

## California Broadband Council

January 25, 2023

### Meeting Recap and Transcript

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 9:30am via virtual conference.

#### Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Council Interim Chair Jared Johnson 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	Jared Johnson	X	
Member of the Senate	Pending Appointment from Senate Rules Committee	n/a		
Member of the Assembly	Mike Gipson	Mitchell Mattos	X	
California Public Utilities Commission President	Alice Reynolds	Darcie Houck	X	
California Office of Emergency Services Director	Nancy Ward	Marvin Green	X	
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond	Jerry Winkler	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	
Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary	Karen Ross	Michael Flores	X	
California State Librarian	Greg Lucas	Josh Chisom	X	
Office of Tribal Affairs Secretary	Christina Snider		X	

**Agenda Item 2 – Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy Executive Report**

Deputy Director Scott Adams provided a recap of the evolution of Broadband for All beginning with the work of the Broadband Council and contextualized to how Senate Bill 156, Assembly Bill 2750, and the federal Information Administration Infrastructure Investment and Job Act informed our work. He briefly reviewed collaborations and engagements between OBDL and various state agencies and stakeholders.

**Agenda Item 3 – Broadband for All Action Plan Review, Revision, and Status**

Deputy Director Scott Adams provided highlights of Broadband for All Action items and announced that Action Item #2, #7, and #16 were revised. He briefly walked through the status of Short and long term Action Items and plans to integrate action item directives into related workstreams.

**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, including Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA), Federal Funding Account Priority Areas, and California Advanced Services Fund Grants.

### **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. In particular, they highlight progress and coordinated collaborations between CDT and CPUC of State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) and Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD).

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

Staff noted no written public comments were submitted and proceed to live public comments:

- Stan Santos
- Linda Thomas
- Robert Tse
- Angela Curro
- Krystal Rawls

The following CBC members and OBDL Deputy Director made additional comments:

- Sunne McPeak
- Michael Flores
- Darcie Houck
- Scott Adams

Chief Deputy Director Johnson thanked Council members, presenters, and attendees and noted the next meeting is Wednesday, April 26.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

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

### **Attachments**

Transcript

## Transcript

Good morning and welcome to the first California Broadband Council Meeting of 2023. I am Jared Johnson, the chief deputy director of the Department of Technology and interim chair of the Broadband Council, acting on behalf of Director Bailor-Crimmins. We have a full agenda today and we'll be hearing an update from the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, Broadband for All Initiatives, and updates on federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act broadband programs, planning related to Digital Equity and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Programs. Mr. Przybyla, will you please review the meeting housekeeping items and proceed with roll call.

Yes. Good morning. Attendees, we will have time at the end of the meeting for public comment. Presenters, please queue Anh to advance slides. And committee members, please use the raise your hand feature when you wish to speak. The chair will call on you to ensure your comments are heard. Now, Committee members, roll call. Chief Deputy Director Jared Johnson.

Present.

Commissioner Houck.

Here.

Deputy Director Green.

Present.

Director Winkler.

Here.

Deputy Director Jamison

Present.

Deputy Secretary Pepper.

Present.

Mrs. McPeak

Present.

Deputy, Secretary Flores

Mr. Chisom

Present.

Secretary Snider

Mr. Mattos.

Present.

Chairman. We do have a quorum and back to you.

Thank you. Before we proceed with the agenda, would any of the council members like to make brief opening comment.

Okay, I don't see any hand raised. So for our first order of business, let's proceed to the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy Executive Report, Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy, Scott Adams

Thank you Chief Deputy Director Johnson, and good morning, Broadband council members and members of the public. It's a pleasure to be with you today in the first quarter meeting. I am happy to give a short office of broadband into digital literacy executive report next slide, please. I think, as we have done in the last couple of years. We wanted to start out the executive report with kind of a recap of that evolution of broadband for all beginning with the work of the Broadband Council, which is really been in place since 2010, as we all know that the pandemic and the Governor's response with the Broadband Executive Order in 2020, really shaped and inform our work in a in a new way, which led to the development of the Broadband Action Plan in 2020. That had a number of key actions that were designated to state agencies that would support and lead to broadband for all. Senate Bill 156, the historic legislation that really provided significant funding to address and close the digital divide, funded the middle Mile Broadband initiative and the related last mile program through PUC and then, as we had reported last year, that, knowing that to get to Broadband for All in California, it would take additional resources. We have been reporting out and tracking the availability of the Federal Investment Infrastructure and Job broadband programs, which we're technically, you know, formulated in 2021, but the State had really begun going after and leveraging those programs in 2022. I think it's really important here to note that at the end of the legislative session last year the Legislature, through Assembly Bill 2750 passed and the Governor sign that piece of legislation that directed the department of Technology to seek all of available Federal funding to develop a State digital equity plan and to consult with the Public Utilities Commission, the California Broadband Council, and the public on the development of that plan, and you can see that we have Assembly Bill 2750 on this chart that we have, and we'll report out later that we have received a planning Grant from the National Telecommunications and Administration Information to support that effort. We'll provide more updates later. Can we go to the next slide? Please.

Wanted to really walk through quickly. Some of the work that is occurred since our last meeting in October of last year. The Broadway offices continued to do our Monthly Action Plan working sessions with the various designated entities are responsible owners of the 24 Action Plan Items, listed in the Broadband for all Action Plan. We have conducted the Annual Action plan, review, and revision process and we'll report out in

the next segment more on that. We have done extensive partner and stakeholder engagement. A couple highlight we wanted to share is that after the last Broadband Council meeting, the Department of Technology and PUC and others state partners did host the Broadband for All Summit and Digital Equity, and BEAD kickoff on October 24. The CDT and the middle mile Broadband Initiative team, CalTrans and Golden State Net have work with the office of tribal affairs and others to host 3 tribal engagement sessions on the middle mile to really foster and enhance understanding of the Mill Mile Broadband initiative, and how that will support tribal connectivity here in California with our tribal nation partners. Separately, we have done a number of permitting round tables in partnership with the Governor's office of business and economic development. And we'll continue that series throughout this year. We have also done a number of meetings and consultations with individual partners and tribal nations as part of you know our effort to align local-regional and other efforts with the States broadband for all program and various initiatives. As it relates to the Federal IJJA Broadband programs, wanted to just point out that the Department of Technology and the broadband office are coordinating on a weekly basis with the Public Utilities Commission on the joint planning associated with the State Digital Equity and the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment 5 year action plan. Separately, and related something important to all of us. The FCC is updating their broadband maps. We partnered with the Public Utilities Commission in December to host a California stakeholder Mapping Challenge process webinar to issue a call to action for local entities to, you know, challenge the current data that was provided in the FCC map. You will hear more about a coordinated effort between the Department of Technology, the PUC, and CETF to apply for federal funding through the Federal Communications Commissions Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program to support Broadband Adoption here in the State. Next slide. Nope, I'm sorry that concludes my presentation. Back to you Deputy Director Johnson. If there are any questions.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. Do any of the Council members have any questions about Mr. Adams' Update.

Seeing none. So next on the agenda, we have the broadband for all updates which has 4 subsections listed on this slide. They'll start with broadband for all action plan updates from Mr. Adams

Thank you Chief Deputy Director Johnson, and wanted to note out to the members of the Council and the public here that the you know we very intentionally lumped together the presentations, the updates on the action plan, the middle mile broadband Initiative, the last Mile initiatives that CPU is administering, and the adoption efforts to really, you know, indicate and stress that these are complementary and interdependent programs that are all designed to work towards the goals of broadband for all. Next slide please. So my presentation is just really going to walk through the you know where we're at with the Broadband Action plan in the Action plan items. Their first item we'd like to point out is that the Broadband for all Action plan calls for revising broadband action items at

least annually. At last October's meeting the Broadband Council members voted to authorize, Broadband Office staff to review and revise the action plan items. The Broadband office staff just work with action. Item leads to review and revise action plan items where needed. There were 3 action items that were revised. We will share more about this with action. Item number 2, number 7, and number 16. Next slide.

So on the first action item, which is the really focused around the identification of State and Federal funding to really leverage and support Broadband in a number of ways. There's a small revision here, GoBiZ, is the lead on this was to update the key parties to include the Governor, senior advisor on social innovation. The justification that the Governor's offices of Economic Development gave for that is that by including the Governor's senior advisor on social innovation, will really help leverage and online philanthropic efforts to support broadband deployment and adoption, and really part of this effort was to develop the information that has formulated the broadband funding tool on the broadband for all portal. And part of the efforts moving forward would be to integrate philanthropic opportunities into that. Next slide.

So the next revision was on action item number 7 to identify State property for broadband deployment and really, that is something that the Department of General Services has been leading on in consultation with the Department of Technology and Caltrans significant work has been made on that. The revision is to update the lead parties to include the Department of Technology and you know the justification for that is to formalize the Department of Technology's current efforts with the Department of General Services and to acknowledge the role that CDT will play in the implementation of Senate Bill 717, which includes a lot of the directive. And this, among other things, in that bill. Next slide.\

The last revision that there is on Action Item 16, which focuses on promoting and tracking affordable service programs. The current language is here, and it references partnering with service providers to promote and track the progress of affordable Internet services and devices throughout the State. There are slight revisions to the opening language there that are highlighted. We are adding State agencies to that, and specifically calling out the affordable connectivity program as a focus. Here, and then justification for that change is that in early 2022 the Broadband Council had, you know, set forth a commitment to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program and laid out very specific goals on that. And we wanted to make sure that the language here appropriately addresses both our shared commitment to promoting the Affordable Connectivity Plan and that multiple state agencies are now involved in this effort. Next slide.

So quickly. We wanted to give you an update on the status of the action items themselves, and I know there's a lot of information on the page I think it was, you know, clear is the column on the on the far left is the action item number itself. The second column is the display and the focus and intent of the action item. You'll see, the middle column is the lead. The status is, you know, in the column, second to the right, and then

the column on the far right indicates you know where we think we need to go next on this. And so I think the good news from report is on 9 and 13 short term action items that after reviewing the status with that has been reported out to the Council and that we discussed with the action item owners that within the last 2 years that all of the items highlighted in green are in a state of completeness. What we want to stress here is that, and this is partly a function of how the Action Items were written. That each of these categories and focuses are highly dynamic and fluid, and that as situation changes as dynamic changes, there'll be a need to update and refresh these action items on an annual basis, and we suggest that on the column on the far right that the spirited intention of these Action items can be integrated into the ongoing work that CDT, PUC, and other State partners are conducting on both the State digital equity planning and BEAD process. You'll see under items 4 and 5, Caltrans is has fairly well completed the developing the state Dig Smart policy and the improvement of encroachment and right-of-way management. Both of those we recommend to just monitor on a regular basis. One thing we wanted to call out is on Action Item number 6, which is to explore and enhance ways to enhance permitting processes at all levels. Significant, work was done this year to both develop programmatic approaches for permitting with state resource agencies and through the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative and Caltrans provide resources to the resource agencies to handle those permitting on the local side there was a collaborative effort to develop a local broadband employment and permitting play book with the number of Broadband Council members and other partners, and we are in the final stages of establishing a letter of intent with Federal entities to establish an escalation process and framework for addressing broadband permitting. So we have indicated that is complete, but also want to acknowledge that it's part of the middle mile process, it is part of the implementation of implementation of Senate Bill 717 and some of the further work that is required as part of the BEAD planning process, that this will be updated on an annual basis. For the remaining items, we're looking for opportunities to integrate the spirit and intention of all of these into the Digital Equity and BEAD plan to both maximize engagement and leverage multi-agency coordination. Can we go to the next slide, please.

I'm not going go through and discuss each line as I did on the last one. But one of the significant highlights here is again looking at the point in time that we're at. 7 of the 11 long term action items are in a relative state of completeness, although we will need to continue to monitor and update those on an annual basis. The thing to particularly call out here is that the identification of State properties. that's something that you know not just the identification, but the utility of those properties will really be further explored, and expanded in the implementation of Senate Bill 717. And then a large part of these other items will be integrated into the Digital Equity and BEAD Plan, next, slide, please.

So again, to really summarize the updates. We believe that the 2023 focus, you know, given where we're at is to monitor and support open action items and report out on them



on a quarterly basis and then summarize them at the end of the year. To monitor and update the completed action items annually. To integrate the action item directives into related work streams. And really, when we look at the amount of joint engagement there is going to be through the Digital Equity and BEAD planning process that will support ongoing statewide engagement broad multi-level agency coordination, data acquisition to quantify barriers and assess needs and further support the alignment of goals and outcomes that are included in the Broadband action plan. So that concludes my presentation and back to you, Chief Deputy Director.

Thank you, Mr. Adams, for the update. Great to see the progress being made on those action items.

Do any council members have questions about Mr. Adams' Update. Okay, I'm not seeing any hands raised. So next we will move on to the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative update with Mr. Monroe.

Alright. Good morning, all. Mark Monroe, Deputy Director for the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. I think we mostly know each other by now. Cut to the next slide here, just to review, you know, important using a using all the States' infrastructure to be able to look for a solution. We, the administration, allocated the 3.8 Billion federal funds to CDT to develop this 10,000 a Middle-Mile Network to connect the unserved and underserved communities throughout the State. This is the 10,000 mile map that CDT came out with last May, presented to Caltrans based on what the analysis done by the public Utilities Commission, as well as Golden State Net. Next Slide. This is something anybody's following the Middle Mile Advisory Committee. This is a kind of a broad timeline that's trying to make sure we all understand the various pieces that were, and timeframes that were under. Here relative to the Federal funds. You can see Caltrans is currently in that pre-construction phase, for as we get any segments of the ten thousand miles ready, Caltrans is doing the that pre-construction permitting design phase getting ready to go to construction. And so what I hope most are tracking is that this last December, January, we went out for construction bids. Actually. October we went out for construction because receive bids as December, and you, and a few weeks ago, for construction. And we'll talk a bit about that for construction, for for leases, for co-location, for purchases, but really went out for simultaneously the range of solutions. For all the solutions we think that could potentially be necessary for and contribute to success, of developing that that 10,000 Mount network and so you can kind of see the first quarter here of 2023. We're going through what we call a network dot optimization process. We take all this information and then develop and advise the architecture of the 10,000 miles to make sure that that our funding goes as far as possible, and that we're able to address the needs that we were targeting with the with the MMBI project. I'm gonna jump to the next slide here. We'll kind of briefly jump through where we what we achieved in 2022. CDT, you know held, met last February. Really to start a process to try to streamline the State and Federal permitting strategies that's ongoing. But we have developed a programmatic approach that we'll talk about in a in a second. CPUC

did finalize the needs map and Golden State Net took that and put up a system level design lens over the top of it to make sure we have a resilient operational network, and then we came out last May with the 10,000 Mile map that we've got to Caltrans, and that that's what we're moving towards relative to Caltrans pre-construction work. Similarly this last April/May we signed contracts for to purchase fiber, conduit, and involved for 3,000 miles or more. This is really wanted to get ahead of a supply chain constraints we might encounter going forward here. So we've kind of ahead of the line, if you will, on those procurements. And then as noted as I noted previously, Caltrans went out to bid for to bid for 7,900 miles of Standalone construction thus far. And so that's yeah, 79% of the network. Pretty major effort there and we're in the process of evaluating those right now. And so similarly, you know, as noted, CDT went out with looking for any sort of alternatives to the standalone construction for the 10,000 miles. We're gonna kind of jump in and talk a bit about those next slide. So what you see here is a map, you know, kind of the map of the 10,000 miles. It that black or dark gray, and then overlaying it, job over, contracting and construction manager, general contractor, approaches. These are 2 alternative contracting methods. Which are going to work well for this project given the tight timeframe. And we were given authority to to use these alternative methods in SB 156, the enabling legislation for this broader 6 billion dollar broadband effort in 2021. So we in terms of these relative to the job order contracts. Caltrans received a total of 28 submissions from 12 different contractors to to cover the the 5 MMBI regions that GSN has presented earlier last year. They're largely on district boundaries, just for a little background, but and for some, in some cases they're, I think, one or 2 cases districts are divided. But but yeah, so that that's gonna really give us a lot of good information as we go through those in the in the coming weeks here. There's a certain number of assumptions. And obviously, when you go out for construction contracts, we need to look at you know how much is going to involve plowing versus horizontal drilling. For example, there's just there's a lot of a lot of things to look at. So we're in the process of kind of going through those bids right now. But Major Step, you know, I think if we followed a normal process we'd be looking at doing something like this in a couple of years, which really presses up against the Federal deadline, so Major progress on the construction contract front as well as you know, mentioned that you know, Caltrans going out on the construction manager, general contractor process. We don't get the initial bid price necessarily from those right up front, because that's the part of those it involves. The contractor having a contractor come in, actually help culture and do the designing and planning an effort on this, so which then helps facilitate making sure that you know, as we move forward, we're developing a process and a project in a way that is going to be fast and cost effective. Next slide. So the other major effort that I referenced was, we call RFI Squares request for innovative ideas. It's a less common but kind of really forward thinking, forward thinking approach to looking for solutions. And so we went out to industry and said, Hey, you know we have a 10,000 mile need here. What, what alternatives are available for releases, for purchases, for you know, for any of the components. Right? If somebody has conduit, that we can use, that we can buy that we can lease. That's something that we want to be able to consider, because

again, 3.8 billion dollars is a lot but it is not enough to build standalone builds for for all 10,000 miles or it's not anticipated to be so, or, you know, have to have to look for a range of solutions here. We received 22 concept papers from 16 different potential partners. And so we're also in the process of working through those just a little background RFI squared when we go, we need to go through a normal RF{ or RFO with a state you'd have more of a a defined range of. Here's exactly what we're looking for. And then the partner will come back, you know, saying, here's how we would meet that, and here's the cost. When we look for these concept papers, it's a little little broader, right? We've gone out with. We needed. We were looking for any and all solutions to our 10,000 mile problem. And so there'll be a fair amount of back and forth in this first quarter, working with those the potential partners to understand their bids, and kind of see how we pull this together and optimize the funding and the network. Next slide.

So this is something. I think I hope we have showed shown to this this group before. Really it's kind of an explanation. When we look at where Caltrans kind of, they follow their normal process, which ones itself well, doing it to the hundreds of transportation projects they're doing every year they would look at, you know, upwards of 30 months on average, to do the permitting and so obviously, we don't have that much time giving Federal time frames. We have the CEQA streamlining that was provided, you know, helps us reduce that down to kind of a 17 month base. And then we've kind of taken 2 steps and working with Caltrans and the permitting agencies. This is an ongoing effort, but what we've we have signed a couple of things. We signed IIAs with 4 of the entities, to fund positions. This is an increase in work. No doubt increase in work with very short timeframe. So in the past, when Caltrans has had kind of one off work like this, or transportation, they would fund positions at the permanent agencies to make sure that through combination of state staff and contracting staff they were able to keep up with that the kind of the spikes of work. And that's a solution we've explored and making use of here. Two of the interagency agreements have to to fund these positions have already been signed, and and 2, we expect to be signed by the end of January. And then the other kind of thing I want to point to is really this this broader programmatic approach. And it was a point of comparison. You know Caltrans normally does us what we would call compared to this smaller projects. You know projects of maybe a mile, maybe 5, in some cases 20. But certainly nothing close to 10. This is a 10,000 mile project, and so we've worked with the permanent agencies to develop a programmatic approach. Really, that says, Hey, here's the 10,000 Mile project we want to get a programmatic permit that, you know, they're really focuses on that 10,000 models. And so we spend a lot of time working with permitting agencies to help them understand the nature of the project, and to talk through this plan. And so that is another way. We, you know, as we're moving forward here, we expect to further reduce the permanent timeframe here, down to what we see here that 10 or 11 month time. Next slide. And so I'm just kind of looking forward here, you know. Obviously, we have a range of both construction and alternative delivery methods for this project, and so what we're going to be doing here in the coming weeks and months and trying to complete by is there at least the end of February to definitely first Quarter of this year is to really optimize that

10,000 mile network and see how we can make funding goes as far as possible and get the best infrastructure and service to to all Californians, reaching out to this unserved and underserved communities, and with that that can hands my presentation, and I'll see if there's any questions.

Thank you, Mr. Monroe. Council members, if you have questions, please raise your hand, and I see that, Miss McPeak, you have your hand up.

I do, and I thank you. Chief Deputy Director Johnson and Mr. Chair. Mark, when I saw the when I saw the content of this presentation, and then listening to you again, I just want to commend the approach that you are taking on innovation to Deputy Secretary Pepper. Thank you. Please pass that on to Secretary Omishakin. I, wanna you know, commend Golden State Net, and Tony Naughtin and Louis Fox at CENIC. Director Tavares with Caltrans. This is exactly what I'm remember advocating when I had responsibility as a Secretary over transportation. So kudos to you when I looked at this from the lens of so what is it that we need to do to support this? What you know. Is there anything else? And then really, how to take this innovation? And the amazing amount of work that has to be done in sequence to interface with last mile. Now I think, Rob's gonna come on. And so it's a nice interface, and maybe segway. When I think about this, the magnitude of this project, and and understand what it means to put all these people together, I'm looking to the resources we have with the MPOs. With our councils of government, with the transportation commissions, with the regional broadband consortium. So the question is really, what do you need? And if anything, what are the major risks or vulnerabilities of that schedule slipping that we need to understand. How do you tap into those other potential partners and then what's the interface in getting to last mile. So you know, if you could, and address that Mark, and then, when Rob's talking from his perspective on last mile, think that interfaces really important.

Okay, yeah, I, I might start with the with the end there in terms of that that interface, you know. I think you know Deputy Director Adams has talked a lot about this, and you really want to command him and his team and the work that was done even before I came on relative to permitting you know the that. The permanent playbook that the team has put together, I think, is something that's really going to help the certainly the last mile providers and the locals who are looking to, you know, in these uncertainty. So I really want to point people towards that. I think that's does a really great tool, you know. One might look at it and say, This is, you know, you know it's innovative, but you're right. This is something that you know. I think there's probably a lot of us that have been pushing for in a you know, for a long time, and so I'm really appreciate the leadership on that. I think when I look at the permitting progress we've made here, certainly the work that's got in his team that you know, have done up into this on the in terms of the action plan and trying to address that I think really fed into that, and they've you know been. Just exceptionally, helpful in terms of reaching out to the State and helping the pull together Caltrans and our Federal partners in terms of those you know, developing

those relationships and kind of you moving this forward it's still a plan, right? Where Caltrans is in the process of, you know, completing these, and so certainly working with, you know, doing anything to support at the district level. You know I can kind of let Lori and others, you know, from the Caltrans team talk about some of their needs in terms of moving this along broadly as we look at the programmatic permitting approach. I think one of the things that, you know, one of the key aspects of that is really that that it's it's less down to the district level. One of the ways I've tried to describe it to people because when we look at this project in my mind, this is a 10,000 mile project that is, that's our solution. We're not building less than that. We're we're not developing less than that. 10,000 miles, is the answer to the question. So that's what we're trying to pursue. But given that, that's different than you know. If you, if you go to Caltrans, counter ends at the desktop level, I think as as used to thinking more in the I think they've reported in hundreds of projects, kind of breaking it out into pieces, and so you know if we were to have left that to the you know, to kind of accepted the standard processing, if you will, which again, great for the the scope and scale and timing of a of of your average transportation project which doesn't lend itself to this, I think that you know that the leadership at the headquarters level, if you will or you know department wide, really moving forward with those per minute permitting approaching. That's where that's where this is going to be successful. And then, obviously, as we go forward with those you know, anything that can be done in in engaging the districts, I think will help facilitate that.

I totally agree. Mr. Chair. Maybe Lori, do you have a comment on that? Just anything that we need to know to help pull this off.

So I will say I. The last time I met with the team. I know they're having regular meetings with the districts, and they're working with them with them on kind of giving them to, you know. Make sure they're on top of everything, that all the pieces of this project that are in their districts on top of trying. You know, working with all of our other partners at the State and Federal level. So I don't know that we have any specific needs at this moment. I think a lot of it is really just trying to manage all of the parts and pieces that needs to be managed in all of the conversations that need to be had.

And and if I if I could, Ms. McPeak. The the other piece, I wanna be able to you know I think you mentioned the sequencing, and I think one of the things I try to remind everybody is that you know as sympathetic as I am. To our teams need to be able to offer within the ARPA timeframe. When it comes to the other, you know, to the other Federal funding. The PUC is allocating. They have the same constraints, and so I think we you know, we've described this as you know, we all need to build out at the same time. One of the real important reasons we pushed for and you know, and partnered well, with PUC in terms of developing that 10,000 mile map is so that they have kind of a tree on which to base, you know, in terms of thinking through funding of the last mile project.

So I think that's really where that, you know, we have to do a lot of things at the same time. But knowing where that 10,000 middle mile network where we're the last mile, providers can connect I think, provides really key information for being able to allow, you know, for those last mile projects. And I'm sure Mr. Osborne is more on that.

But that's the other thing I want to always point out to everyone is that we are all sprinting towards the same timeframe, and all of us are gonna have to sprint the whole way to meet that to meet that timeframe.

Thank you, Mr. Monroe, Deputy Secretary Pepper, and Miss McPeak, and there is more in-depth conversation on these topics that occurs at the MMAC meeting as well. So I encourage you to attend those and see the notes that are posted. Are there any other members with questions on this topic? I'm not seeing hands raised. So we're gonna move along next update is from the California Public Utilities Commission on the last mile programs. And Commissioner Houck.

Thank you. And good morning, everyone again. I'm PUC Commissioner Darcy Houck. I'm pleased to be providing you with an update on our last mile programs and what we've been working on since our last meeting in October of last year. So please go to the next slide. So this slide provides a snapshot overview of the Commission's last mile funding programs, which are either currently under development or underway and accepting applications. So in my presentation today, I'll be providing an update on our local technical assistance program. Our Federal funding account. Our historic California Advanced Services Fund accounts, and then, with regards to the Loan Loss Reserve Program, the Commission is currently reviewing a staff proposal and comments that have been submitted regarding that proposal. We intend to issue a final decision on this program late in second quarter of 2023. Go to the next slide, please.

So our local technical assistance program. So the Commission adopted rules for the local technical assistance program, or what we've referred to as LATA in February of last year, and we began accepting applications in June of 2022. So the program provides local agencies and tribes with grants intended to cover the preconstruction cost of broadband network deployment projects that will connect unserved areas. Cost eligible for reinforcement include consultant or staff time for environmental studies, network design engineering studies, needs assessment and broadband strategic plans. Since the program's inception less than a year ago, the Commission has already awarded grants to 75 applicants for a total of roughly 33 million dollars, and this was as of our last voting meeting on January the twelfth, our first voting meeting of 2023. We have received a total of 11 applications, requesting over 50.6 million dollars in grants. So we've had tremendous response to the program. The PUC is seeking additional funding for the LATA program to continue to provide this valuable resource. We're going to continue to conducting outreach to potential applicants. And we're also interested in feedback on the program from grantees. We see this as a really important component of being able to get access to unserved areas, particularly rural areas and urban areas that that are currently unserved. And again it provides resources to allow those

communities to do the ground work to get to the point of being able to apply for funding to implement the programs I'll be talking about in a minute. I want to really highlight again the importance of the program by providing an example of how these funds benefit communities. The precursor to this program was our tribal technical Assistance Grant program. And we've been able to see real life positive impacts of that program that are very inspiring. We've been able to see how the technical assistance grants have provided resources that have allowed recipients to envision and implement programs for their communities that meet community needs, promote self-sufficiency, access to education jobs, and health care. One example is the grant that was provided to the Bishop Paiute tribe. They've done tremendous work in looking at opportunity for broadband in the Owens Valley Area and have actually extended assistance out to other tribes in the area and if anyone wants more information on this program you can email [broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov) or you can go to the Commission's website, which also list email contacts as well. And we'll continue to give updates at our next meeting and throughout our participation in outreach throughout the State. And we are hoping to do some outreach up in the north coast, and late February, early March, and we'll be providing additional information on this and all of our programs there as well. Please go to the next slide.

So this slide provides an overview of a re of the recent developments in our Federal funding account program. So we just recently had the release of our priority area maps, which I know had been long awaited. The Federal funding account will provide up to 2 billion dollars to eligible entities, to construct last mile projects, to provide unserved Californians with affordable reliable service. The Federal funding account priority areas were optimized by statewide by a statewide model intended to mix low and high cost unserved locations to create sustainable projects throughout the State. So programmatically. These PAs are predefined, presumed eligible areas where entities can apply for broadband infrastructure grants, however, applicants may add to these existing PA's modify or propose new areas in their applications and in addition to applying to serve these existing priority areas. So we've built in flexibility to this program where folks can propose modifications or new areas. And the first draft of the priority areas was developed with what was the best granular broadband data available at the time it was developed, and as a first draft, it will benefit from the ground information and updated data. So we are really looking for input on what's been put out there for comments and feedback. It's an interactive map. And again, it's a currently available on our website and the website includes explanations and downloadable data. And again, I really just want to re-emphasize that the map has features to provide comment or feedback, and you can comment on a priority area, a county or other geographical unit or feature. And I encourage all of you to comment on the map. Check out your neighborhood. Let us know if you identify something that doesn't track with your experience or any other information you think would be helpful for us to make the best possible list of priority areas. This analysis, again, is new, and we want to be realistic that the first draft is not going to be perfect. We want to hear from the public. We want to hear from communities on the ground with feedback and updated information. And in

addition to updating this valuable. Oh, sorry I saw. Oh, Sunne had a hand up. I don't know if she wanted. Okay. In addition to obtaining feedback on the priority areas, we intend to open an applicant portal for potential applicants to develop and propose projects in the coming months. One thing. Many of us suspected was ultimately confirmed by our model. The 2 billion dollar funding for the FFA alone is not going to be enough funding to fund broadband networks that are going to reach all unserved Californians. However, we know additional funds are coming, including funding from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, BEAD program and the Commission is intending to open a new rulemaking for the bead program shortly, if you're interested in more information on BEAD you can go to our website. We'll also have information in our daily calendar when that comes out. And again we know that we're gonna need as many resources as possible. But intend to work very hard to work towards meeting the goals that that have been set, so that all Californians can have access to broadband. And then again, I don't know, Sunne, if you did have a question now or if you want me to go to the next slide.

I did, Commissioner, and I apologize for putting in my hand in prematurely. I got excited as you were making the presentation, and so I wanted to. I wanted to commend what I think I heard you say. First of all, I this map is so pretty I just don't even know what it means though, but I love it. It looks like my kaleidoscope when I was a kid. I love the picture. What I heard you say, which is why I really wanted to underscore the importance of what I'm understanding you to say, so that we can accurately relay this to communities and stakeholders is you produce a map with base with the best information, but you're inviting everybody to inform. And I know that you personally are going out and in and asking for that input, that the Commissioners are out in the community getting input which I also want to commend. So, if if I'm hearing that right, which is what I am telling, you know, communities, okay, if you have a higher priority, or you have a question, please identify that, quantify it and get it to the Commission. So this is supposed to be an iterative engagement, back and forth, process, collectively so that's number one. That's my understanding. But I want you to comment on when invite that. Secondly, what information will you want a community or region to be able to provide you to say we have a higher priority area. We want you to pay attention to. How should they do that? In what form, what kind of information.

So as to the first part of your question, the answer is, yes, we want that feedback. We want to know what communities are dealing with on the ground. We want them to comment and provide information to us about what their priorities are and what the areas are. The second part of your question. I think I want to bring Rob, Director Osborne in, because I know our staff have been working closely with having to meet the program requirements as to how we can classify the various areas, and so I will defer to Jared. If you want me to have Director Osborne responds to that now or I and then I've got just a couple more slides, and I could finish those.



Typically we reserve comment for the conclusion of your update. So Commissioner. How, if you'd like to proceed with your update and then we can touch on this again during the comment section. I think that would be preferred. Okay, thank you. And we will definitely respond, Sunne, and thank you for those questions. Because we are here to get this information out to everyone. Next slide. So this slide I will be talking about our California Advanced Services Fund program grants and I'm gonna provide an update on the recent awards made through the CASF accounts as well as some information on upcoming anticipated commission actions. So each of these awards further the Progress, of our last mile initiatives. So the broadband adoption grants are awards to public entities and community-based organizations to provide digital literacy, training and public broadband access through computers labs and 2022 the commission awarded 74 projects for a total of 5.9 million dollars. We recently closed another application cycle at the end of January, receiving 37 new applications requesting 7.6 million dollars. Our broadband public Housing Account program. We're anticipating issuing a proposal looking at how that the definitions there may be expanded very, very soon, and we'll be looking for comments on that proposal so that we can get it finalized and out, and will provide additional updates on that program at our next meeting the commission recently adopted a resolution awarding 10.3 million dollars it to 15 consortia applicants at our January the twelfth 2023, voting meetings. This was the first voting meeting of this year. An eligible consortium, may include, but are not limited to representatives of organizations like local and regional government, public safety, elementary and secondary education, community-based organizations, agricultural business or workforce development organizations. And these groups assist broadband applicants and prospective broadband applicants to complete grant applications and develop projects. And they do so so much more in providing support to communities. And we are very appreciative of all the work that the consortium do. We currently have 13 pre existing consortia that are gonna continue this great work in their communities that they work with. And we're really pleased to have 2 new consortia that received awards to expand this important work. So with that, I'd like to wrap up my presentation. Noting that the slides that are here, that I think all of you have received copies of contain additional information through links. And again, you can always email [broadband@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:broadband@cpuc.ca.gov) with any questions. Reach out to us and check out our website. And with that I'll conclude my remarks and take any questions, and also wanna make sure that Director Osbourne could respond to Mrs. McPeak's question about what kind of information we're looking for from communities regarding the priority areas.

Thank you, Commissioner, how for your update? So at this time, are there any other Council members that have questions for Commissioner Houck. If not, we will pivot back to Miss McPeak's question. It was a two-part question, and I believe the second part of that question. If it if, Miss McPeak you want to restate that, and then, Director Osborne, you can respond.

Thank you. Mr. Chair. Yes, Director Osbourne. What kind of information do you want local communities or the regions to provide to you? Where? Where they say, Hey, we,

we have another priority or we have a higher priority. What? What do they need to do instead of just be? Can, you know, can complain about a map.

Yeah, thank you so much for your question, Sunne. So I think it's the Commissioner said. The priority areas are really a tool to estimate where networks will be self-sustaining if built. The methodology combines the low cost of high cost location, statewide. So we're looking at 6 billion dollar need and a 2 billion dollar lens. So that's sort of where we're seeing this discrepancy between. There are still uncertain locations that are not falling into priority because of the model. So the feedback we really need to hear first, are there uncertain locations the community knows about that are not appearing on the map. Keep in mind as Commissioner. How said we are planning to update the map based on the data sets that we've been collecting. But when we developed this priority or a map, we were using a previous vintage of data, so we will be up updating the data. However we do definitely want to hear from communities about uncertain locations that they know are unserved that are not appearing on the map. Secondly, and this is maybe sort of a second Level considerations the modeling assumptions themselves. So we have priority, error, parameters, and errative priority area selection criteria that I'm I can send a link to that's on the PC website as well on the priority areas website. But that gets into how we do the model again. Again, that ties back to this 2-billion-dollar lens where we're trying to look at how we would apply 2 billion for a 6 billion dollar needs. So I hope that answers your question

If I might, Mr. Chair it. Thank you, rob. It really does address it. And I I forgive my ignorance. It helped me understand the overlays are the criteria for the model, and I think you've really identified the dilemma which is, there are priority unserved areas where the marketplace won't work, and that's where we've got I think to have more conversation, because if the model was looking at where you have this intersection or the overlay, the Venn diagram, where there would be viable investment, we've got a huge challenge and I get at the 6 billion need versus 2 billion in the Federal funding account at least. That's that has to have more conversation then. So when we have looked at high priority areas generally, what most of us have been talking about is the hardest to reach. So that's last Mile, Rural remote, including all the tribal lands. And very high poverty urban areas where the marketplace isn't gonna operate. And won't therefore show up on the map, and how we have that conversation to identify those areas and how they're gonna get served. I think you now just identified why, we have this disconnect going on, but but we could overcome it. So thank you for humor me, and I apologize, Mr. Chair, that I don't seem to know the rules of our engagement here, but really appreciate getting this information from my colleagues.

Thank you. Ms. McPeak. Thank you, director. Osborne. Were there any additional comments on this topic? And we do reserve time at the end of the updates for questions and comments. So, if at all possible, please raise your hand during that time if you'd like to ask additional questions about the updates that we're providing. So next on the

broadband for all update is an update on broadband adoption and affordable connectivity programs from the California Emerging Technology Funds. Ms. McPeak.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I want to actually associate myself with a comment that Mr. Monroe made earlier, which is to commend Deputy Director Adams and the Office of Broadband Adoption and Digital Literacy for really driving all this work. So going to the next slide. As you heard Scott say, this all relates to Item 16 in the broadband for all action plans. The California Emerging Technology Fund and several State agencies are assigned the responsibility of promoting the affordable offers affordable broadband, and that by directive a decision as a California Broadband Council focused in on the affordable connectivity program, which is a Federal appropriation of 14.2 billion dollars in the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act. It's administered by the Federal Communications Commission a year ago in March second, the California Broadband Council set a goal of 90% enrollment by the end of 2024. This is really an important report today. This is the latest data from the FCC as of Monday, where we crossed over a couple of weeks ago, the 1.8 million households enrolled. So we are now at 1,841,000 plus enrolled households out of 5,844,797 ACP eligible households in California. just like 43% of all households are eligible. So this is 32%, We are now at 32% of our goal. What is really, I think, important to sort of just take stock up. I went back to look at. Where were we when the California Broadband council, the State of California, took such a bold step of setting a goal? No other State has done that we were at 21%. So in a year. A little later than a year. There's been 11 percentage point increase. Now we have a long ways to go. However, that means we've really laid the foundation, and this has been done under the umbrella of the California Broadband Council. Our focus in 2023 is relating this to and informing the digital equity plan process. With respect to ACP, we are identifying the barriers and the solutions. And we have really, I think, identified how we all work together. I'm very grateful that this partnership with the State agencies, local governments, Internet service providers, other community stakeholders, has resulted in such activities in 2022. And we've done this under the umbrella of GetConnected California - Mobilizing for ACP enrollment events. It requires very consistent, diligent persistent, outreach engagement and awareness. Fortunately we are working on that, so going to the next slide please, thank you. In 2022, under the umbrella of the California Broadband Council, with the California Department of Technology, the California Department of Education, and the State Library working principally together because of the Populations, to be reached and now also with the California State Association of Counties, because they do the qualification of several of the eligibility categories that qualify someone to enroll in ACP. A lot was accomplished Superintendent Thurman sent a letter to all districts and County office education. CSAC reached out to all 58 counties, conducted a couple of webinars. They're gonna do more this year. So the State Librarian Greg Lucas wrote a OP-LED. The State Library has engaged their counterparts including through their digital navigator program. All of the Internet service providers actually supported events throughout the region throughout the State, of which we did 49 statewide ACP enrollment events in person. And this was really driven by the Department of Education going to all of the households, I'll go for the

school lunch program, and realizing that you have to actually enroll an ACP online. But if you're not online, then it's a conundrum. And so it was really the Department of Education Jerry Winkler, who is here, Geoff Belleau, who is participating on behalf of CDE. And these actually they were weekly meetings, and now monthly who said we need to have in person enrollment what is really interesting is to see who was reached in those in-person enrollments. Which is exactly the population that we know to be the most digitally disadvantaged. 64% of those households who came to the event qualify through their Medi-Cal status very importantly, the California Department of Health Services is actually notifying all 8.5 million households who are on that account about ACP when they're doing the annual outreach in writing to each of these households, and we're seeing the uptick from that effort calls in our call center really jumped in the last few weeks as the department's letters have gone out to Medi-Cal households. 19% of those who showed up have never, never been connected at home. Those who are today are paying an average of \$67 a month, or were before they got enrolled in ACP, and got that the \$30 subsidy. 76% earn less than 40,000 a year, 67% speak a language other than English at home. 55% consider themselves a computer beginner, cause they've not have the benefit of having a device online and even more 61% want training. And I think remarkably 93% rated having Internet connection and a computer as essential, either, very, very important or very important. And that's pretty telling that those who are the most digitally disadvantaged see themselves as needing the Internet as an essential service. Okay to the next slide. Thank you, Anh.

So our next steps are to continue with the distribution to all of the Medi-Cal eligible households, and those that are referrals. As I said, if they need in person assistance, they come through a call center, and they're immediately connected to a community based organization to do that in person enrollment. We're quick with the California State Association of Counties. Really continuing to work with the California Department of Education. Also, I want to note the State Library with their digital navigator program. And in the meeting last week, Geoff Belleau and Mr. Chisom both agree, focusing in their coordinated efforts, probably first in the San Joaquin Valley because of what they have being able to mobilize there. And then working with all of the systems of higher education, Community colleges, State University, UC System and private colleges, to notify all Pell grant recipients. That is also a eligibility category for ACP. The Contra Costa Community college district literally reached out and notified in writing all of their Pell Grant students. So we're seeing that as a very good strategy, and as you heard Mr. Adams say earlier, we are coordinating our ACP enrollment in conjunction with all other activities in California. Well, we did 49 events under the umbrella of the California Broadband Council on December tenth. As an example, Los Angeles County did another seven. Riverside County is gearing up SANDAG/SCAG are planning to do their in person engagements, regional broadband consortium are doing even more. We're working with the California Volunteers to recruit volunteers to help us at the ACP enrollment events. And then we continue to work with the Internet service providers to not only staff the events, help with the events, but also to donate devices that can be used in a raffle as an incentive to come and enroll, and also to provide the food for

those events. We are targeting ACP enrollment one more sort of statewide awareness day so an all-out. Effort. March 25 is the current working date or it might be April 22. And actually, what this needs to be informed is it the Department of Education in terms of stepping around conflicts with school schedules and testing? So with that, I think we have concluded our slides right. Anne just wanna make sure, and we'll say that there was, as Mr. Adams said, a very coordinated effort to do submit applications to the FCC. We hope we get additional resources. So the California Department of Technology, the California Public Utilities Commission, CETF, we coordinated so that we can support what the State does with in person enrollment. But there's also applications that others around the State submitted, and we will then support them as well. If we're funded. we'll assist them in their implementation. So back to you, Mister chair.

Thank you. Ms. McPeak. An excellent progress being made on the ACP front. Do any council members have questions for Ms. McPeak. I see, Commissioner Houck has her hand up, Commissioner Houck.

Yes, thank you. I just wanted to thank CETF for all the work that they're doing. We're looking forward to continuing to coordinate with them and CDT on these efforts, and just really recognize how important it is to do the outreach, get the word out, to meet with communities. So they understand the resources that we have, the programs that are out there. And it isn't always easy to maneuver these processes so I think the work of the consortium, the work that CETF is doing is really important work. That's going to assist us and CDT in making sure that this information is getting out there. So I just wanted to make that comment.

Thank you, Commissioner. And If I could, follow up. Thank you for also getting the Grants out that you reported on from the California Advanced Services Fund. And what one of the maybe strategies that we've mostly identified is actually reaching out with you and the PUC to all of those Grantees to inform them about ACP, so that they can Pass that information on to train them in terms of if they're actually doing adoption, or at a computer center or at a call center. And then how to use the information that is on the broadband for all portal. The ACP tracker. It's a lot of information that can be used. So I wanted just to note that we think that's a huge resource no other State has the California Advanced Services Fund. So let's see what we can do to fully support all of those grantees in being allies on promoting ACP and helping on enrollment.

Thank you, Commissioner Houck. Thank you, Miss McPeak. Any additional questions or comments. Okay, then up. Next. Our agenda will be an update on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act broadband programs. Deputy Director Adams, from CDT will give an update on the digital equity program, and then Robert Osborne, director of the California Public Utilities Commission Communications Division will provide an Update on the broadband Equity access and deployment program. Mr. Adams.

Thank you, Chief Deputy Director Johnson. It's a pleasure to be back here to provide an update on the coordination that the department of Technology and the Public Utilities Commissioner doing on the 2 related Infrastructure and Investment and Job Act programs that really represent the next chapter in the push for the broadband for all to leverage Federal dollars to help us achieve our goals. Next slide, please. Just wanted to surfaces this as we did at the outset with our the initial chart. The 2 programs we're focused on in this section, and we'll continue to update the broadband council on our are the PUC's and CDT's collective efforts to leverage dollars through the broadband equity access and appointment program and the digital equity planning capacity grants that are included in the digital equity Act. Next slide. Just wanted to reiterate in terms of the roles and responsibilities. As we noted at the top, is a result of Assembly Bill 2750. CDT has been designated is that administering entity for the digital equity planning grant that we've received from the NTIA. PUC is the designated entity to administer the broadband equity access and deployment program. Both of these programs are interdependent. And so the planning processes will be coordinated, or should say, are and have been coordinated on going forward basis. As we've mentioned in previous meetings, there's gonna be extensive statewide local engagement and input from around each stakeholder and partners. What's really important to understand about these programs while there are both BEAD and digital equity calls for statutory allocations for the state that at least on that digital equity side, the state cannot unlock the additional Capacity grant dollars until we complete our plan. So that's going to be a critical part in that call to action, for numerous parties to engage in this process. Next slide, please, wanting to make the council members aware that on the digital equity planning side, where the way that we've looked this and discuss with PUC is, we're gonna leverage the entire digital equity planning process to support both the digital equity plan and and the BEAD 5-year action plan. And so we have established a statewide planning group that consists of broadband council member entities and has been expanded out to an additional 12 members that are state agencies that have a connection to the eight covered populations or specific subject matter expertise on the outcome areas that the plan will focus on. We are gonna be conducting outcome area working groups to focus on those particular outcome areas. There will be signature data acquisition, and information to support decision-making. Regional and local events, to facilitate getting together in communities and in hearing and learning from them on their needs. And then ongoing statewide public engagement through our email communications and the broadband for all portal, and then other additional meetings is needed. Next slide.

As I mentioned the digital equity act and the guidance from the NTIA requires the state to develop digital equity plans that identify digital equity barriers for covered populations and really develop a plan that helps address other you know, policy priorities for the state and so the 6 outcome area working working groups we have established. The first is health, Education is the second, there's a digital literacy inclusion. Want to specifically call out that AB 2750, fairly closely mirrors the guidance and guidelines from the NTIA, but there's a specific interest, then categorizing digital navigation programs and really

formulating a program as part of the digital equity plan around digital navigation. The fourth group is on essential services, accessibility, and civic and engagement. The fifth, workforce and economic development, and then the sixth given that, you know, digital equity throughout the State and in our, you know, tribal nation partners and tribal lands, and Indian country that there is an additional tribal collaboration working group. Next slide.

Real quick, I mentioned, there are gonna be 2 ways through the digital equity process that we acquire information. The first is the statewide digital equity survey that will focus on residents and looking to get information feedback from all 58 counties looking to oversample the covered populations. And the statewide digital equity survey will be you know, implemented through phone interviews. There will be an online version and kind of a call to action, to our broader coalition, to promote that throughout the State, and then in person, where necessary. The next survey that will be implementing is a digital equity ecosystem mapping tool or the DEEM tool, as we call it. That's gonna focus on really capturing information from organizations. And so the digital equity at calls for States to develop an inventory of assets. And that's really what we're hoping to use this tool for is at the multiple levels throughout the State and the State. The local regional, nonprofit philanthropic organizations capture what folks are already doing on digital equity, how they're you know, what funding streams and resources that are available that can help inform you know how we basically allocate digital capacity grants we have to be called out in the digital equity plan. The next slide.

Again, just to reiterate that part of the the focus. Here is, we understand that, you know California is a very large state. And so you know, technology. And these, these broader zoom and teams meetings enable us to convene with a lot of folks in a very efficient manner. But the kind and type of interactions you have when you're in person are are much different. And so both the Department of Technology and PUC are committed to facilitating meaningful bidirectional engagement at the local regional level. So we will be conducting 20 events throughout the State. The map here is just a representation not in intended to focus on the census areas, but to indicate that in throughout the city and all reaches we will be conducting these meetings and attendees will include elected and tribal leaders, schools, libraries nonprofits, small businesses, internet service Providers, and philanthropic entities. This is not a prescriptive list. It's going to be really open to all interesting parties and residents would like to participate in the process here. Next slide.

Provided a quick snapshot here a timeline of how we're building in all of the various components of the plan. I think I would really want to draw your attention to the October/November area. That is, when the final digital equity plan needs to be submitted to the NTIA, and once that is approved, it will open up our eligibility for capacity dollars. So really, we're working from the right to the left to make sure that everything informs that plan. I will point out that in the obvious timeframe, you know, or first July we will develop a draft plan with all of the inputs from the various planning groups and the local events, and then put that out to public common in the month of

august and that's both a requirement and a commitment that we maximize, you know a formal public common process to inform the final plan. Next slide.

Just some key highlights here wanted to inform the Broadband Council and the public that we are conducting weekly coordination meetings with the Public Utilities Commission on digital Equity and BEAD planning. And we'll note that we formally received notification of the planning grant award in December of 2022. As noted at the top of the meeting, the Department of Technology, PUC and other State partners had On October 24 had the fall broadband for all summit, and that was the also served as the digital equity and the BEAD planning kickoff. A number of stakeholders, that was attended by well over 500 entities. As I mentioned in the planning process, CDT has established a Statewide Planning Group. The first meeting of that group will occur directly after this meeting today, and the planning group meetings will be synced to subsequent bBroadband Council meetings in April, July, and October. We have a established outcome area working groups. Those meetings will occur in February, March, May, June. We have not set dates, but intend to do so in publicly notice those to maximize participation. We are actively working on planning those 20 local engagement events, and should be putting those on the calendar sometime soon. And we're really well into the process of designing the digital equity surveys in the ecosystem mapping tool. Next slide.

Do you want to note that, in addition to bringing on additional assistance to support the Digital Equity survey and local events, we are expanding our capacity, and we have gone to Goldman School of Public Policy and hired 6 very qualified and exceptional graduate student Assistance that will be really working on and supporting the outcome area working groups to work with the co-chairs and other stakeholders to develop recommendations in each of the 6 outcome areas for consideration in the digital equity plan. And so I think that concludes my presentation. I'm gonna kick it over to Rob Osborne.

Thank you, Scott. So kicking off here with the FCC Bulk availability challenge. So the CPU C has a well established broadband Availability, validation process that we developed with the NTIA during our last State Broadband initiative Grant that ended back in 2014 that we use that to determine as much as possible the unserved locations, and then given geography a few timeline notes. So the FCC published their first version of the broadband map the week before Thanksgiving last year. And is that Deputy Director Adams reported earlier we co-hosted an FCC Challenge Webinar with CDT for the public. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to do a proper validation of all the providers whose data appears on the FCC Map for California. So we prioritized the largest providers into the first pass analysis of the data, we've started providing that data to the FCC. We submitted sort of a summary on January thirteenth. We're in regular communication with the FCC broadband mapping staff as well as with NTIA on next steps. But we believe the map still overstates availability, meaning we don't have as many unserved locations as we think there are. Ultimately the BEAD allocation will



be based on a version 2 fabric which is incorporating the fabric challenge that we submitted back in November of last year, which adds an additional 16,000 locations to California that were not initially included and that would also be on this FCC map that sees the basis for the BEAD allocation will include the June 22 post challenge availability data. For first quarter this year, we're planning on scoping the BEAD last mile Grant program into a proceeding. That's on track as Commissioner Houck reported earlier, we're working on developing a BEAD rule making for the Commission to vote in February. Quarter two, we are expecting the NTIA to announce the BEAD allocation. And this is really where the rubber meets the road. That will be based on the FCC map, the version 2 fabric as I mentioned the post validate or post challenged June 2022 Data. The real question is, will it undercount the eligible locations for California, so that's something that we're still working on right now to try and ensure that California gets the proper amount of last mile funding. Quarter 3, CPUC we're on schedule to complete the 5 Year Action Plan that will be preceded as a deputy director Adams mentioned. By public engagements, we have 20 that we're planning. That includes planned tribal consultations that we're working at right now, and that 5 Year Action Plan is due 270 days after the planning funds are received. So that would put us into mid August of this year for that 5 Year Action Plan. Quarter Four submitting the initial proposal. That's due 180 days after the BEAD Allocation is announced, and the BEAD allocation we're expecting again will be in sometime of June this year. That initial proposal will include the planned subgrantee selection process. The plan to challenge process and details on Grant awarding logistics. Next slide, please.

So the initial planning funds Grant we received an award notification on December seventh, we submitted a signed CD-450 on January eleventh and Responses, To Special word conditions on the thirteenth. Pending resolution of that, once those are resolved then we will have access to the full amount of funds. We also notified a Department of Technology of our designees to the statewide planning group and outcome area working groups. For Contracting, we are currently drafting a scope of work for Consultant RFO. That will be used to put together the 5 Year Action Plan. The initial proposal and final proposals. Staffing is also something we're working on now. Given that the initial planning funds, are becoming available. And then for workforce related planning, this is an important component, because NTIA encourages the States and sub grantees to partner to really embrace the principles that NTIA has laid out for workforce development. and that includes recruitment and hiring benefits, Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, empowerment and representation, job security and working conditions, organizational culture, pay, and skills and career advancement. So we'll really be looking at how to incorporate those principles into the subgrantee process for BEAD. Next slide, please. So for outreach as Deputy Director Adams mentioned already. We're working on planning the public engagements to solicit feedback on the Five-year Action Plan, and as I said earlier, that's due to 270 days from the initial planning funds award. On the BEAD rulemaking, we've talked about that. That is on track, and I think that's it for me, for the BEAD side. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. And Mr. Osborne, for your update. Do any council members have any questions, Miss McPeak, I see your hand up.

I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Rob. Thank you very much for setting that forth. And previously the conversation was about, well, we have 6 billion in need and 2 billion in the FFA. When I look at the 42 billion, that is, you know, to come to States and communities within those States, I always think of California, our fair share is no less than 10%. We're 13% of the population or 15% of you know, all poor people. So I actually then on my little head say, Okay, let's go after our 4 billion at the Federal level. But to make that gap up, and I actually will say for the record. I don't think that's an unreasonable request out of BEAD so, and our Congressional delegation might want you know, just have that that in their head as well. But back the question I really wanted to, you know, have you comment on is, since we do have with the Federal map a disconnect. There is a lot more area unserved and hard to reach areas with not only more, tribal lands in any other State, or federally recognized tribes, but also more high income. I mean low, high poverty, low income communities and urban areas. What do we do to try to get that across in in our efforts to get our fair share of the BEAD monies for the gap we have on last mile. Thank you, Sunne. That is exactly our concern, and we're working. As I said earlier, with FCC and NTIA to try and resolve this initially, if we're not able to reach an acceptable, you know, agreement on how we're going to handle this. I think that is, the next step is, we'll need to escalate this up. I think one of the points that I've heard from the NTIA in the past was, Yeah, we recognize there's problems with the map. But the problems are universal across all States. So everyone is equally affected. And we've countered with that is actually not true. California has a significantly larger problem than any other State based on our understanding of the map. So that's something we're still pressing.

Thank you, Mr. Osborne. Any other members have questions or comments? I'm not seeing any, so next we are moving on to public comment. Mr. Przybyla, will you please provide the public comment guidelines, and begin the public comment.

Yes, in order to allow everyone who wishes to comment, to have the ability to do so, we respectfully request one person per entity. And 2 min per speaker. Members of the public on Zoom can raise their hand via the raise your hand feature. Those on phone, you raise their hand via Pressing Star 9, and we also accept and receive online public comments submissions before the meetings. We'll go in the following order, online public comment, submissions, zoom hands, phone hands. At this time we did not receive any online public comments prior to the meeting. So we will go to the zoom hands raised, and I will call out your name in the order that you've raised your hand and allow you to speak, and by unmuting. Stan Santos, you can now unmute.

Hi! Good morning. Yeah. I just wanted to say, on behalf of communication workers. Really happy to see all of you moving with alacrity. New word. I'm practicing. I think it fits. I'm really happy. We're standing by, and we're, you know, we're always at your disposal, I guess, with whatever we have. We are having some success in terms of

trying to address the issue of train. You know, capacitated technicians, and also language that would protect them once they're in the field, both for safety and for also longevity, because there's bit of churn into present incumbent service providers. And we need to do something to give these young men and women, you know, a job with future. So we just want to let you know that we support your effort and thank you very much for what you're doing. We are working also with some LATA grants locally here in Fresno county and trying to support also the ACP with that with the similar effort. So you know, we'll be there. You can always calling us. Thank you very much.

Thank you for your comment. We'll now move on to Linda Thomas. You can now unmute.

I'm glad to go after Stan. My name is Linda Thomas. I'm also from Fresno County. I said, on the Technical Advisory Board for the regional Broadband consortium here. I just want to thank Miss McPeak for her question about the map for the this CPUC has published about the priority areas. We noticed immediately that the West side of Fresno County is not listed as a priority area where we know in the consortium that is the case. I just would love to be a part of that conversation about sustainability and the models and the selection criteria, and the last mile infrastructure being built in remote high poverty, areas, because it really is the broadband desert out there and we just want to bring your attention to that. So thank you, Miss McPeak, for doing that.

Thank you for your comments. Well, now, move on to Robert Tse. You can now unmute.

Oh, okay, thank you. First, I like to compliment you in an excellent meeting, and my comment will be short. It's just a reminder. Yeah, the USDA distance learning telemedicine program will close on January thirtieth. It is another opportunity. I think it supports digital equity, provides grants for equipment for distance learning or telemedicine in rural areas. And also a heads up that we will have. I think it will come out in March. I can't say for certain. We'll have a funding opportunity announcement, for the community connect broadband program, which is a up to I think it's they change it to maybe 3 million dollars in grants. It is intended for the truly unserved, very rural areas, it's much smaller program, but it has. I think it's double the amount of funding this year, just because the Quirk in the schedule so I remind you of that opportunity to tie into the existing programs. And I'll just end with it is extremely important to have accurate maps. To be able to apply for not only the USDA programs, but to coordinate all of the pieces, and and there various means to get there which you could have a whole separate discussion on. So that's my, that's my comment.

Hi! Can you hear me? My name.

Yes, we can.

Yes, we can hear you.

Great my name's Angela Curro. I'm a new supervisor, just elected in San Benito County. I'm just got appointed to the IT Broadband Committee. My area is extremely rural. In San Benito County, and again, a git agreement with Ms. McPeak. Our area is not showing on the map. I'm working with our GIS department to get our areas identified on the map. Unfortunately, we are a very small community, but we have a large demand. Connectivity especially broadband and emergency services, thank you so much. This has been a very informative meeting.

Thank you for your public comment. We'll now go to Dr. Crystal Raur. You can now unmute.

Hi! Thank you for allowing me this opportunity, and I don't necessarily speak for my institution, which happens to be California State University Dominguez Hills. I am a recipient of the CMC Grant, the connecting minorities community NTIA Grant. And one thing that I would like to ask you all to consider is that as the institutions that are working with uniquely underserved populations, we are very stretched thin with our labor. And so some of the requirements, for at the Federal level, if we can't easily access the funds because of rules that are not university-friendly in the State of California that is exceptionally hard on us to implement our partnerships, with ACP and with our community partners. So there's a current conversation about how grants are implemented, and who gets to draw down the money. So please at the CSU level. Hear us. We need to work this out. And yeah, as a recipient, it would be helpful. So thank you for your time. And this amazingly helpful meeting.

Thank you for your comment. I will pause to allow any last remaining zoom hands. And not seeing any phone hands raised or phone attendees. That would be the end of the public comment period and back to you, Chief Deputy Director Johnson.

Thank you. Mr. Przybyla. Thank you members of the public, for your comments.

Are there any Council members who would like to make additional comments before we close the meeting?

This, McPeak, I see you have your hand up.

I do, I apologize, Mister Chair, but I just I want it first of all. Thank you, Linda, and thank you. You know, for your for your comments in terms of West Fresno. And it's always important to have CWA at the table. So I I appreciate every time Stan can be here. Sometimes he's in a cherry picker actually attending meeting. So, but I also wanted to, to really invite continued leadership by Supervisor Angela Kiro. You know every county a wall. 58. San Benito is a great county. It sits there right next to Monterey, Santa Cruz, and we wanna reach out to you and some of your admiration had actually engaged Angela earlier on ACP, former supervisor Mike Graves have been involved in that so let's just follow up. You have a great regional consortium in the in the area that is Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito. So I think we, I just want to be available to you and invite you to help also with the California State Association of Counties. They really are

going to get even more active around broadband. So also volunteer to be there. So get on the regional consortium as well as your own committee and on CSAC. Okay.

Thank you. Ms. McPeak. Mr. Flores, you have your hand up. You're on mute, sir.

That might help a little. I wanted to thank Scott and Mark for coming to CDFA headquarters and doing a very comprehensive presentation to the statewide fair network that I oversee. And also to let them know let you all know that the fair network stands by and ready to help in any capacity that they can. So thanks again for taking the time to do that.

Thank you. Deputy Secretary.

Do any other members have comments for us. Commissioner Houck?

Just really, quickly for Scott. I will be planning to attend the statewide planning meeting this afternoon. It got on my calendar late, so I have a conflict the first part that I will be joining late. Rob Osbourne will be there, for the PUC the first half. So just wanted to note that. And we'll see you later this afternoon.

Thank you.

Thank you. Commissioner. And I'm gonna defer to Mr. Adams. He would like to provide a comment as well.

Yeah, and thank you so much Chief Deputy Director Johnson, I think what we wanna do is from a staff perspective, is, you know, as we close, we have given a substantial amount of information on the kind of multiple efforts and multiple initiatives going on, both as part of Broadband for all, and to support broadband for all. Whether it's the Federal grant programs or the state programs, or the related and complementary, local and regional programs. We understand that this is a very complex environment to navigate, that while this moment in time allows us the opportunity to leverage significant dollars to close the digital divide, that making sense of it all and making sure that all the pieces are fitting together as a challenge so wanted to underscore that the you know the staff from the member entities here are committed to working together, to, you know, synchronize our engagements with folks, and to provide as much technical assistance and capacity building support as we can throughout the process. And so you know, is part of that wanted to continue, you know, to extend the call to action and implementation to all partners and stakeholders who are working in this space, that we are eager to align and partner with you to also point out that to the extent that we can leverage. The process that we've established for the digital equity and BEAD planning process to bring folks to the table and participate in contributed to the statewide planning group, the different outcome area working groups, and at the local engagement events to support the both the data gathering the asset inventory. But then the gap analysis and important the decisions that it's just critically important here. And so know that we are just thankful to our staff partners at the various agencies and to

those local and regional entities that are consistently, you know, working with us to align their efforts. So. Thank you, chief deputy Director. I just wanted to make that comment.

Thank you, Mr. Adams. Any members wishing to make a comment? I'm not seeing any. Want to thank the council members, presenters and public attendees for their contributions today. Also want to express my gratitude for those working so diligently to move things forward. A lot of progress from 2022 was spotlighted today, and there are many great things coming in 2023, exciting to hear from our workforce members who want with boots on the ground that want to participate, and also our local leaders that want to be engaged. Your work is valued, and you will make great contributions to advancing broadband for all. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2023, 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. We look forward to seeing everyone then. With that we will conclude the January 25th, 2023 California Broadband Council meeting. Thank you all.