

## California Broadband Council

October 12, 2022

### Meeting Recap and Transcript

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30am via virtual conference.

#### Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Council Chair Liana Bailey-Crimmins welcomed Council members and attendees.

#### Roll Call

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Member		Designee	Present	Absent
California Department of Technology Director	Liana-Bailey-Crimmins		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	Marv Green	X	
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond	Geoff Belleau		X
Department of General Services Director	Ana Lasso	Brent Jamison	X	
California State Transportation Agency Secretary	Toks Omishakin	Lori Pepper	X	
California Emerging Technology Fund President	Sunne Wright McPeak		X	

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

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

Scott Adams provided work plan updates, introduced a new OBDL team and NTIA staff, and highlights of recent actions.

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

Scott Adams provided highlights of Broadband for All Action items, next steps for SDEP planning and legislation updates.

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

Mark Monroe from the California Department of Technology provided a Middle-Mile update, focusing on Middle-Mile Advisory Committee updates and next steps.

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

California Public Utilities Commissioner Darcie Houck provided a Last-Mile update, focusing on different types of assistance.

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

Sunne Wright McPeak from the California Emerging Technology Fund provided an update on broadband adoption.

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

Scott Adams and Rob Osborn 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):

- Derek Walker
- Reynaldo Gil
- Walter Siembab

There were no in meeting public comments.

Ms. Bailey-Crimmins thanked Council members, presenters, and attendees and noted the next meeting is Wednesday, October 12.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

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

Attachments

- Transcript.
- Written public comments.

## Transcript

Good morning and welcome everyone to the October 12<sup>th</sup> California Broadband Council Meeting. I am Liana Bailey-Crimmins, the director of the Department of Technology, and also have the honor of chairing the Broadband Council. The October Council Meeting is the last meeting of the year, and there have been significant progress on all of the state initiatives. Today we'll be focusing on the action plan and the long-term actions, meaning those action items that will take more than a few years to complete. There has been a great deal of progress, and looking forward to hearing about it. Mr. Przybyla, our first order of action is to please call the role.

Absolutely. Director Bailey-Crimmins?

Here.

Miss Smith.

Here.

Commissioner Houck.

Here.

Deputy Director Green.

Here.

Director Winkler.

Here.

Deputy Director Jamison.

Present.

Deputy Secretary Pepper.

Here.

Ms. McPeak.

Here.

Deputy Secretary Flores.

Here.

California State Librarian Chisom.

Secretary Snider.

Mr. Aguayo.

Here.

Director, uh...Chair, we do have a quorum.

Thank you. Mr. Przybyla. Um, is any of the Council members or committee members wish to speak before we start our official agenda? I see none. So, the first order of business is to go ahead and do our agenda items. State Broadband and Digital Literacy update from Scott Adams.

Thank you, Director Bailey-Crimmins. And good morning Council Members and members of the public. My name is Scott Adams and I'm the Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on our work today. Next slide, please. So, as part of our report, I wanted to share that the office of Broadband and Digital Literacy continues to implement the Action Plan work plan that was presented to the Council at the beginning of the year. Since our last meeting we report that we have continued to monitor and coordinate state broadband for all efforts; have conducted significant partner and stakeholder engagement meetings, consultations, and monthly email updates through the portal; in addition to conducting monthly action plan working sessions with action item owners. And lastly, we can continue to work with broadband council partners and member agencies to leverage Federal infrastructure investment and jobs at broadband programs to support broadband for all. Next slide. So, we wanted to take an opportunity to recount that broadband for all is the state's overarching program to close the digital divide throughout the State. And this is actually a living and breathing effort, and thought that this graphic would help demonstrate the evolution of broadband for all. It begins with the historic work of the Council. It was advanced by the Governor's executive order, further outlined in the Broadband Action plan, and then really giving shape and structure through the historic Senate Bill 156 and the middle mile broadband initiative and the last mile programs. And now this year it has expanded to leverage many of the programs in the IIJA, including the Affordable Connectivity Plan, the Digital Equity Act programs, the broadband access... Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, the enabling Middle Mile infrastructure program, the Tribal Broadband and Community Connectivity program, and the USDA reconnect program. Next slide. As our work has expanded, so is our team. And we would like to welcome a new member to the Department of Technology team. It's our pleasure to welcome Anh Nguyen, who is our new Broadband Engagement and Operations manager. Anh, could you please turn on your camera and say Hello. Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Anh. Additionally, as we leverage the IIJA programs, many of which are administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which includes the digital equity and BEAD programs, broadband for all is truly a Federal and State and local partnership, and so to support the Federal and State efforts, we would like to welcome the NTIA's California team, who will be working closely with California on the development and implementation of the digital equity and BEAD plans. Please welcome some very familiar faces in these new critical roles. Susan Walters could the NTIA team please turn on their cameras and Susan will you introduce them.

Good morning. It's great to be with you. I see I have a different name on screen, but that's Gladys Pallapatoc is also here, and she is one of...there we go, and she is one of two state leads for California. Marina McClatchie, you can see is also here. Obviously both Gladys and Marina very deeply involved with myself broadband in California, and we're all thrilled to be able to support California through the NTIA team. And we have two other people to introduce to you. They are supporting the tribal nations. Um, and I see Andrew Orosco is here. Great, welcome. And many of you may know him as well, but if not, you'll have a chance to meet him soon. So, Vanessa I don't see, is the other person supporting tribal nations. So, thank you, Scott. I know you...., there is Vanessa Cresci, so she can wave as well. So, Scott, I know you've got a packed agenda. You can uh, take it back. Know that um, again we're happy to be here and really work with you to implement the bead and digital equity programs. California has a lot going for it. Everybody's done some excellent work so far, and we expect everybody to take it over the finish line with flying colors. So, thank you.

Thank you so much, Susan and NTIA team. We really look forward to our growing and involving partnership and working together over the next year and the next five years. Okay, and that concludes our Broadband office update. Back to you, Director.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. I'd also like to extend a big welcome to our new team member Anh Nguyen. It is always wonderful to have a new member of the CDT family to help the broadband effort and then also welcome the NTIA California team. We can only do this with your support. So, Susan Walters and team welcome, and we look forward to working closely with you. So, with that I'd like to open it up with some...to the Council members if anyone has any questions or comments you'd like to make before we go to the next agenda item. I see none, so we'll go ahead and go to the next agenda item, which is the broadband for all. In the year, so there are four categories in this. And so, we're going to first start off with Mr. Adams again to give an update on what's going on with the broadband and digital literacy effort. Thanks again, Director Bailey-Crimmins and Council members. Next slide, please. So, uh I am here to report on the broadband for all action plan implementation, and very pleased to report that collectively the Broadband Council members and state agencies have made great progress on Action Plan

implementation. As reported out at previous meetings this year, the Action Plan was revised and updated as directed by the action plan at the end of last year, and we reported out in March of this year, as we've reported, made great progress has been made on short term action items. Most of those are complete or will be complete by the end of the year. Many of those will continue to be monitored and refreshed on an annual basis. Similarly, as we reported on significant progress that's been made on long term action items, many of which have external dependencies, and that we will continue to monitor. CPUC is leading many of those, and we'll provide updates on an ongoing basis. And lastly, as I mentioned you know, at the top of the meeting here, we throughout the year monitored and identified ways to leverage the IJJA broadband programs to support broadband for all. Next slide, please. On this slide, we just wanted to highlight and provide a little more detail on some of the tremendous progress that's been made on Action Item 5. CalSTA has done great work in you know, enhancing permitting project processes and encroachment in right-of-way management. The Department of Technology made great progress with members of this Council on enhancing permitting efforts to all levels of government, and we've leverage contracting procurement vehicles to support the Middle Mile initiative per Action Item #9. On the Action Item #15, we really wanted to um give a shout out to the Department of Aging for developing three programs to meet the needs of seniors as directed by the Action Plan on Action Items 16, 18, and 21. There's really collective progress that is made between council members and partners uh done very significant work to promote low cost offers, and also to promote and track enrollment in the affordable connectivity program. Collectively, we've continued to develop and manage a very sizable multi-layer network of digital inclusion, stakeholders, and online shared resources and coordinate initiatives. We have also worked together to launch and expand the broadband for all portal which part of the action plan was to develop a central repository of information for broadband in the State of California. And then lastly on Action Item #24, CDT conducted basically a survey...an initial survey of State agencies and entities on their integration of broadband in their strategic plans. We will provide a summary of that at the first Council meeting next year, and that will be a process that is ongoing over the next five years. Next slide. Our next steps are really going to be two-fold. We're going to build on existing initiatives and gear up for state digital equity planning and be planning, you know, processing, coordination, and part of that is to really leverage the work that's been done you know, to implement the broadband action plan and fold those into or use those to support the development of the digital equity and BEAD plans. Conversely, there is going to be significant engagement with numerous partners and stakeholders over the next year, and we intend to leverage those engagements to further support the development and completion of various action plan items. Next slide. We do want to flag that we are very appreciative of our partners in the legislature, and there is support and um, evolving broadband for all. Wanted to highlight four very significant pieces of legislation that you know, passed and were signed by the Governor. We are currently analyzing how these will inform, and perhaps revise/change responsibilities of action items and further inform broadband for all. And I wanted to extend an invitation to the Council members here that both the Department of Technology's legislative team and the PUC will be happy to follow up with you if you have any questions after the meeting. And that concludes my presentation. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. I know you only had a few slides and there was a lot of work that went into the broadband for all action plan. So amazing, amazing work! Great condensing it! Definitely a shout out to you and the team and everyone on this committee that has made that...you know, that happen. And so, I'd love to open it up to the Council members to see if anyone would like to say anything in relation to all the hard work that went into this last year. All right. Yes, Miss Pepper.

Morning. Yeah, I just um wanted to say on behalf of CalSTA and Caltrans, how much we appreciated working with Deputy Director Adams and his team on our action items. I think. We see even those that may be marked complete by the end of the year or not ever going to actually be complete. We will be continuously looking at our processes and our policies for updating. But I think we have made a lot of progress over not just this past year, but the past few years. And um, I think it has really been uh, I really want to acknowledge the CDT team, but also the Caltrans team, who has put in a lot of work to make sure that we can complete these goals and to make it really much more pleasant and efficient process for everyone involved. So, thank you.

Thank you. Any other comments? All right, Miss Snider.

I think I'll just plus one on that. I have seen over the course of my time working with this council that tribal engagement has just completely, you know, skyrocketed, and I think that a lot of the funding that's going to Indian country in California is a direct result of the work that you've been doing here. So, just

really appreciative. And just want to commend you for the effort and the understanding and the effort to be understanding about the different needs and priorities of tribal communities. Thank you.

All right, I see no other comments. So, at this point we'll go ahead and jump to the next sub item underneath this particular agenda item which will be Mark Monroe...Deputy Director Mark... just to let you know, he is at the airport. So, he is calling in remotely so, Mark, you are going to be providing a middle mile broadband initiative update.

Yes, could everybody hear me alright? Or Liana, can you hear me alright? Alright, very good. Yes. Alright so...uh yeah, um, good morning everyone. Going to provide an update here on where we've been on this the middle mile broadband initiative. Um, I'm assuming we're all you know, very familiar with the SB 156 and the 2021 budget act that made six billion dollars available for broadband um, including the \$3.25 billion that was made available for developing this network. I'll add to that the 2022 budget includes another 550 million so the funding for the development of the network is up to a 3.8 billion. CDT contracted last year with uh with Golden State Net, Caltrans, and the Public Utilities Commission to you know, for their various roles, and developing um, and moving forward with the network. The PUC completed its public proceeding last August and September, where it was getting input on to help refine its estimate of where the needs are greatest in the state where the unserved and underserved communities are, and based on some initial uh, some of the initial output from that, CDT had announced the eighteen initial projects last November that made up uh, but was at the time estimated to be about ten percent of the network uh, really just targeted at looking at locations where it could be...uh, we could get. We could start learning. We could start identifying where the transportation projects might have fiber added to them, as well as some standalone places. And also, as well as having the...starting the process of looking for lease opportunities that might help facilitate or connect to those. We're gonna go to the next slide. Here, you can see since then this last year, CDT working with PUC and Golden State Net. We've finalized a 10k-mile network map that we're targeting here to really reach those communities that were identified by Public Utilities Commission. Golden State Net has developed a preliminary map of existing infrastructure where we're gonna be looking at where we might be able to lease to any areas that are going to make the most sense for the network in terms of optimizing the mix of leasing and building and timing of implementation. CDT signed two procurement contracts for three thousand miles or more of fiber and related materials. And this is really key, as we look at you know the expansion of fiber throughout the country. I'm trying to make sure that we can address concerns and risks with supply chain. And so, the way the procurements work is that we have three thousand miles or more. And so that's...and that kind of puts us in a in a good position with the industry and with suppliers to know that we will...that we're going to be ordering from them and that we'll have access to those as the rest of the country ramps up. And then CDT has also worked with Caltrans and state permitting agencies to streamline the permitting process. As everybody's aware of you know, SB 156 did provide for some CEQA streamlining but there are other programmatic needs or other permitting needs that we need to be taken care of, and by using programmatic permits we've been able to take the average timeframe for a lot of this down from what would have been thirty months down to seventeen months and down to the ten or eleven month timeframe, which really will help us meet those Federal timeframes for using the Federal funds and for completing the network. And then in terms of the one of the more recent things we've been working on as well is working with our Federal partners. We estimated that roughly, thirty percent of this network will go through Federal land, and so we've been trying to work through the fast forty-one process and um with the...and with the Bureau of Land Management as well as using some other processes that Caltrans normally follows in in working with those Federal landowners to get permits and access to be able to build on those rights-of-way. We want to move to the next slide here in terms of what we're looking for. Currently Caltrans has been working on those initial eighteen doing the pre-construction work as well as looking at other transportation projects where a fiber might be added. I think, uh initially, the last estimate of it was that there will be thirteen that might be started by the end of this current calendar year, and then one of them is all...part of the initial eighteen is the State Route 67 down in San Diego where we expect to announce the installation of the first fiber for the network uh tomorrow. Caltrans is going out to bid for construction contracts on more than half the network using job order contracting. And so, we're finalizing that process, and we expect to start rolling out with some of those early later this week. CDT has just gone out to bid an IRU for a range of components of the network including IRUs and leases, joint build opportunities as well as the purchase of existing infrastructure and the and co-location and the idea road there really is that we want to go out, see what is available out there in terms of what industry could help partner with us on, and make use of that and see if we can share the cost and really help the funding go further. And then, as we look at those construction contract bids and the IRU joint build and purchase

bids, as we get those in December, we expect to make to be able to make key decisions come this next December January, regarding what the um...regarding how to best optimize that network in terms of where we build, where we lease, and when we do both. So going to the next slide here. If you know the...I think the week from Friday, we'll be holding our October MMAC meeting. This is a timeline that we put in front, you know...we try to put in front of the MMAC members and the public every on our monthly MMAC meeting just showing our progress there. You can see the two orange dates at the bottom for October. This is where we're talking about the job order contracts and the RFP for the leases and construction or joint builds and purchases, and being able to get that information in December. You can see right below the years there where we have Caltrans working on that pre-construction process, and then that overlaps with the construction, so that we expect in 2023 to really start to see that construction roll out. We're well aware the Federal funds have to be under contract for all of the construction, and this is by the end of 2024, and the network has to be completed by December of 2026. So, there's a kind of a high level review of where we are with the Middle Mile.

Thank you, Mr. Monroe. I know you mentioned it on the slide, but as the Deputy Secretary Pepper had mentioned, tomorrow's a pretty big event. Um, you know we've done this process at break-neck speed and a lot of collaboration partnership and really leveraging the dig smart, you know, existing highway projects and be able to lay our first fiber. So, anything you wanted to say to the group, just you know we have quite a few uh local and you know, Senate/Assembly members that are joining us tomorrow. It's pretty ceremonial, but also it marks up kind of our flag in the ground that we are moving forward with this big project. So, just want to give you an opportunity to you or any of the members to highlight that.

Yeah, absolutely. It really is a major step when you know, for those of us who've been around and seeing the speed of public work progress...projects uh, you know, like this. Being able to actually start getting fiber in the ground. A little over a year after the legislation was signed is really, I think, a good mark. The partnership we've had with the you know, starting with the Public Utilities Commission and working with Golden State Net as well as Caltrans to look for these opportunities. The State Route 67 project, it's part of an eighteen mile transportation improvement project that's been in the works for some time, and we really appreciate the initiative at the district level at Caltrans in looking for this opportunity once we one could such as past really going out there and looking for these opportunities. I think it's uh...it really shows the partnership that everybody's really been able to contribute to this, and I think both well for us, you know, moving forward in the Federal deadlines and developing this network.

Thank you, Mr. Monroe. I'd like to open up to any Council members that have questions or comments. All right. I see none. Safe flight, and we'll see you again next...at our next report. Thanks, Mr. Monroe. The next agenda item is from last mile programs, which is Commissioner Darcy Houck from CPUC.

Thank you, Chair. And good morning, everyone. I'm pleased to be here today to provide a summary update of the commission's last mile broadband initiatives highlighting the work we've completed in 2020 and what we're looking forward to in 2023. Next slide, please. So, this slide provides an overview of the work that we completed in 2022 and a preview of what we're headed into...um, over the next few months and into 2023. The primary focus of this year has been implementing the PUC's responsibilities under SB 156 and to that end with regards to completed items, we adopted final program rules for the local agency technical assistance program. This program provides technical assistance to local and tribal governments. We completed the implementation setup for that program and have started accepting and approving applications. And I'll talk a little more about those applications and the recent awards that were issued earlier this week on the next slide. We also adopted a decision updating the rules for our California Advanced Services Fund programs, including the adoption account, consortia account, and public housing account. And finally, we adopted the final rules for the Federal Funding account, which will distribute \$2 billion dollars of the Governor's broadband...\$6 billion dollar broadband initiative. With regards to items that are still in progress, we've recently released a staff proposal with proposed rules for other significant new programs...for our other significant new program authorized under SB 156, which is a Loan Loss Reserve Fund. We are also finalizing preparation of last mile funding areas for use in the Federal funding account program. And our California Advanced Services Fund infrastructure account...um, for that program we recently issued a proposed decision which is pending, and this proposed decision, if adopted, will update the threshold, delivered speed requirements and streamline the challenge process among other improvements, and the main focus of those rules is to make them more user friendly. So, we can hopefully get this money out and get more projects moving. So finally, we also have begun to develop the Federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment for BEAD program. And we're...that includes submitting our initial request for planning

funds. And I think, Rob Osborn, our Director of Communications is going to talk more about that when he presents a little bit later. We will be opening application rounds for both the California Advanced Services Fund infrastructure account and the Federal funding account. And finally, we will continue to work on developing the parameters of the BEAD program. Next slide. So, as I mentioned earlier, we received at least fifty-four local agency technical assistance applications since the filing window opened on August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, these applications have requested over 25 million dollars of the total 50 million dollars budgeted for the program. We recently approved our first set of LATA applications this week. On Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>, we issued a media release so I encourage you to look at that. Twelve local agency technical assistance grants were awarded from forty-six applications that we received in August. The funds were awarded to communities across California, from the Sierras to the North Coast, from the Central Valley to urban Los Angeles, and we anticipate additional awards to go out over the next few weeks, so keep an eye out for those announcements as well, and we continue to accept applications for this account on a rolling basis. It's also great to see the volume of participation that we've got from rural cities and counties, and we are especially pleased to see the focus on network design, aid being requested, which is an indicator that applicants are far along in their planning. So, we're also encouraged by the response to our adoption, consortia, and public housing application windows with regards to the adoption account in July, the PUC received ninety-nine broadband adoption account applications requesting a total of \$28.5 million dollars in support and examples of projects from this group that have already been approved include there was one proposed by the San Diego Association of Governments or SANDAG, which will continue its Get Connected county-wide outreach effort, and this effort encourages broadband adoption by increasing communication commission's affordable connectivity program, and that will be providing digital training sessions that serve low income, rural and tribal communities. The Fresno Foundation will be providing culturally and linguistically appropriate digital skills training for up to 2,400 low-income residents, and eight mostly rural communities throughout the State, and finally, as a way to address generational poverty and Latino communities in Marin County, the Canal Alliance will be providing English as a second language, digital literacy courses to 225 adult students, helping them acquire basic and more advanced digital literacy skills. Nineteen applications for grants totaling 1.4 million dollars were submitted for our broadband public housing account, which is great to see. Well, this is a good start. We hope to increase the scope of the parties who can benefit from this program by issuing a staff proposal in the near future that will expand eligibility for the program to additional low-income communities. And just as a reminder our decision earlier this year expanded eligibility to farm worker housing. So, they now qualify for this program, and we hope to see more applications that can provide resources to underserved farm worker housing communities. We received fifteen applications for our regional consortia account for a total request of over ten million dollars. Thirteen of these applications were from existing consortia bodies with two applications from brand new consortia entities looking to represent underrepresented regions in California. Lastly, the picture that's here on the slide shows an event celebrating the kickoff of another of our CASF projects. This project is located in the San Jerardo Farm Worker Housing Cooperative and the project evolved out of work initiated by the community members, elected officials, and the local consortia group as well as Cruzio Internet. This grant was awarded and greatly assisted migrant farm worker children living in the community that were unable to access the internet during COVID and the shelter in place. And now with having broadband, these students can access the internet to do homework, to help with other schoolwork, access telehealth um services, and all of the other services that most of us take for granted. The event pictured was a celebration that highlighted the community that came together to get reliable broadband access to this cooperative and there were representatives across the board from local, state, and federal elected officials for the area, a large turnout for the community. And it was just great to see everybody come together to celebrate this important event, and I was very grateful and humble to have been an honor to have been able to represent the PUC at this event to meet with the community members and to see firsthand the impact that this project has had on the community. Next slide. So, our focus for next year is what we have is, as I mentioned earlier in my presentation, we have a proposal with rules for our Loan Loss Reserve Fund, and we're accepting comments on that proposal right now, and we will be preparing a decision which will be the subject of another round of comments before a vote by the Commission. We also will be holding a public workshop to discuss the Loan Loss Reserve program. So, keep a lookout for that. The date has not been um solidified yet, but we are in discussions with interested community members, and again are taking comments, and we'll have a public meeting. Staff will then, after the decision is adopted on the program, staff will be conducting implementation activities which include finalizing application materials, preparing information materials, and then we'll open up our first round of applications. Similarly, we're working hard to finalize the FFA priority areas which we hope to share soon, and then we'll be able to begin accepting applications for that program as well, and I know we've got lots of folks waiting for that

to open, so we anticipate that happening as soon as we can possibly get that done. And lastly, we'll soon be able to turn from SB 156 programs to start up development of new programs under the BEAD umbrella and the PUC will be responsible for developing the processes and proposals to incorporate public feedback into our BEAD 5-Year Action Plan. And then, as I mentioned earlier, our Communications Director Rob Osbourn will be discussing BEAD and our 5-Year Action Plan in more detail a little bit later in the meeting. So, thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on what we've been doing and what we hope to do next year and I'm available for any questions.

Thank you, Commissioner Houck. And I would like to applaud CPUC. You know, because of SB 156 between middle mile which is the backbone but nothing really happens unless we have that last mile connectivity. And you guys have really been doing this at a rapid pace and making a big difference, obviously, from your update across the State. So amazing work. Applaud your greater efforts and thank you very much for your partnership. I'd like to open it up for any comments or council member questions of Commissioner Houck. All right, I see none. Thank you very much. The next sub-item, and under broadband for all is the affordable connectivity program. We have President and CEO of CETF, Sunne McPeak.

Thank you, madam Chair and Director. I do want to associate myself with all the positive comments and recognition of so much progress. So, definitely Secretary Pepper and Secretary Snider...um, what Commissioner Houck just said, but I didn't want to keep commenting on all of that as we went along. Here is another one to add to it. So, once we get all the infrastructure built, we have to get people online. So, that's essentially what we're talking about with this report. Let's go to the next slide if we can. The Affordable Connectivity Program was a focus of the California Broadband Council at the first meeting in 2022 on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The California Broadband Council with all of the members, all of the State agencies, took a very groundbreaking stand which is setting a goal to get online all ACP eligible households over the next six years. So, a goal of 90% of ACP eligible households by the end of 2024 and 95% percent by 2027. The reason for that timeframe is that last, if you will, 5% between 90-95% is reaching the hardest to get online. A lot of progress has been made with the equity to be with the broadband for all plan pursuant to the Governor's executive order, and on the complete list most of this relates to Item 16 in that action plan. But here's what's been completed. Working with the investor on utilities which were reported on last meeting in July, the four IOUs together have reached 1.96 million customers that are care customers. Care, of course, is the affordable program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission. So, I think, Commissioner Houck, you can be very pleased by what the IOUs are doing in this regard. There's been a coordinated state agency effort with local partners, local and regional partners on ACP mobilization to meet that goal. The mobilizations pursuant to what the California Department of Education wanted as a timetable, first took place in the month of August with on August 27<sup>th</sup>, twenty-five events will report a little bit more about that in the next slide. And then again here in October that started with kicking off the whole effort with Digital Inclusion Week...National Digital Inclusion Week. And now we have digital citizenship week in all of the schools, and on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, they'll be again more in-person ACP enrollment events. The enrollment events have been, you know, requested and really where the brainchild of the California Department of Education because obviously, if we're trying to reach people who are not online and one has to apply online to the Federal Communications Commission to enroll, then we have to be able to provide backup for those who are not online today to do so. Our experience is that at least 20% of all households who are not online today need assistance. They need in-person assistance for one reason or another. It may be a language barrier, and maybe they don't have all of their documents together, and just to sort of put a pin in that. That means we still have about seven hundred and fifty thousand households in California that we will need to reach in-person to help enroll. And then the State agencies convened by the California Department of Technology, but participated in by all the State agencies are now meeting mostly with the Internet service providers. I think that's a huge step forward in collaboration which is already born fruit in what we're seeing with the ACP mobilization. So, we have in progress working with those ISPs, we are continuing to mobilize for enrollment events. I, as I said, the next one is Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we are continuing to look at how do we find those strategies for outreach that also are going to inform the planning by the State for the digital equity plan and the BEAD plan. So, what I think the State has done, and it's really important to underscore is, be ahead of the curve to take the opportunity in this last year to get experience somewhat of a pilot, but real on the ground experience is going to inform the planning that is going to take place pursuant to the infrastructure investment and jobs act and the plans that will be submitted to NTIA. And so, our focus going forward is to leverage all of that experience in the planning to continue to promote ACP, to identify the barriers as we gather that experience, and then develop recommendations for getting everybody online and also obviously

supported by deployment through the BEAD plan to be...um, can close the digital divide through the incorporation of digital inclusion and everything we do and achieve digital equity. So, on the next slide, let's talk about a little bit more detail of where the Broadband Council is. As I mentioned, the 90% enrollment goal to my knowledge, California is the first, and right now, still, the only State was such an aggressive goal. So, everyone is to be commended on the Broadband Council. Obviously, that's under the leadership of the Governor and the administration who have participated in that goal setting. And, you know, established the environment with funding and with policy, and then funding in order to get this done. This morning, Scott Adams was able to put in the new number that was just released this morning from the FCC. It's data as of October 10<sup>th</sup>, but it was released this morning of one million seven hundred and twenty-three thousand six hundred and sixty-four households in California enrolled. That is 29% percent of our goal. It is, however, in the last week a twenty-five thousand household increase, and that's the indicator of all of the collective work of the state agencies that is beginning to get momentum, and that work is under the second column. Let's just look at what happened in August. So, the California Department of Education distributed a letter from State public and instructor. Excuse me, it's the State Public Instruction Superintendent, Superintendent of Public Instruction...I will get SPI right. Tony Thurman sent a letter to all districts and county offices of education. Now, the districts and the county offices are really working through their processes. And so, this letter also was used by a number of other organizations, such as the California School Boards Association community based organizations to say Superintendent Thurman is urging everybody to get enrolled. I think the districts and the county office, they're really gearing up for October, and then we're targeting February by the way for the next sort of mobilization in this fiscal year. It'll be in the next calendar year. The California State Association of Counties reached out to all fifty-eight counties, have conveyed three briefings. Counties are important in that they do the certification, eligibility for medical and CalFresh. Schools do the certification on National School Lunch program, and all of the folks came together within what is called the Southern California Transformation Initiative. The Southern California Association of Governments, the San Diego Association of Governments, those two MPOs, much upon those planning organizations, represent together two hundred and sixteen local jurisdictions and sixty percent of the State population. And so, they have been coordinating a lot of effort with among the seven counties, and those county offices of education. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, there were twenty five in-person enrollment events, more than a thousand households showed up. Six hundred and fifty were able to be enrolled that day. The others are being followed up on because they needed some other kind of assistance or documentation. We were able to gather two hundred and sixty surveys from participants, including those who received one hundred and eighty-three chrome books. Those chrome books were provided by Frontier and Comcast in throughout the state, and sixty-four percent of those who enrolled qualified on medical, their medical eligibility, which is a very important...um, again, experience and observation to draw from all of this because that tells us how important the work the State agencies are doing on direct notification to those households who are eligible. The internet service providers not only provided the chrome books...they actually had volunteers on-site, and in some cases provided food. I want to underscore how important, actually, that was, because when you have two hundred families who are standing in line in the morning before the ACP enrollment opened up, it was important that they get some coffee, some food, and had a place to wait while they would be enrolled by volunteers. So again, here on the right side column, gearing up for October, what I think is again unprecedented anywhere in the nation, the California Department of Health Care Services has made a commitment and they are simply under their own effort notifying the eight million households that are qualified for medical. They annually do this notification. That notification started in October. It will run through December. So, they were able to add to what they were already going to do without any expense, the notification on ACP. I think that little uptick in the last week in terms of increased enrollment, the ACP is probably in part reflecting this. Our State Librarian, Greg Lucas, has personally written...everybody knows that Greg is a great writer, a former reporter, he's written an op-ed um, and he personally edited it. So, that's going to get published to try to engage more libraries throughout the State to be sites for enrollment to be able to distribute information, and then August...excuse me, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, our targeted media at this point we have about twenty-three sites that have been identified and more are stepping up. When I say sites identified, these are on the ground partners in some cases counties, libraries, community-based organizations, schools who are opening up their doors, saying, we'll host, we're matching up volunteers...um, grantees of CETF partners who other grantees they received funding from the CPUC as adoption grantees, who are then coming to those sites to actually do the enrollment. So, the last slide...let's move to that, we'll say our next steps, and so I much, you know, covered much of this but the continuing work of the Department of Health Care Services just needs to be applauded, underscored, appreciate everything that CSAC is doing with their counties. The county officer...so, the county leadership within CSAC, those counties are actually showing also very positive results because those offices are getting their counties involved. The

following-up on State...um, the Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurman reaching out again to encourage direct notification of national school on students and parents. A number of higher education institutions are getting involved. So, the fourth big category that is very discreet to contact for ACP enrollment are students who receive Pell Grants. That's an automatic eligibility category. We are really pleased to acknowledge that the Contra Costa Community college district literally sent notification two weeks ago to all Pell Grant recipients. And so, we think that's a great model. We know that every community college in San Jose is finding to do the same thing. And then, libraries being able to take a leaf from State Librarian Lucas on his op-ed to expand will make a huge difference. And lastly, of course, we are recruiting those host for enrollment events, but are very, very pleased that the California Volunteers, Josh Friday and the Commission in response to Scott Adams and the work that we have done to engage them are mobilizing their volunteers. So, there's actually a matchup of California volunteers to these ACP enrollment events. That is also very helpful. There was one of the twenty-five events in October that literally was done by volunteers. They just got the notice from the California Volunteers, took the responsibility and did that on their own. And the last is that we're waiting for the Federal Communications Commission to actually release a notice of funding opportunity or availability on grants for promotion of ACP. And we'll coordinate with everyone...with the State agencies. We have a number of partners who want to work with...uh, together on an application to the FCC. The FCC did release yesterday their NOPA on the Digital Navigator Pilot Project, and we know there'll be California entities that want to participate in that. So, with that slide...um, madam Chair, I'll conclude my report on adoption on the progress with the broadband for all action plan and the mobilization around ACP.

Thank you, Ms. McPeak and we want to do a personal shoutout and thank you to CETF for your powerful advocacy on behalf of broadband affordability and adoption, and I also want to recognize you as a broadband community warrior. I mean, you are out there at the front lines making sure that people, when we do have the connectivity, know how to utilize it. So, um...special kudos to you. Thank you very much for all your hard work.

That's very kind, thank you. I'd like to open it up for any other comments or questions for Ms. McPeak. All right. We'll go ahead and go to the next agenda, and thank you very much. We are going to start...the next agenda item is on the investment infrastructure, investment and jobs act broadband programs. We're going to have Deputy Director Adams from CDT and also Rob Osborn from the CPUC. So, I will go ahead and turn it over first to Mr. Adams.

Thank you, Director Bailey-Crimmins. Thank you, Council members. Next slide, please. So, as we talked about earlier broadband for all this is really expanding to leverage all available Federal funding to support the aims of broadband for all. And very pleased to report as we have over the last you know, several meetings this year that the Department of Technology has applied for and expects to receive a digital equity planning grant from the NTIA sometime later this month. CDT will then have one year to develop the state digital equity plan, you know, which basically starts at the date of the award. CDT fully intends to take and conduct a 52- week planning process, I think is we've all heard there's a lot of work being done here at the Broadband Council in the state agency level, and we think it's critical to take the full amount of time to expand the table to bring more partners to the table and enroll them in the conversation and the development of the digital equity plan, and any recommendations or outcomes that are suggested. Do want to note that the Digital Equity Plan will focus on outcomes that are aligned with the state's broader priorities. You know, it's really important to note that the opportunity we have through the digital equity planning processes to really tie together the State and the governor's equity initiative with the broadband for all initiative, and really underscore how digital inclusion is a pathway to so many other outcomes. Do want to report and underscore as we have it, past meetings that the digital equity planning process will be done in very close coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, who is developing the BEAD five-year action plan, and that at the end of the process, you know both plans will be welled-in together and will really shape how future Federal funding through the IJA programs will be, you know, shaped and targeted in the State of California. Next slide, please. Uh...really, we'd flashed this slide, but we wanted to share it again with the Broadband Council members to center us all on the opportunity that we have for digital equity is that digital equity is really focused on prioritizing investments for eight covered populations, and those are the folks most impacted by the digital divide. We want to name them because they are...it's our commitment to, you know, draft a plan that addresses their needs. These are individuals and covered households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, members of a racial or ethnic minority group and individuals who primarily reside in rural areas. Next slide. So, the planning process the CDT will undertake in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission with the broadband

council and with the larger public is really a five problem strategy, and that is to develop a statewide planning group that you know, is a base of broadband council members, but expands other state agencies that have a close connection to the covered populations or subject matter expertise relating to outcome areas that the plan will address, develop outcome area working groups that would really do some significant heavy lifting to do stakeholder asset...uh, stakeholder mapping, do an inventory of assets and programs that currently exist that can be leveraged and scaled to support the goals to do a...uh, the third component is a digital equity survey and actually a combination of digital equity surveys to assess barriers for the covered populations, and then the fourth component is to get outside of Sacramento and to get outside the virtual world and conduct multiple up to twenty local and regional outreach events throughout the State to engage communities and partners and stakeholders where they are to, you know, incorporate their lived experiences, but also their input and feedback into development of the plan. And then, the fifth component is to conduct ongoing statewide public engagement through a number of means through, you know virtual broadband for all summits. We're gonna have a Broadband For All Summit on October 24<sup>th</sup>. There it will be a kickoff for digital equity and BEAD planning to provide monthly email updates through our, you know, monthly broadband update and then to continue to use the broadband for all portal as a central convening place online where folks can find information on the program. And so, I believe that completes my slide, and I will hand it over to my colleague, Rob Osborn, at the PUC to talk about their approach on the BEAD program.

Thank you, Deputy Director Adams. So, as I reported in the last Broadband Council meeting, we submitted the BEAD letter of intent on July 1<sup>st</sup>. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, we submitted the BEAD initial planning funds application which is up to five million dollars available for California to the NTIA, and I'll talk about that in a bit. After we submitted the application, there were several rounds of updates based on NTIA feedback, and as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, the application moved to formal review. We continue to collaborate with Department of Technology as Deputy director Adams said on the digital equity outreach planning. And I'll talk more about that in a bit as well. We've begun drafting a scope of work for the five-year action plan activities as well as beginning analysis on the FCC's serviceable location fabric which we downloaded from the FCC site and plan on providing feedback to the FCC through the bulk fabric challenge process. We look forward in the coming year to scoping the BEAD last mile grant program into a proceeding in the first or second quarter. We understand that the NTIA plans to announce the State BEAD allocation some time in-between second and third quarter of next year. The CPUC will be coordinating with CDT/Department of Technology's digital equity outreach that Deputy director Adams mentioned earlier to socialize and gather feedback on the five-year action plan and the BEAD initial proposal. Next slide, please. So, here's some more information on the initial planning funds application we submitted on August the 12<sup>th</sup>. So, we requested five million dollars to fund the creation of the 5-Year Action Plan, which is due two hundred and seventy days after planning funds are received. Funds would fund the creation of the proposal, which is due one hundred and eighty days after the BEAD allocation is announced. And again, the allocation we're expecting around some time after May of next year would fund also, the creation of the BEAD final proposal, which is due three hundred and sixty five days after the initial proposal is approved. In addition to that, the five million would help...will help fund the planning and conducting of statewide outreach and coordination with Department of Technology. Staffing to support the BEAD planning and last mile grant program, and then finally workforce related planning in coordination with Department of Technology, industry, labor, and education. We've had some initial meetings with the California Workforce Development Board, the Fiber Optic Association, which certifies training curricula for fiber optic technicians and other stakeholders as well. Next slide, please. So, for next steps the NTIA initial planning funds award, as I said, is expected between now to mid-December, we'll expect to hear the announcement for that. For outreach activities, we'll be soliciting public feedback on the 5-year action plan in coordination with Department of Technology's digital equity outreach. And as I said earlier, the 5-year action plan itself is due 270 from the initial planning funds award, and we expect the federal communications div...uh, broad...oh, communications broadband map to be available sometime in May of next year, and this will be the basis for the BEAD allocation, and that concludes my update. Thank you.

Thank you both to Mr. Adams and Mr. Osborn. Do any of the council members have questions or comments you'd like to make about the NTIA application, the BEAD program, digital equity. They'd love to hear from you. Alright, I see no questions. Well, thank you very much for the very informative update. The last agenda item we have is the staff recommendation and adoption of what our calendar and schedule look like and for 2023. As a reminder, the work plan will require a voice vote from the Council members, so I will first go ahead and turn it over to Deputy Director Adams.

Uh, thank you Bailey-Crimmins and Council members. Next slide, please. As you all can see that, uh...as the work of broadband for all expands, the work that we all collectively have ahead will require a continued insignificant coordination, which occurs in large part here at the Broadband Council. So, the staff is submitting a recommendation to the Council members that are in 2023 council focus, number one include the annual action, plan, review, and revision process where staff would engage with action item owners you know, the various agencies and their staff to review action items, determine where legislation may have changed responsibilities or how ongoing efforts such as the digital equity and BEAD planning process can be leveraged and conducted. To support the action items, the second piece is that we continue to use the broadband council as a form to monitor the...all of the broadband for all initiatives that we continue to monitor the progress of the IJA broadband programs including the digital equity and deep planning. And lastly, that we continue to conduct quarterly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Um, and you can see that suggested dates for those meetings here. And that is the staff recommendation, Director Bailey-Crimmins. I'm kicking it back to you.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. I would like to open it up for council member discussion, or is there any discussion on this agenda item? Uh yes, Mr. Jamison.

Scott, I know it probably seems rather straightforward, but I am curious about your first bullet and staff recommendation on the annual action, plan, review, and revision. Can you elaborate a little bit on that and what a revision might look like as we have kind of a static dynamic action plan that exist in front?

Yeah, certainly so...um, as you would recall that the initial version of the action plan that was completed in December of 2020 did state that the action plan would you know, be annually reviewed and revised is needed, and so you may recall that um last year at about this time, CDT had proposed a similar effort to review and revise the action plan, which we did, or which we had done. And you know, during the months of November and December, we had implemented a similar process where item owners and got updates and any provision processes and then we came back and presented those to the Council on the first meeting of this year. So, this is not a new recommendation. It's an extension of a process that was outlined in the action plan that was implemented last year, and that, we think is a fruitful effort going forward this year.

Wonderful! Thank you for the for the clarification and kind of the refresh.

Thank you, Ms. McPeak.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, Brent asked I think a really important question, and I didn't want to disappoint people without, you know, weighing in on some, you know, some of these issues. I was trying to participate and observe in this meeting, but I did want to commend the discipline that is set forth that was introduced a year ago of the systematic review. Each meeting the format in which we're marching through what's in the broadband for all action plan learning, continuing to feed that back into what will be the next phases of work. And so, Brent's question was a perfect setup to just commend you and say I appreciate it and also appreciate having the dates in advance, so we can plan around them.

Thank you. Ms. McPeak. Any other council member questions or comments before we do a motion to support? All right. Do we have a motion to support staff recommendation?

So, move.

Thank you, Ms. McPeak.

Is there a second?

Yes

Okay. All right. Second

um, Mr. Przybyla, please call a voice vote for all members.

All members in favor of the motion, say aye.

Aye.

All oppose? Any abstentions? Madam Chair, the motion passes unanimously.

Thank you. We'll go ahead and move to public comment. Mr. Przybyla, will you please provide public comment.

Absolutely. In order to allow everyone who wishes to comment...uh, to have the ability to do so, we respectfully request one person per entity and two minutes per speaker. If you are a member of public attending via Zoom, please raise your zoom hand or press \*6 and we will go in the order of online public comment submissions before the meetings, zoom hand raises, and those...and we will loop back at the end for each...sorry, we'll be posting. Um...and with that, there are three public comments that were received before the meeting. I do see that one of the public comments made before the meeting is by someone who is in attendance, so I would love to open up the opportunity for Walter to have a time to speak his public comment if he so desires. Walter, you can unmute.

Yes, hi! Good morning, thanks for all of this. I was hoping that we could get a detailed written report on the action plan...of the action steps from the action plan. All of this went by pretty quickly and the slides are of course summary, so it would be good to be able to read it in more detail. The 2020 action plan I thought was very good and I'd like to track along and see what all has happened because of it. So that's that was one. The other is I get the update...the update phenomenon, but what is it that...the money from NTIA for that planning process, it looked to me like it was a great deal of outreach and stakeholder planning for participation and planning. What do you anticipate would that revision of the action plan through that NTIA grant produce compared to what was in the 2020 plan?

I wanted to give just a quick opportunity...Mr. Adams, did you want to quickly respond to that or do we want to go ahead and take that off and provide everyone a formal answer.

Well, I would see that technically yes, normally public comment is on agenda items, and you know it's not a Q&A. However, really appreciate Mr. Siembab's question, and would encourage all folks who are at the meeting to attend the October 24<sup>th</sup> BroadbandForAll summit and digital equity and BEAD kickoff and we will have a deeper explanation of what the requirements and components of the digital equity planning process are and that'll be an opportunity to learn more.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. I'll now move on to two public comments that were submitted prior to the meeting. As in addition to Walters, I have noted that both Ronaldo and Derek Walker, whose submissions are from are not in attendance and will read on their behalf. So, Derek Walker made the public comment of what assurances are in place as to how projects will be assigned and awarded to existing high-quality, established, bargain for craft to perform the work of building the fiber backbones and last legs into identified areas. The identified high-quality work installation being performed by established bargain for craft will ensure that implementation, maintenance, and effectiveness of the product along with ensuring reliable proper usage additionally ensuring good middle class income jobs to keep Los Angeles as one of the top cities to live, work and raise families. The lowest bid cost being awarded to entities to perform this work does not ensure high-quality and reliable working services, whereas there are established properly trained craft familiar with this work has the training and is ready and in place to start immediately. The final public comment submitted was from Ronaldo Gill and his comment is: I would like to receive and review a list of Latino Latina organizations involved in the planning and mapping of broadband pathways through communities of color. The Latino population of California represents almost half of the population and suffers from a lack of digital access for education and business. How were communities selected for the first phase? That is the last of the submitted public comments prior to the meeting. With that, is there any Zoom hands or any participants as attendees wanting to make a public comment. And as a reminder, you can use the raise hand feature on the bottom toolbar of Zoom. Madam Chair, I'm not seeing any more Zoom hands being raised, whereas one final note that we will be posting the video and slides of today's meeting to the broadband for all portal website within the next week...thank you.

Thank you. I would like to...uh, before we close to provide any Council members who would make some additional comments before we close today's meeting. Are there any comments? Okay, I see none. So, I want to thank the Council members, presenters, and the attendees for their contributions today. I also want to express my gratitude for those who are working diligently to move things forward. We saw a lot

of progress today through all the presentations. Your work is valued and you make great contributions on advancing broadband for all. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 25. So, please have a happy and safe holiday season for everyone. We look forward to seeing everyone then, and with that, we'll conclude the October 12, 2022 California Broadband Council Meeting.

## Public Comment Prior to Meeting

**From:** California Broadband Council  
**To:** CA Broadband Council  
**Subject:** New Entry: Broadband Council Comment Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 10:04:29 AM

### I have a comment regarding:

Broadband Council

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### Name

Derek Walker

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### Email

[REDACTED]

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### Organization

Communications of America Workers Local 9003

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### Comment/Question

What assurances are in place as to how projects will be assigned/awarded to existing high quality established bargained for craft to perform the work of building the Fiber backbones and last legs into identified areas?

The identified high quality work installation being performed by established bargained for craft will ensure the implementation, maintenance, and effectiveness of the product. Along with ensuring reliable proper usage. Additionally ensuring good middle-class income jobs to keep Los Angeles as one of the top cities to live, work, and raise families.

The lowest bid/cost being awarded to entities to perform this work does not ensure high quality and reliable working services, whereas there are established properly trained craft familiar with this work, has the training, and is ready and in place to start immediately.

**From:** California Broadband Council  
**To:** CA Broadband Council  
**Subject:** New Entry: Broadband Council Comment Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 11:08:10 AM

**I have a comment regarding:**

Broadband Council

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**Name**

Reynaldo Gil

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**Email**

[REDACTED]

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**Organization**

CET - Center for Employment Training

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**Comment/Question**

I would like to receive and review a list of Latino/Latina organizations involved in the planning and mapping of broadband pathways through communities of color. The Latino population of California represents almost half of the population and suffers from a lack of digital access for education and business. How were communities selected for the first phase?

Sent from [California Broadband Council](#)

**From:** California Broadband Council  
**To:** CA Broadband Council  
**Subject:** New Entry: Broadband Council Comment Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:12:21 AM

**I have a comment regarding:**

Broadband Council

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**Name**

Walter Siembab

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**Email**

[REDACTED]

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**Organization**

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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**Comment/Question**

1. What is the implementation status of the action steps identified in the December, 2020 Action Plan?
2. The scope of work proposed to the NTIA for funding appears to consist of various forms of outreach and stakeholder participation; how will the product of that planning process differ from the 2020 Action Plan?

Thank You