dr. Williams?

Here.

Commissioner Houck?

Here.

Deputy Director Medigovich?

Here.

Mr. Belleau?

Here.

Chief Deputy Director Osborn?

Here.

Deputy Secretary Pepper?

Here.

Miss McPeak?

Present. Deputy Secretary Flores?

Here.

Mr Lucas.

Here.

Miss Snider?

We do have a quorum. Before we start the meeting, a few housekeeping items. We respectfully request that anybody in person, please mute and turn off any speakers of any electronic devices they may have with them in order to avoid audio feedback. For everybody, if you are not a council member or presenter, please refrain from raising your hand until the designated public comment period at the end of the meeting. Presenters, please cue Cole to advance slides. Committee members, please raise your hand if you wish to speak, the Chair calling on you helps make sure you are heard. So, we do have a quorum. Please go ahead, Chair Nichols.

Thank you, Jules. And good morning again, we'll start this morning's meeting with the state broadband and digital literacy updates, let me introduce Mr Scott Adams Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy, Scott.

Thank you, Chair Nichols. Good morning committee members...council members and members of the public. My name is Scott Adams. I'm the Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy at Department of Technology. Could you please advance the slides? Let's go to the broadband and digital literacy update, please. Because there's a lot to cover, we're going to breeze through this real quick. We do want to take some time to introduce a new staff member to the broadband council members. Cole Przybyla had signed on to be our Broadband Access & Deployment Advisor. He'll be working with a number of you on completing the Broadband For All action plan items. Cole, can you say hello?

Good morning, thank you Scott. Really look forward to the opportunity and working with all, thank you.

Welcome aboard, Cole. Real quickly, we wanted to give the council members and the public an update on the Broadband for All Action Plan update. Since our last meeting staffers were to update the action plan revisions that were adopted at the last meeting and include those on the Broadband for All tracker on the portal, so folks can go and see those. We continue to have our monthly action item check-in meetings with the various action item monitors and really, I think it's good to see there's great progress that's been made on those. We continue to work through the joint external stakeholder engagement plan that we had walked through at the last meeting and pleased to see that we successfully just completed in the last four weeks, four separate Broadband for All roundtables. Next slide. We wanted to just dig a little deeper on the roundtables to share with the public, and there is an acknowledgement that you know the state's doing a lot of work, and we do have these formal meetings once a quarter, but are and it's really critical to engage other partners who you know are critical to implementing Broadband for All in California, and so the purpose of the Broadband for All roundtables was really to provide information and seeing partnership and alignment on implementation of the Broadband for All Action Plan. The broadband...the middle-mile broadband initiative model, CPUC's last mile and adoption programs, to issue a call to action about the FCC's affordable connectivity

program and how that can be a tool for you know, increasing broadband adoption rates and affordability for home service and then updating individuals on other state digital equity initiatives. On the slide here I'm not going to read through all the names, but it was really a collaborative effort of a lot of Broadband Council members and other partners to present information to a large number of entities. Next slide, please. Just a little bit about how we set up the roundtables, we sent out pre-event questionnaires post-event surveys by different constituencies so local jurisdictions received a permitting survey, which is associated with the Action Item 6. Internet service providers also received a survey about Action Item 6 to get their feedback on enhancements to local permitting and also on the state property identification effort and then with tribal governments, there are some critical federal funding availability deadlines and we followed up with you know, and send out information on letters of intent to sign up for various grants. All of the roundtables, the videos, the transcripts, the presentations have been posted to the Broadband for All portal. They've been sent out to the registrants as well. Next slide. And really to just give you, you know, of the four roundtables, they focused on local jurisdictions. CalTrans graciously shared their ISP industry meeting and embedded their portal content into that, so we really want to give thanks to Lori Pepper at CalSTA and the team over there worked really closely with Department of Education and the state libraries on a schools, libraries, and community-based organization roundtable and then Christina Snider also a broadband council member, the tribal advisor provided great leadership in bringing together a round table for the state's tribal governments and collectively, we're pleased to say that we engaged with over a thousand interested parties who, you know, really were eager to hear more about the state's efforts and find out ways that we could partner along with them so, that concludes my presentation. I'm happy to take any questions.

All right, thank you, Mr Adams. Any questions from the committee members for deputy director Adams. No? And any of the committee members online if you do have questions, use the raise the hand functionality in zoom and you will pop up on the screen and we can recognize you. All right, thank you much...very much, Mr Adams. The bulk of today's meeting consists of updates to the status of Broadband for All Action plan short-term items and by short-term, we mean within the next few years. And within a few years of the plan's creation, you can find all of the actions on the Broadband for All action plan post on the council's website and will begin today with updates from the California Public Utilities Commission presented by Mr. Rob Osborn. Mr. Osborn, please go ahead.

Thank you, Chair. Thank you very much. And good morning. Thank you for allowing me to present an update on the CPUC action items on the Broadband Action Plan. I'm Robert Osborn, Director of the Communications division at the Public Utilities Commission. So, Action Item 1, which is recommend and adopt standards among all state grant funding and related broadband programs, the status...next slide please. Statuses completed we've with the legislature's passage of Senate bill 156, SB 4, and AB 14, there was alignment of standards for served, ahem...excuse me, a 25/3. There are differences depending on the source of funding for instance in the federal funding has a requirement that serves speed to be reliable, specifically DOCSIS 2 or legacy technologies are excluded. CPUC has approved rules for the Federal funding account, adoption, public housing, and consortia. Local agency technical assistance was approved earlier this year, the program rules and staff is drafting a proposal now for the CSF infrastructure program update as well as the loan loss reserve account. We're doing outreach through a variety of association meetings and anticipating increasing outreach in June as program details are finalized, and these include the Broadband for All roundtables hosted by Department of Technology as Deputy Director Adams mentioned, the CalTrans broadband meeting, individual meetings with counties, and a meeting with county CIOs happening concurrently right now. Some of my staff are doing that presentation. Next slide, please. Action Item 9 established standards for and backhaul resilience and reliability, so the status on this is continuing. Thank you. Under CPUC rulemaking R.18-03-011 that is for the

emergency disaster relief preparedness and through decisions, there's two decisions, D.20-07-001 and D.21-02-029, these specify for wireless and wireline facilities, the backup power requirements and network resiliency requirements in high-fire threat areas 2 and 3. So providers are required to provide a number of items, including reports and facilities with backup power and indicating which have 72-hour backup power and which do not, as well as, plans to upgrade those that do not have 72-hour backup power. They are also required to file with us...Emergency Operations Plans, Emergency Contact Information, Emergency Preparedness Exercise Attestation, and a Public Communications Plan. And the CPUC issued a rulemaking R.22-03-016 in March to amend its primary rules on General Order 133, and this is the service quality rulemaking. This is now looking at updating the current rulemaking, our current general orders, which is G.O. 133 D for telephone service quality, voice service quality, so more to come on this. Next slide, please. So, Action Item 11, is develop a framework to define central broadband service affordability standards, the status on this is continuing. Under the order instituting rulemaking R.18-07-006, the CPUC issued a staff proposal on affordability metrics implementation, this was on November 5th 2021. And this includes an affordability ratio calculator. Basically, it is a way to determine an affordable rate, based on the geography. And this affordability framework established by the PUC with this, the Commission is now entering the implementation phase, and the proposed decision is slated for June or July of this year. Next slide, please. So, Action Item 19, which is to collect more granular more accurate broadband data, status on this is continuing. The CPUC issued a data request for location rather than census block, which is the old way, broadband data to approximately 220 broadband providers statewide on March 15. And the data request asked providers to provide us with location-based broadband data by June 1<sup>st</sup>, so that's next week and that will be as of data as of December 31st 2021. So, my division will be processing this data in conjunction with Cal State Chico's Geographic Information Center with the goal of publishing the data on the California Interactive Broadband Map by the end of this year. And we're working closely with the new location-based data collection procedures and protocols that the FCC published to update the CPUC broadband data and mapping processes in full compliance with the Federal requirements. Next slide, please. So, Action Item 20, is to leverage the California Public Utilities Commission's cost model to inform broadband planning and investments. The status on this is continuing. So, as you are aware that the California broadband cost model was the basis back in 2020 for coming up with an estimate to build out the middle-mile and last-mile, and that was included in Appendix B of the council's Broadband Action Plan adopted in 2020. CPUC is in the process of updating it and that will provide estimates to support prioritization of project areas and last-mile funding programs. So, the charts and reports that comprise the broadband cost model will be accessible on the CPUC's website and there's a specific broadband cost model web page for that. Next item, please. Thank you. So, Action Item 22, is identify additional opportunities to provide technical assistance to local governments, tribes, and nonprofits. The first time going to talk about the tribal technical assistance. Since the action plan was adopted, the CPUC assisted 37 tribes and applying for the 2.5 gigahertz wireless spectrum licenses back in 2020, the majority of those applications have been accepted. In 2020, the CPUC launched a tribal technical assistance grant program to assist tribes and planning for broadband deployment on their land for feasibility studies, market studies, and business plans. By the end of last year, 30 grants were awarded to 16 tribes for a total funding allocation of approximately \$1.87 million. Projects have to be completed within 24 months. The grants to assist tribes are for developing market studies, feasibility studies or business plans. The grants are capped at 150,000 per tribe per fiscal year and eligibility is, with or without tribes, with or without federal recognition that demonstrate tribal leadership, and so the support is available through these grants. Secondly, I want to talk about the local agency technical assistance, which was part of the broadband package that was passed last year. For the local agency technical assistance program, the rules were approved by the Commission in February. Staff is working on rolling out that Program. And it is a total of 50 million in grants that will be available to public entities and nonprofits to help them prepare for providing service in their communities. The reason I



mentioned the tribal technical assistance first, is that was sort of the inspiration for coming up with a broader program that would be applicable beyond tribes. So, in this case the local agency is broadly defined in the program rules that can be a city, a county, community service district, public utility district, joint powers authority, it can also be a sovereign tribal government. And individual grants are to be no more than 1 million per applicant per total. And there's an expedited process in case, where the application is for less...five less than \$500,000. And the funds can cover a range of pre-project costs to deploy last mile broadband, including environmental permitting, needs assessment, and strategic plans. The CPUC is preparing the program materials and processes to open the grant making window in late-June early-July, and we're planning to host a recorded webinar before then. And that concludes my updates, oh no yes, because we...sorry and I realized that we don't have a slide for 22 and I've been providing that update so apologies for that, but that concludes my update, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Osborn. Any questions from the committee members to Mr. Osborn? Seeing none in the room, any of the committee members online have questions for Mr. Osborn? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Mr. Osborne for that update. We'll transition out of the next update from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, presented by Kaina Pereira. Kaina, please go ahead.

Thank you very much and pleased to be here. We're giving an update on behalf of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, related to Action Item 2, which is to identify alternative funding opportunities with government and philanthropic partners to maximize funding for new infrastructure, excitedly. As this is an ongoing operation and there will be new opportunities as the Federal government puts out new programs, this will be something that is updated fairly regularly. The site is currently up and currently, has a number, I believe 41 different funding opportunities from the Federal government, which are located at the Broadband for All portal/funding. We are currently and continue to be in development on philanthropic funding tools, as we know that. These come up and go down very quickly and we're trying to figure out a new mechanism by which to transfer this information to the public as quickly and as readily as possible. With that I was hoping to put a small call to action to anybody who has information related to philanthropic opportunities to send those over to GO-Biz, so we can aggregate them into the portal. That is the basis of our update, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Any questions from the Council for Mr. Pereira? No?

Mr. Chair, I just wanted to go back and say thank you to CPUC and Robert Osborn there for the efforts on resiliency and backup power truly going to make a difference as we go through fire season again here in California and their efforts are noted, and we appreciate what they're doing. Thank you.

Thank you, any other questions or comments from members of the Council? All right, thank you very much, Mr. Pereira. We'll transition now to hear from the California Department of Transportation, Miss Elizabeth Dooher. Elizabeth, please...please go ahead.

Thank you, Director Nichols on behalf of the California State Transportation Agency and CalTrans, I'm happy to share an update on Action Plan Items 4 and 5. Action Plan Item 4, is to implement a dig smart policy to install conduit as part of any appropriate and feasible state-funded transportation project in strategic corridors. As an incentive for service build outs to unconnected and under connected communities, the smart policies present an opportunity to lower the capital cost of infrastructure deployment and minimize disruptions caused by ongoing construction both incentivizing and expediting new investment. CalTrans has guidance and information for incorporating wired broadband facilities on the state highway right-of-way, encouraging wired broadband providers and organizations working on broadband deployment

to collaborate with CalTrans to install broadband conduit as part of projects that can accommodate broadband. CalTrans is working on finalizing the broadband dig smart policy to allow co-location of underground conduits that serve telecommunications and broadband data, while ensuring it fits with the middle-mile broadband initiative efforts. The policy would apply to any state administered or locally sponsored broadband project or joint build through encroachment permits within the state highway right-of-way. CalTrans has been informally implementing and promoting this co-location policy and the target completion date of the policy is the end of this calendar year. Next slide, please. Action Plan Item 5, is to improve state encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-way management as needs or opportunities are identified to accelerate broadband deployment projects that will serve unconnected and under connected communities. Next slide, please. CalTrans has completed an amendment to the permitting process, establishing additional procedures for the review of encroachment permits for broadband projects. As part of the implementation effort, following this amendment guidance and training has been developed and provided to CalTrans staff involved in the permitting process. In addition, given the increasing number of broadband installations in the state highway right-of-way, both permit installations and broadband middle-mile network, CalTrans worked with FHWA to develop new encroachment policies and clarifications for wired broadband installations in the right-of-way. In March of this year, CalTrans issued these new and clarified broadband accommodations policies, providing more flexibility for installations, while balancing the need to ensure the safety and operability of highways. These policies are for access control right-of-way, meaning they apply to interstates, freeways, and expressways. For conventional highways, the existing policies apply. The policy memo and associated attachments may be found at and are available to download from the CalTrans encroachment permit website, the status of this item is completed, thank you.

Thank you. Thank you, Miss Dooher. Any questions or comments from the Council members for Transportation Agency? Any from our members online? All right, thank you very much Elizabeth for that update. Next, we will move to Department of Technology updates. Let me hand the baton to Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director.

Thank you, Chair Nichols. I'm here to provide an update on Action Item number 6, which directs the Department of Technology to explore various actions to enhance permitting processes at all levels of government through meaningful partnerships to convene semi-annual meetings with broadband providers and local governments to enhance permitting processes that support the construction of broadband infrastructure and the needs local governments. Next slide, please. So, an update...this is an ongoing action item, but the steps that have been taken this slide depicts the federal, state, and local efforts that we've undertaken. At the federal level, the Department of Technology Deputy Director Monroe, CalTrans, and Go-Biz had met with the Federal Permit Improvement Steering Council, which is a federal entity that comprises a number of the federal permitting entities to engage them in a conversation about their FAST 41 Program, which typically applies to infrastructure projects over \$200 million and we've been using the middle-mile broadband initiative as a test case for that, but have engaged substantive conversations about you know, with them and will continue to ongoing, develop a partnership with the Federal government on broadband permitting at the state level, we have done a significant amount of work with our partners at CalTrans and the uh, our counterparts at the state resource agencies that you know, play a critical role in broadband permitting and again, the middle-mile broadband initiative, given its size and scale, has provided a good test case and so with the informing agencies, we are in extensive conversations about how to you know, support their process to ensure you know, an efficient delivery of the project on time, which includes looking...um, developing a statewide problematic permitting regime to ensure the middle-mile. And then lastly, on the local engagement, I noted you know, we did have the local jurisdiction robin roundtable and the roundtable with ISPs through CalTrans' broadband industry partner meeting and engage both entities are really highlighted call to action that we

would like to further get their input on how we can help remove barriers to the permitting process and we have surveys out right now that hoping that information gathered through those will lead to the development of local jurisdiction permitting checklist and then, subsequently local jurisdiction permitting playbook. Next slide, please. Real briefly, an update on Action Item 21, which orders the Department of Technology to establish a Broadband for All portal to enable easy access to broadband information and tools and serves as a central repository of information for you know, stakeholders on all of the state's broadband efforts. Next slide, please. We're pleased to announce that this is completed. Folks can now visit the Broadband for All portal at the URL that you see on the slide here, updates that we've made to that or updates to the action plan tracker to track the progress that you heard various Broadband Council members are making on these action items. We've included an events page to support the Broadband for All roundtables where we will be posting video recordings, the master slide presentations, and transcript to the roundtables and in future meetings and then you'll hear a little later on in the meeting here, we have worked with our partners at CTEF on building in a total connectivity program page, so that concludes my presentation.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. Any questions from the Council members for Mr Adams? And from our members online today? All right, not seeing any. Thank you very much, Mr. Adams. We'll transition now to an update from the Office of Emergency Services from Mr. Budge Currier. Please go ahead, Mr. Currier.

Thank you, I appreciate that. So, our portion of this project is to look at as we build out NextGeneration 911 throughout the state, this requires us to extend IP connectivity to 438 public safety answering points throughout the state so just look for ways to use those efforts, as well as some of the other activities that CalOES is involved in to advance this Broadband for All initiative, so move to the next slide, we'll give you an update of where we are with our NextGen 911 build out in the state. We are 'live' in Tuolumne County, it's shown in white there in the center of this graphic. We're running into some technology limitations with some of our existing equipment out there which is preventing us from going 'live' in other areas, but we do anticipate in June that we will be activating other locations. I want to give really for this group a greater context of what we mean by IP connectivity to all of these public safety answering points throughout the state, so you can see, on this slide the number of PSAP, that's a public safety answering point. In the north, there's 169. In the central park shown in orange, there's 112. In the southern part of our state, there's 91. And then in Los Angeles alone, there's 78 so there's a total about 450 when you include all the alternate and backup locations and military installations that we support. If you go to the next slide, this gives you an idea of the connectivity that we want to build out at each of these public safety answering points. So, in the top part of the diagram shown in blue, you'll see a little bubble labeled PSAP MPLS, that's the public safety answering point connectivity cloud that we build from our statewide data centers shown on the left-hand portion of the diagram. You see two lines running down into the PSAP, our goal is to identify two fixed fiber providers into that public safety answering point for our statewide providers shown in blue and down below that in orange, two separate fixed fiber providers into every public safety answering point for our region so that we have multi-path redundancy, really reliability into the PSAP. All of this is brought together at the public safety answering point into an SD-WAN, a software-defined wide area network. In addition to that we're bringing in LTE, which is your mobile broadband connectivity using multiple providers. We're using AT&T, FirstNet, Verizon, and T-Mobile into that solution for both shown in blue for the statewide provider and also for the region provider down below in orange. And then we're also building out in certain parts of the state where we know conductivity is limited, the statewide microwave network as yet another way to monitor this network, so this is the goal of what we'd like to be able to do in terms of connectivity to support NextGen 911 and other data sharing opportunities that we have that we can use this network for. If you go to the next slide, we've got this active into about 250 PSAPs. Our GIS team put together an interactive

dashboard, over 95% completed on the build out. And there's a hyperlink there that you can go to in order to get some details on where we are with deployment statewide. What we've seen is that, you know we would like to have two or more diverse fiber connections, but this just isn't possible. Now where it is possible, and we've got this network up and being monitored at 250 different locations throughout the state and we've seen zero seconds of outage when we have those multiple diverse connections and we've been monitoring that, those network into those 250 locations since November. So, we know that there's a huge gain from a public safety perspective, once we have this reliability in place, but the reality is that fiber is not available everywhere. We're working very closely current of technology with the Department of Technology on identifying those locations where we have not been able to find even one fiber connection into the public safety answering point, and also those locations that only have a single provider into the public safety answering point. And we're working together to feed that data in so that we can identify opportunities, where we know there's an immediate need to provide better service and also you know, through this NextGen 911 project to be able to look at some of the alternatives that we can use to bring conductivity into there. So that work is underway, we continue to share and collaborate on this data and happy to answer any questions from the board members and that concludes my brief. Thank you, Mr. Currier. Any questions from the Council members?

I had a...Lucas, here. I had a quick question. It's cool that it's 95% completed. So, is that remaining 5% primarily the PSAPs that don't have fiber available?

We...if fibers not available, then typically those public safety answering points, those PSAPs are lower volume, in other words, two positions, small centers so we connect them with copper, we connect them with the multi-sim LTE solution and we can still move forward. There will be limitations on what data we can push to there. That remaining 5% is places where we've got conduit being extended from a fiber provider or we have physical facility limitations on the PSAP that we have to resolve, either the PSAP is moving or building a new building or something like that, so that 5% does not directly correlate to those locations that don't have diverse fiber.

Got it, thank you. Appreciate that.

All right, thank you, Mr Lucas. Any other questions from members of the Council or members online? All right, thank you, Mr Currier.

The final short-term action plan update we'll here today is from the Department of Aging and Mr. Brian Carter. Mr. Carter, please go ahead.

Oh, thank you. Good morning, everyone. I'd like to thank the Broadband Council for this opportunity to share some of the know, where the efforts to bridge the digital divide taking place here at the California Department of Aging. In response to Governor...to the Governor's Executive Order in 7320 and in support of Governor Newsom's master plan for Aging. Next slide, please. So, our first effort to bridge the digital divide and address social isolation for older Californians and persons with disabilities was our Google Home Smart Speakers Project. In January of 2021, CDA partnered with Google and received a donation of 8500 Google Home Smart Speakers that were distributed to participants in the older Americans Act Program, and the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program across the state. Our next effort to bridge the digital divide is our Connections, Health, Aging and Technology Acronym Chat Program, and through this effort, CDA has partnered with the area agencies on aging to distribute at least 4000 iPads with data plans, customized onboarding, technical support, and digital literacy training to older Californians. The purpose of this project is to mitigate loneliness and isolation for older adults, providing them with greater access to resources and information. And for this project, CDA also

partnered with the University of Southern California's graduate school of Gerontology, thank you, to develop tools that will evaluate the effectiveness of digital devices in reducing social isolation for device recipients. If you know someone who would like to apply for participation in the chat program, please encourage them to contact their local area agency on Aging. CDA is also in the process of launching a \$50 million 'Access to Technology' (acronym ATT) county grant program for older adults and persons with disabilities. With this initiative, we are partnering with the California Welfare Directors Association and a work group of county human service department directors, with the county human service department directors, and with the ATT program, counties will be able to leverage their existing programs and program recipients to provide digital devices broadband service plans, digital literacy training, digital infrastructure to facilitate access and outreach to bring awareness to the program. This program is intended to reduce isolation, increase connections, and enhance self-confidence for program participants. We also are concurrently preparing to launch CDA's Digital Connections Program, which is a \$17 million program to expand on our current chat program to also include CDA's MSSP and our community-based adult services program recipients. This program will include purchase of digital devices, digital education and literacy, and additional technologies such as smart speakers and fall prevention monitors. Goals of this program are to allow participants to remain in digital contact with healthcare providers, family, friends, caregivers, and other service providers and our case managers, as well as access to Tele Health. So, I will close by saying CDA will continue seeking opportunities to partner with government agencies such as the Department of Technology, the California state libraries and others, as well as foundations and nonprofit organizations to expand access and services to California's older adults and to help California close the digital divide, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Carter. Any questions from council members for Mr. Carter? Or, council members online? Alright, with that, thank you very much to all of the presenters and your respective organizations. There's been substantial amount of progress on our action items and moving us closer to the goal, so thank you very much for all the work that you're doing. We'll pivot now from the Broadband Action Plan to updates of key initiatives that are critical to the state's Broadband for All Program. Next up is Deputy Director Mark Monroe, who's spearheading the state's middle-mile broadband initiative where there's also been tremendous progress. Mr. Monroe, please go ahead.

Yes, thank you. Good morning. I'm Mark Monroe and the Deputy Director for middle-mile broadband initiative. We have some great updates I'm happy to provide. First of all, I think, as most folks are...most people are, SB 156 established really the program for the middle mile broadband initiative and provided \$3.25 billion dollars in funding last year for the program. And this past couple weeks ago as the governor's May revision budget came out, it included another \$1.1 billion in funding for the project. The project really is intended to provide that middle-mile backbone that connects all of the unserved underserved communities throughout the state. And as we, over the last year, as we've looked at the project and work with our partners at GoldenStateNet, Public Utilities Commission and CalTrans, and other--we've developed a better understanding of...kind of what's going to be involved in all of the project, including the...some of the risks, such as the need to build out really a larger network to really reach the communities, the unserved and underserved communities to make it commercially viable in terms of ring topology and as well as just you know, we're looking at inflation, as well as some of the other market dynamics we're going to...we're expecting from increase demand for both labor and supplies over the coming, you know, the coming years as we build this out. This is a reminder, these are...the fifty-five billion are all federal funds, these are ARPA funds that need to be under contract by December of 2024 and need to be expended by December 2026 so very tight timeframe in terms of building out this network and so. Again, though the governor's May revision budget includes an additional \$1.1 billion general fund to help, make sure that we're able to address the state's needs there. Last week, we completed a procurement effort

that is \$225 million altogether, signed a couple of contracts, about half for fiber and half for conduit vaults and other construction materials. This is really important for getting ahead of some of the demands again that the market demands, as other states begin to ramp up their production, ramp up their...uh, the construction of infrastructure for broadband, and so this really places the state well in this project well in terms of making sure that we're able to get the materials in the timeframe that that's consistent with the federal ARPA timeframes. And then...if we can move to the next slide. Another effort, important effort that we've had going on, really, you know when this proposal was put together a year ago, we had a general process we've gone through in terms of how much, are you know where the communities were that were unserved and underserved and how to connect them through the state. CalTrans is a really important partner in this and trying to use the state's existing right-of-way to you know, as the place to build out as much of the network as possible. The Public Utilities Commission completed a map and its assessment this past year and in August and September, went through its public proceeding, and we now have a 9,470-mile map that that really links up those unserved and underserved communities throughout the state. Next slide. Similarly, our third-party administrator, really important partner, who have some you know great, great understanding of the industry and how you create a commercially viable network. They have put together and presented last month, a 1,650-mile network. It really focuses on the, again, the ring topology that makes these...the system resilient and makes it useful for some of the emergency contact functions that were identified previously. And then...next slide. And so, this last Friday at the MMAC, we presented a map, it's really a combination of the approach for both of them. It's about 10,000 miles statewide along the state highway system, and it really the...it's what we are asking CalTrans to begin doing pre-construction on the entire network. CalTrans has a process for doing pre-construction that involves the permitting efforts that were discussed earlier, as well as design and engineering. And that normally can take in the range of two years so going back to that federal time frame it's very tight, we need to get CalTrans started on pre-construction on all of the segments, but that is...that they potentially will build. And so, this was presented at the, at the Friday's MMAC meeting and will be posted on our MMBI website. Next slide. But going forward with this now that we have CalTrans really in the process of doing, starting the pre-construction work and the clock associated with that, that will help us provide CalTrans to really develop updated cost estimates for this network to really help CDT decide how much we can afford to build within the existing funding. There's always been an assumption that we would be able to lease the difference between the overall size of the network and the amount that we were able to afford to build. And so, we see in terms of other steps going forward here, we're working with GoldenStateNet to identify where existing infrastructure is that can be leased. And, and as well as working on a market assessment to decide where, to the extent we have flexibility and where we build versus where we lease where the market is strongest for both of those, and so, in...as we move forward here, we'll be updating the...updating our information and have to make you know some more critical decisions and in the 6 to 12 months to come here in terms of deciding how much we can afford to build and then moving on from there. That's the end of my presentation.

Thank you, Mr. Monroe. Any questions for Mr. Monroe from the council members?

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hey, thank you Mark. Appreciate all your efforts and work, and obviously, that this middle mile initiative is mutually supportive to our Action Plan #8 here at CalOES, and so we appreciate what you're doing there and how it's going to impact us on NextGen 911. But curious, what's the biggest challenge you're facing right now in this particular piece that you're looking at right now because there's a lot of factors out there that shouldn't be taking place right now simultaneously with everything from supply chains to access to...just there's a multitude of factors that you're chasing there, I appreciate your input there and your thoughts.

Sure, I think the initial challenge that I've been focused on you know, is really getting CalTrans started on its process, and you know, as you mentioned some of the committee efforts that we're trying to do work on streamlining. Historically, CalTrans has a you know, they're very good at building projects, they're very good at doing the pre-construction work but their process has been developed, you know...not necessarily around building freeways, and so I think, as we move forward we're looking for alternatives as deputy director Adams had noted we're looking for you know any efforts we can make to streamline that permitting process to look at how we take the entire statewide network as one project or break it into projects that are going to lend itself to streamlining that permitting process, so I think that's...getting CalTrans equipped or equipping CalTrans to move faster there, I think, is going to be really, really key for meeting those federal deadlines.

Alright, thank you, Mr. Monroe. Questions from other council members or council members online?

Sorry, this is Sarah. I have my hand raised.

Sorry.

Go ahead, Miss Smith.

Can we go back a couple of slides? I think there was like a mileage estimate build out. Thank you. So, how did CDT get to the 10,000 miles because I see CPUC has their proposal, GoldenStateNet has theirs, and CDT has you know, a little over the PUC one. Can you guys help us understand you know what was the process for that?

Absolutely. Absolutely, so really in terms of what the Public Utilities Commission, I think you know they had done their analysis, taken a lot of public input and really looked at the map in terms of you know what you're going to...you're going to hear us talk about spurs, right? And, you look up and down the central valley and really throughout the state you're going to see lines that go out there, they're not necessarily part of a ring, but they, they are actually going out to communities where they're currently unserved and underserved. So, that's clearly a priority for SB 156 for the administration...for the legislature, is to reach those communities and so that, that's the...I would say that the largest component of the 9,000 border and 70 miles. GoldenStateNet you know, they bring a different lens and they used a bit of a different methodology. When we talk about the emergency resiliency of a network, you really need to have some ring topology. You need to have more than one access point to any community or to as many of them as possible, and so GSN and took a different approach. They added some miles to create that ring topology, changed some routes you know, to help with that, but they also you know again, made an assumption that if when we look at those spurs, we look at the resiliency associated with them, and that in order to reach those and to establish that, it...one other approach would be to use the CASF funding or to use any other funding sources really that whatever applied to the last mile to build out and to start at those communities and get back to the network, that is, you know as you can see here, almost 1,000 miles shorter and so that again, a different methodology, so when we get to the 10,000 miles that CDT is moving forward with, it really combines the two, and so we looked at some of the ring topology that GoldenStateNet included, and you know, expanded some of the rings in terms of making them a little larger that was able to you know to mitigate cost, we were able to reduce some of the mileage that way. But in the end, we really wanted to add back those spurs and some of the you know, any of the other routes that really support those spurs to get out to those communities and that's really the single biggest, community-wide. CDT's map is so much...is measurably larger than the other maps. It's just that approach of combining the ring topology,

the additional miles associated with from GSN and linking back to those unserved and underserved communities to reach out to them as much as possible.

Okay, thank you.

Alright, thank you, Miss Smith.

Any other questions or comments from council members. All right, thank you, Mr Monroe, an immense amount of work there.

Actually, just one last point of clarification or question. While this map was published last Friday, is it safe to assume that, that as we move forward, there might be additional modifications to that map?

Yes, yes, there will be, and so as we...I would say, there's two layers...at least of modifications, certainly, as we know that the exercise with the 10,000 miles is really to identify everywhere where CalTrans might need to build and so, we want to have that to be able to start that two-year clock. As we move forward we're going to continue to work and look internally at some routes and see if there's some that are duplicative if we have freeways that are close enough to each other, or we can pick one or the other, that might be one you know one step that will take, I will say, in the next six months, as far as we move forward. But I think the other big permit that we will have to announce that I kind of alluded to, was the idea that currently, we do not have enough funding to build all 10,000 miles so we're going to need to do IRUs...IRU leases for the remainder of it and so, as we get updated cost estimates from CalTrans we will be able to understand you know how many miles, we can afford to build and then at the same time, we are working with the GoldenStateNet to identify where existing infrastructure is that we're, that is enough to meet the network's needs and as available as open access infrastructure to be leased and then the...that I would say, in the next, that...that's the other really big piece that we're expecting is that at some point, we'll have to take that 10,000 miles and decide how much of what we can afford to build and how much we need to lease and see where those leases are.

Thank you, Mr Monroe. With that, any other questions for Mr. Monroe? We will transition to hear on last mile programs being administered by the California Public Utilities Commission as presented by Commissioner Houck. Commissioner Houck, please proceed.

Thank you. And I appreciate this opportunity to provide an update on our last mile efforts. I'm going to be talking about two proceedings today. One of them is our California Advanced Services Fund rulemaking which I'm the lead Commissioner, for, as well as our Broadband for All rulemaking which is led by Commissioner President Alice Reynolds. As most of you are aware, and it has been mentioned by others, the broadband legislation passed last year really demonstrates the state's commitment to closing the digital divide, and the Governor's in...the Governor's plan for getting Broadband for All and the PUC has responded regarding portions of our responsibilities to this historic legislation, so today I'm going to talk about our last mile initiatives and supporting programs, which include our technical assistance program which I think Director Osborn mentioned involves \$50 million to be awarded to local governments and tribe, and governments for broadband infrastructure investment. Our Loan Loss Reserve program, which dedicate \$750 million dollars to enable local governments and nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure, our federal funding account, which is \$2 billion. The purpose of that account is for funding for last mile broadband infrastructure projects. I'm also going to discuss our California Advanced Services Fund, which is up to \$150 million dollars per year and the purpose of that program is to assist with broadband infrastructure deployment and adoption and public housing, tribes, and unserved areas. Next slide, please.



So, our Local Agency Technical Assistance program again, is \$50 million for technical assistance grants to local governments and tribes that legislation specifically provided the funding to local agency which is broadly defined to include a city, a county including the county service area, community service district, a public utility district, a municipal utility district, a joint powers authority, a local educational agency as defined in the education code at section 47640, and a sovereign tribal government as well as an electric cooperative. And this funding can be used for public entities or consultant costs to create joint powers authority for other costs to prepare to deploy broadband infrastructure, including environmental permitting, engineering, and design activities. Individual grants are to be no more than \$1 million per applicant and there's an expedited process for requests of \$500,000 or less and again, these funds can cover a broad range of projects. Timing for applications, we are hoping to start accepting applications very soon in the June-July timeframe of this year. And again, grants to qualifying local agencies and tribal governments in amounts that are \$500,000 or less have an expedited process, so we will be offering additional information on this program and I would just encourage you to continue to look for that information and if you're looking to apply for this assistance, to start getting ready to do that, and we do have information on our website as well, and you can reach out to our staff in my office if you need more information. So, um...next slide. Next I'm going to talk about our Loan Loss Reserve Fund, which again is \$750 million dollars of Loan Loss Reserve fund to support development of public broadband networks. This is a form of credit enhancement or a type of insurance that helps lenders control for the risks that loans will not be repaid. The new funding is going to provide collateral to local governments and nonprofits for bond financing. And again, if this is going to help local governments to enable better borrowing rates, terms for bonds issued to deploy broadband infrastructure, we're hoping to issue a drop proposal. Our current schedule has a drop proposal to be issued in August. We will be having a workshop to collaborate with petitioners, with local governments, and other stakeholders regarding the details and receive comments on this drop proposal and we encourage you, if you're interested in this program to engage in our proceeding. My office will also be doing some visiting around the state to rural communities that have expressed interest in the program to meet with them and talk with them about what they're looking to propose and get their feedback on this program. So again, if you want additional information on this, please reach out and watch our CASF proceeding where this program is being developed and reach out with any questions so, next slide please. So, our Last Mile Federal Funding Account, we just recently adopted last month at our April 21 meeting new rules, the rules for this account, and this included an allocation by county of funds out of a \$2 billion tranche for last mile projects. The PUC is, you know, very aware that this \$2 billion is not going to be enough to meet the estimate of meeting all of the state's last mile needs for underserved communities, so please keep in mind that. This will not be the last time that funding will be available. We're hopeful that the bipartisan infrastructure work at the federal level will be bringing significant additional funding to the state, and we know that the state is very committed to seeing that we are able to serve all communities in California and get broadband out to everyone, so we will be following and continuing to look at the funding mechanisms for this. We do anticipate accepting applications in July for this program and I encourage you to again continue to look at our website for information on priority or applications or presumed eligible areas that information should be available very soon and will be published on our websites, as well as distributed to the service list for both this proceeding and the CASF proceeding. And, as this last bullet notes, this is a good time to begin planning for the applications. Public entities can evaluate activities for the technical assistance grant to support federal funding account broadband work, and you can evaluate how you can support applicants to serve communities in your jurisdiction, even if you're not intending to apply for a grant yourself. Next slide, please. Okay, so this slide, I'm talking...going to be talking about... Okay, can you hear me now? And looks like it was muted. Okay, thank you, so our broadband adoption consortium and infrastructure grants are supported by the California Advanced Services Fund broadband grants and that's up to \$150 million dollars a year funded by a surcharge on telephone bills. The broadband adoptions grant,

consortium grants, and broadband infrastructure grants are listed there, and I just want to note that the program was updated through the recent legislation and we just recently adopted a decision earlier this month at our voting meeting to update the program rules for a number of the long standing programs, which includes our adoption account or public housing or low income communities account and our consortia account, which funds the regional broadband experts. So, additional actions that you may want to consider include joining the distribution list or the service list for the CASF activities and potentially engaging with the Commission to inform us, or file public comments if you have any questions. We'll be continuing to address an update rules regarding these accounts and evaluating the budgets as we move forward. Our recent decision does provide flexibility that if we see that one program is getting more applications than another, that our staff do have the ability to request moving the money around through a resolution to the condition and we wanted to make it more flexible to ensure we are addressing applicant needs with the available funding. Next slide, please. So, our broadband housing account again, we revised the rules regarding the public housing account branch in our recent decision and this grant will provide grants to connect qualifying low-income housing, such as publicly supported housing communities with infrastructure to provide free Internet service. We also expanded the definition of public housing to specifically include farmworker housing, and the legislation that was adopted last year allows for a broader definition generally of public housing and we will be issuing a draft revised definition that will be seeking comment from bi-parties. So, again actions that folks can take include providing comments on the public housing accounts, staff proposal when it's released, and then potential applicants should begin looking at the housing facilities in their jurisdiction to see if they qualify under the definitions that we have and then look at the new rules, which will hopefully make the program much more user friendly and again, we'll be seeking feedback and comments on these rule changes and hoping my office is intending to hold an all-party meeting or public workshop sometime before the end of the year to hear from stakeholders regarding the definitions, some of the actions that we've recently taken, and again the target for applications for this program will be coming up very soon, the June-July timeframe of this year. And I believe that should be the last slide and that concludes my remarks and again if you have any questions, I'm available, our Director of Communications Rob Osborn is also here, and you can also follow up with me or my staff with any specific questions if you want to talk in more detail about any of it.

Thank you, Commissioner. Any questions from council members for Commissioner Houck?

Mr. Medigovich.

Hey, thank you, Commissioner. I just uh...one question, if you could talk a little bit about your outreach plan to encourage grant applications to the to the council, thank you.

Thank you, we will have a webinar that should be posted very soon, we will have...we have a comprehensive website with additional information. My office next month, we'll be doing some traveling throughout the state to visit different communities to talk to them about the programs, and specifically focusing on Loan Loss Reserve and our last mile efforts. We are working with our staff to look at other engagement opportunities and again my office is attending to hold an all-party meeting for stakeholders to talk with us about the revisions we've recently made and give additional feedback on how we can best work with the communities and ensure that we are actively engaging the stakeholders and communities, so that they have access and information to what we're doing. This week I am attending this meeting virtually because I'm up at Humboldt County. I'm meeting with a number of tribes in the north coast and one of the focuses of our discussions has been broadband, so we're also meeting with tribes around the state and looking to connect with key stakeholder groups to assist us and making sure that we're talking to the right people and that the information is getting out to the right communities.

Thank you, Commissioner. Yes, go ahead.

Yes, this is Jeff Belleau of the CDE, I don't know if this is a question or a challenge or comment or I..I don't know how I'm further phrasing it, I'm just bringing it up, but wondering how...what's going to be the place for the communities that are waiting for the last mile to be built out to then be a part of this or the middle mile to be built out to them be part of the last mile because if I'm a community that has nothing to connect to at this point, but I will get to when the middle mile is built out, how will I then be a part of this last mile project? I can't imagine there'd be a project to build out, you know to connect something up and then there's, no, no fiber anywhere to connect to. So, I guess I don't know if that's a question, a challenge, a comment or what, but just thinking about that and those super remote rural parts the state at this point.

And I will ask if Rob is still available to assist me here, I think you know, the Loan Loss Reserve program is designed to help local governments be able to invest in to provide services and look at trying to build those areas that are needed for open access in regards to their service territories and to coordinate with the state and CDT on the middle mile efforts to make sure, things are being coordinated and moving together so that we're able to engage in planning to get infrastructure online as quickly as possible and to again I think, work in a coordinated effort, get as much funding out as we can, get the open access infrastructure built. There's also some additional projects that have been in the queue for a little while that are moving forward in addition to some of the efforts here, and I think Rob has some more specific information, and Mark or Scott at CDT may have some on how the middle mile is coordinating with our last mile efforts, but we do want to work in a coordinated effort to make sure we're able to try and get this infrastructure out and working with all of the agencies to make sure it's being able to get done as quickly as possible, but it is going to, as we noted, the funding is not enough to meet all of the needs right now, and it is going to have...some of this is going to be incremental so I think we've got a good start and we've got some programs here that are going to really be able to help kickstart and get these efforts moving even though it's going to...a lot of this work is going to have to happen sometime and I don't know Rob if you're available to provide some additional information about some of the efforts that we're doing that's going to have some more immediate results for some of the rural communities.

Thank you, Commissioner. This is Rob Osborn from Communications Division at PUC, and as the Commissioner said, we have already begun coordinating last mile and middle mile infrastructure builds as of last December. We required CASF awardees to coordinate with Department of Technology on the location of the middle mile build so that we're not building two middle miles, essentially, so to the extent where there is middle mile, this plan to be available in communities, we want to leverage that investment and then from there, we determine for the last mile areas where there is no middle mile you know, to the extent that we can fund it through the last mile program so basically, we want to leverage the middle mile wherever we can, wherever it's available, and I will hand it over to Deputy Director Monroe to fill in the piece on the middle mile.

Yes, thank you. One of the...one of the points that I think has been made repeatedly over the last year is this idea that if you're an unserved or an underserved community, what merit would there or how would you compete for funding for to build that last mile when there not a middle mile that is at least affordable or accessible or there's no infrastructure whatsoever. And so, you know when we look at, as noted that most of the funding, I think, for the last mile projects is that same ARPA funding, same time frame, so really why it's so important, I think, to get the 10,000-mile map out there and to really be working towards that because we don't have time to do it sequentially, we have to do...we have to be pursuing the entire state, the entire vision all at the same time. Certainly, when it comes to the middle mile, we need to build out that...the state infrastructure within that time frame and we obviously want to be able to fund and connect into

to provide that backbone for any last mile providers, you need those unserved or underserved communities. And so, as funding becomes available, as providers become available, is...it kind of changes the market in terms of being able to have access to this middle mile. Then, certainly going forward even outside of that federal ARPA timeframe, it...there's merit to having that, that entire network out there for providers to attach to you.

Alright, thank you very much. Other questions or comments from council members? Alright, thank you Commissioner Houck. One editorial comment, if you need assistance from Council members in communicating those programs or funding opportunities, please feel free to reach out to us as well.

Definitely do that, thank you.

Alright. Thank you, Commissioner.

Alright, moving on now. California Emerging Technology Fund President and CEO, Sunne Wright McPeak will provide us with a broadband adoption update and the efforts to promote the FCC affordable connectivity plan. Miss McPeak, please go ahead.

Thank you, Chair Nichols. It's a pleasure to be able to again report to the California Broadband Council the progress that the State of California and all of you, collectively, are making and getting people online. The California Broadband Council took historic action at the last meeting on March 2 to set goals for enrolling low-income households in California in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in order to ensure that our California residents get their fair share of federal dollars. The State of California for sure is ahead of the curve. I commend you the California Department of Technology, Scott and team for the amazing profile on ACP and each of the four roundtables. There is now incredible amount of activity mobilization throughout California because of the leadership of the California Broadband Council. So, you will hear a report today from CETF Senior Vice President Susan Walters on what has been accomplished, reminding us again of what we've committed to and showing you a very good accountability tool. It is my honor to introduce to you the person who has led all of our work on adoption for 15 years, Susan Walters.

Good morning and it's a pleasure to be here with all of you and to hear all this amazing progress, which also means all this amazing collaboration. And so, just a brief overview for the Affordable Connectivity Program or what I'll refer to as ACP, as you probably realize it's \$30 a month off in Internet service and \$75 a month if you live on a tribal land. What you have on the screen in front of you are the basic qualifications. With the exception of income, they're all based on somebody in the household participating in one of these programs. If you are using income to qualify, it is based on the household and that is at 200% of the federal poverty level. That is an increase from the EBB programs, the predecessor to ACP, which was at 135% of the federal poverty level. Right. And we transition from EBB at the end of December to the Affordable Connectivity Program or ACP. And so, these are the basic qualifications for ACP. Let's go on to the next slide and just a quick review of what was adopted in the March meeting. Sunne was just referring to goals, so for California it's a \$5 million household goal of eligible residence right in the first milestone, 2024 for 4.5 million or 90% and then 2027 for 95%. So, there are two, you know, major goals in the broadband plan that relate to this and I want to just cover some of the activity to help...that Sunne was describing, Scott was describing earlier, that really help inform the different agencies, the different stakeholders really across California about the goal and about how to get involved in promoting it. And then I'll close with one of the accountability tools, it's been referred to as well, the ACP enrollment tracker that should help us all stay focused and really move expeditiously toward our goal. So, next slide. Thank you. So, a lot of activity since the March 2 meeting. You've heard about the four different broadband

roundtables. We also partnered with the California State Association of Counties to do a webinar at which 33 of our 52 counties were present. There have been a lot of meetings on the regional level as well, we list a few here, I'm not going to go through everyone individually, I do want to make a couple highlights from the meetings that we've had really just in the last month. There are 15 different robust conversations we're engaged in. Five have confirmed, three of those are new since March. Los Angeles, as you may recall, started at the end of November. So, there's really some good momentum and progress we're moving ahead with and really expect many of those counties to join with other qualifying agencies in their regions and move forward on advertising and promotion plan for ACP and a lot of that is because of you know, the California Department of Technology and its effort to get people really organized and in dialogue, and CalTrans doing the same, as well as, the regional groups so really some terrific work going on. One other collaboration I'll highlight is was brought to our attention by Scott Adams at CDT and that's GovOps, and they had developed as a result of the COVID-19, a relationship with UCLA that was engaging local community people to serve as navigators to go door to door to help educate people in high-risk zip codes throughout the state to talk about COVID-19 to just really engage in a dialogue and meet people where they were to help them move forward in understanding what was really going on both with the illness and the vaccine. So, they were very excited to hear about the ACP program and willing to distribute information because they need to talk about something in addition to COVID. But practically, when they...people wanted to move forward, when people wanted to take action about COVID, they had so many conversations, they said last year where people did not have access to the Internet, and so they were hindered in their own learning process, so they were extremely excited to have the information about ACP and just in this year, you can see, you know really since March, they've already had over 40,000 conversations now where they shared about ACP. And we've seen in the call center directly related to them, you know...237 calls, so that's really exciting both in terms of the level of partnership and engagement, but also the level of progress in trying to increase the awareness because that is key. Another point, CETF has an MOU with the investor-owned utilities and so you see them listed here to engage in awareness around affordable Internet. And that includes ACP and they're promoting it in specifically four different ways and so...and you'll see the ways listed with some of the results that we have, and they are for different time periods, all within the fiscal year, but some are not the complete fiscal year but really some very exciting results, I mean you know, more than 17,000 visits to the Internet For All Now website about ACP. You know, since last July, we've been able since November to track almost 2,000 calls and this is up and down the state. They've done a number of mailings, these were mailings they were already going to do and they've inserted information about ACP. They're incorporating it into the materials that their contractors and CBOs are using when they go to talk to potential clients either about just their straight discount program or home improvements. Again, you can see some of the results there, so we're you know thrilled again, to see this level of collaboration cooperation to help move California forward as it relates to you know broadband. I will make a quick note for your information. The program that we are reflecting here with the IOUs, we actually started with *<inaudible>* and they did it with in partnership with the California Foundation of Independent Living Centers in 2016. And they had tremendous results, and so we were really encouraged and able to move forward with it. It's taken a while to get off the ground, but what perfect timing, you know to be here for ACP. Let's go on to the next slide. So, what's important for us now to be able to focus on...to be able to do, is to have a sustained focus and to hold ourselves accountable. Right? And so, we've got our goal, we have our marching orders toward 5 million, we know we have to enlist all the various agencies in really anchor institutions, but for our discussion today in the state agencies, the counties, we're meeting with CDE tomorrow to really go through its back-to-school efforts and talk about what it's going to do to promote ACP and they're already on board, we're just really getting into the details so really, some great collaboration and, of course, we'll want to continue the work around planning to make sure California gets you know its fair share and then some from the programs coming up, you've

heard about that work. We are looking at the various opportunities to continue promoting the work of digital navigators and this is the work that people do on the ground, mostly CBOs but many county agencies have family navigators, community navigators you know, how do we make sure all of these folks are engaged as well and understand really what the metrics look like you know, toward our goals. So, I'd like to close out really with two points, one is the asterisk at the bottom of the slide. We often talk about adoption and using it as a shorthand so I didn't want to leave the presentation with just making a note, so we're all on the same page when we refer to adoption, we are referring to all the elements that are involved in adoption, so it is having an affordable service, it is having skills and devices, alright? And in the last slide, we're all very excited to be able to show you our tracker. Sorry, there are two more slides, this one is just the lead up to it, but we are excited to show you the tracker that we've been working on for the ACP program because it will allow everyone working on this effort really to you know make plans, check them, see if things are working, make adjustments, you know so to be accountable to ourselves and each other. The data that comes from, that goes into the tracker is from USAC, that's a Universal Service Administrative Corporation, it's a nonprofit that was set up by FCC to administer various subsidy programs for the ISPs and for customers. So, we have been at CETF working with CalState Chico and their GIS folks for quite a while, we're big fans, they've been very helpful in figuring out how to get this displayed and then they...and we've been working with CDT so it could go into the broadband for all portal and so it's just been a great collaboration and we're quite pleased with it. You will see at the bottom of the screen, the numbers, we really just got the March numbers and you'll see those at the screen so for the end of March right, we were at 25% which means we're even further than that along right now because we're into May, but you'll see for California, where we are and so, the numbers...let's go on to the next slide, no close out...what you'll see on the portal is that you'll be able to access the numbers, you'll see statewide and then you'll see by county. And I don't know if you can see my cursor but, at the bottom third of the screen, there are tabs. One is my cursor...oh, thank you so much for that. That's by county and then one next to it, you can tell by zip code. And then you have a box, you can enter for the search of what you're looking for. So, if you want to enter Yellow County, you can put it there, or, if you want to enter a zip code 94510 right, you can enter it there, and it will bring up the data. And then you will see at the top, a graphic representation of the progress and the first, thank you...the 43% represents the number of households that are eligible in California, okay, as compared to the percentage of those households that have already enrolled in ACP so that's the 20%. So, the orange is eligible households in California for ACP, and then the blue is of that 43%...right, how many have already enrolled, alright? And the bar chart below is just a monthly representation of the numbers and once you see it, it is a cumulative number just so you know. Alright so, there's lots of data available for us to be able to really track our progress and actively engage in this effort, and available for questions and look forward to providing updates in the future.

Thank you very much, Miss Walters for that informative update. Do any council members have questions for either Miss McPeak or Miss Walters? And members online?

Just real briefly, just wanted to commend Sunne and team for the clarity. A lot of well...let me just stick to this. The presentation, really. Because it focused on what we said we wanted to do and then follow up with the actions and the updates. First of all, helps me to just track, and then you know honestly brief my boss, but also it's very helpful to see that kind of organization, that kind of clarity, so just wanted to again thank you both for that presentation, very helpful.

Thank you, Dr. Williams.

Thank you, Dr. Williams. Other questions or comments from committee members? Alright, thank you very much. Our last presentation before we move on to public comments is an

update on the federal broadband funding programs being administered by the national telecoms and information administration. I'll hand the baton to Mr. Scott Adams.

Thank you, Chair Nichols. In the interest of time, I am going to try to breeze through this next two slides pretty quickly to allocate as much time for public comment. Next slide, please. As we've heard the state has a number of you know programmatic efforts to close the digital divide and foster digital equity throughout the state and you know, as you see, we have the talent, we have the sort of the force multiplier of partners and stakeholders that are really willing to do this, something that's exciting that we've all been tracking is that there's the significant amount of federal funding that can support, augment, and expand on you know the collected bodies/efforts thus far, and going further to achieving Broadband For All for California . Wanted to highlight that the National Telecommunications Information Administration released the three notice of funding opportunities last Friday, the largest of which is actually...can we go to the next slide, yeah I think this will be better. Of the three programs that came out, there's the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment or BEAD program. This is the largest, most comprehensive of the funding calls. It's about \$42 billion nationwide. Each state gets a minimum allocation of \$100 million. There's planning up front and planning allocation that can be requested, and this states the total allocation of the \$42 billion is going to be determined after the release of the federal data map by the FCC, which is going to come later in the year. The immediate next steps is that California will need to submit a letter of intent on you know to participate in the program by July 18. The digital equity planning grant program is another exciting program, it's about \$60 million and it's an allocation-based program for states to develop their own digital equity plans, which would be components of the of the BEAD program, you know the development of the five-year plan. California's allocation, it's tentative allocation right now is \$4 million. Again, there's a July 12 deadline for that and then on the third program is the enabling of the middle mile broadband infrastructure program and I know we've talked a lot about that, today, and how important middle mile infrastructures. This program is a competitive funding program, so there are no state allocations. There's about \$980 million dollars in that funding pool. The NTIA expects they'll announce awards between 5 and 100 million dollars and the applications for that are due by September 30. And just would like to share with the council members and the public that the Department of Technology and their Broadband office is collaborating with PUC managed within the administration to continue to analyze the...these funding programs in the context of what the states are already doing and to, you know, determine...you know, which agencies would be most purvey to lead in what collaboration would work on this and so that's my update.

Thank you, Mr Adams. Any questions or comments from council members for Mr. Adams?

Actually, Mr. Chair...I just want to make sure that we are given copies of all the presentations that were made today.

Yes. Go ahead.

So yeah. All of the recording, the master slide presentation, and the transcripts will be posted on the Broadband Council website and we'll also make sure you get a copy as well.

Thank you, Scott.

You're welcome.

Thank you for that confirmation. Alright, other questions or comments? Alright, if not, we will move into the public comment portion of our meeting. Jules, if you will give a reminder of public comments, processes, and parameters.

Certainly. So, people on zoom, please raise your zoom hand. If you're calling into zoom with the phone, please press \*9. Are there any people in-person to public comment? If so, there... Russ, uh...Chair Nichols, are there any people in-person? I'm sorry.

No, there is not, Jules. Okay, so, while people raise their hands, we respectfully request one person per entity and two minutes per person in order to make sure we allow time for everybody who'd like to make comment. We did receive one comment online from the California Cable and Telecommunications Association because it came in after the meeting started, we will go ahead and attach it to our...to the meeting recap. And David Griffith, please go ahead and unmute yourself.

Thank you, can you hear me now.

Yes, we can. Oh, thank you very much. Just one question about the maps. For somebody that's trying to figure out how it affects your local community with all those maps on the middle-mile advisory committee website and it's really hard to tell which ones are the current ones, um...is there any way that that can either be made clear, or we can get a link directly to the current map for the middle-mile? Thank you.

We will go ahead and pass on that request to the middle-mile staff. Is there anybody else who'd like to make a public comment? We are not seeing any hands, Chair Nichols.

Thank you, Jules. I appreciate that. On the mapping because that is a very timely topic, let me pass the baton to Mr. Monroe who can address that very quickly.

Yes, and we understand that the concern and then the confusion, I think a lot of there's been a lot of focus on the maps. We are in the process, now that we've come out with this map of...in the next week, we will post...uh, we will post the 10,000-mile map. That will be the initial final map that should be out there that folks should be looking at. We'll have resources where they can you know, or anybody is interested, go back and look at some of the other maps and kind of do a comparison, but will really put that front and center. The goal is to have that really be the topic of discussion going forward.

Thank you, Mr Monroe and I realized normally this is public comment, not Q&A session, but because that map was just published on Friday of last week and will be presented on the middle-mile advisory committee page here shortly in a more consumable format, I wanted to make sure everyone was aware of that so thank you very much, Mr Monroe. Alright, Jules. Anyone else coming online for questions?

I do not currently see anybody.

All right, thank you. One last solicitation to council members, any closing comments or questions from the committee? Alright, not seeing any. Thank you very much everyone for joining us today and generously sharing your knowledge and subject matter expertise. We're playing a huge role in moving this effort forward and lots and lots of progress and I'm very appreciative of seeing that. Our next council meetings will be on July 27 and October 12. At this point, we anticipate both of those also being in a hybrid format, so we look forward to seeing you there. Thank you again for joining us and we look forward to seeing everyone in July. And with that, the council is adjourned. Thank you.





Janus L. Norman, M.B.A. President

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor  
State of California

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California Cable & Telecommunications Association (“CCTA”) applauds your leadership to close the digital divide by ensuring that California is among the first states expressing an intent to participate in new federal programs with funding for broadband infrastructure, adoption and digital equity – as described in this press release from the National Telecommunications and Information Association (“NTIA”):

[34 States and Territories “Sign On” to Biden-Harris Administration’s “Internet for All” Initiative to Bring Affordable, Reliable High-Speed Internet to Everyone | National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#)

CCTA and its member companies are actively engaged with state and federal policymakers to implement your \$6 billion “Broadband for All” plan enacted last year, and we strongly support your efforts to ensure that California maximizes its draw of additional federal funds for broadband from the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (“IIJA”). [As recognized by President Biden on May 10th](#), cable companies are key partners in government programs to provide affordable high-speed internet access to all eligible households (see attachment). We stand ready to work with you to connect all Californians with newly available IIJA funds.

Your submission of a letter of intent to NTIA is a first step to get federal planning funds and begin the process of developing (1) a Five-Year Action Plan for drawing an estimated \$2.8 billion in Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (“BEAD”) funds, and (2) a State Digital Equity Plan for drawing potentially hundreds of millions for digital literacy, adoption, devices, and affordability programs.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor

May 24, 2022

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I wish to express the commitment of CCTA to participate and engage with you and all relevant state agencies to develop these required state plans. Thus, please do not hesitate to contact me to ensure that the cable industry can fully partner with you in these broadband planning efforts.

Sincerely,



Janus Norman,  
President

Attachment

cc:

Gayle Miller, Department of Finance

Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

Alice Reynolds, President, California Public Utilities Commission

John Reynolds, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Clifford Rechtschaffen, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Darcie L. Houck, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly

The Honorable Ben Hueso, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities & Communications

Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications

The Honorable Sharon Quirk Silva, Chair, Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance

Members of the Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance

Scott Adams, Deputy Director for Broadband and Digital Literacy, California Department of Technology

Russ Nichols, Acting State CIO/Director, California Broadband Council

Robert Osborn, Director, Communications Division, California Public Utilities Commission

Emilio Perez, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance

Sarah Smith, Consultant, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications



May 24, 2022

## **President Biden Recognizes Cable Industry for Federal Partnership to Provide Free Broadband**

CCTA member companies are among the internet service providers **President Biden** recognized on May 10 for their commitment to provide broadband service at **no cost** to eligible families that qualify for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”). The providers, including **Comcast, Cox, Charter and Mediacom**, were day one participants in the ACP program and developed new offerings for broadband service plans with speeds of at least 100 Mbps at a cost of less than \$30 a month. The ACP provides a \$30 subsidy to low-income households to purchase service. These two efforts combined will result in free service for qualifying households.

**“This is a case where big business stepped up. I’m trying to get others to do the same thing with inflation. But these guys are the best - It’s going to change peoples’ lives.”**  
**-- President Biden**

President Biden’s comments about cable industry participation is at this [link](#).

The White House [fact sheet](#) estimates that about 40% of the U.S. population qualifies for the ACP. To qualify, a household must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty line or qualify for government assistance programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, among others.

Below are statements from CCTA member companies on their partnership with the White House and related efforts to advance digital equity and make broadband affordable and accessible.

**Comcast:** “Through Project UP, Comcast’s \$1B commitment to advance digital equity and help build a future of unlimited possibilities, the company is partnering with its network of thousands of non-profit organizations in communities across the country to increase awareness of, and participation in ACP, while also addressing broadband adoption issues like the lack of digital skills. In the last six months, Comcast has distributed well over \$1 million dollars in grants to support dozens of local non-profits affiliated with the [Hispanic Federation](#) and the [National Urban Indian Family Coalition](#) (NUIFC).”

**Charter:** “Charter has long been committed to increasing connectivity by addressing broadband access, adoption and affordability, including through the ongoing extension of our broadband network into unserved and rural areas, our low-cost broadband offerings for eligible families and seniors, our participation in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and our Stay Connected program for K-12 schools,” said Tom Rutledge, Chairman and CEO, Charter Communications. “We are pleased to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program, which builds on Charter’s long-standing, voluntary commitments to increase connectivity.”

**Cox:** “On February 17, 2022, Cox announced more than \$400M over the next three years will be designated to expand its footprint to reach underserved and rural communities. These efforts will allow Cox to provide fast and reliable internet service to more than 100K new homes and businesses in communities near its existing footprint.”