California Broadband Council Meeting

July 26, 2023

Meeting Recap and Transcript

[SB 189 (Chapter 28, Statues of 2022)](#) has been repealed as of July 1, 2023, therefore public meetings for the remainder of this year will be in-person pursuant to GC 11123.5.

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 9:30am in CoveredCA's Tahoe Board Room at 1601 Exposition Boulevard in Sacramento. Members of the public, presenters, and ex-officio members had the option to join in person or via virtual conference.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

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

Roll Call

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Name	Organization	Member / Designee	Present	Absent
Chair Director Liana Bailey-Crimmins	**California Department of Technology**	Member	X	
Ms. Sarah Smith	**Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee Appointment by Senator Bradford**	Designee	*Online, X*	
Commissioner Darcie Houck	**California Public Utilities Commission**	Member	X	
Deputy Director Marvin Green	**California Office of Emergency Services, Logistics Management**	Designee	X	
Director Jerry Winkler	**California Department of Education, Educational Data Management Division**	Member	X	
Chief Deputy Director Jennifer Osborn	**Department of General Services**	Designee	X	
Deputy Secretary Lori Pepper	**California Transportation Agency, Innovative Mobility Solutions**	Member	X	

President and CEO Sunne McPeak	**California Emerging Technology Fund**	Member	X	
Deputy Secretary Michael Flores	**Department of Food and Agriculture**	Designee	X	
Program Manager Josh Chisom	**California State Library**, Broadband Opportunities	Designee	X	
Secretary Christina Snider-Ashtari	**Office of Tribal Affairs**	Member	X	
Chief of Staff Emmanuel Aguayo	**Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson**	Designee	X	

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

Deputy Director Scott Adams provided a high-level recap of various Broadband for All programs and initiatives, including the Action Plan, Broadband for All Engagement, Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment efforts, and the development of the State Digital Equity Plan and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) plan. He briefly reviewed collaborations and engagements between OBDL, CPUC, and other various state agencies and stakeholders.

Agenda Item 3 – Broadband for All Updates

Deputy Director Scott Adams provided highlights of Broadband for All Action items and announced how Action Item #6, #16, #18 and #21 were carried out this calendar year so far. He briefly walked through the status of short and long-term Action Items and plans to integrate action item directives into related workstreams, and mentioned the contributing efforts of CBC member agencies.

The following CBC members made additional comments:
- Sunne McPeak
- Commissioner Darcie Houck

Agenda Item 4 – Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Update

Deputy Director Mark Monroe provided a Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative update, focusing on updated project assumptions, project architecture, and phasing.

The following CBC members made additional comments:

- Sunne McPeak
- Sarah Smith
- Liana Bailey-Crimmins

Agenda Item 5 – Last-Mile Program Update

Commissioner Darcie Houck from the California Public Utilities Commission provided updates on the various Last-Mile Programs, including Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA), Federal Funding Account Priority Areas, and California Advanced Services Fund Grants.

The following CBC members made additional comments:
- Sunne McPeak
- Sarah Smith

Agenda Item 6 – Affordable Connectivity Program

Sunne Wright McPeak from the California Emerging Technology Fund provided an update on enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program. She highlighted the partnership that were involved in the Get Connected! CA Mobilization effort, summarized intake surveys results from attendees at enrollment events, and shared next steps. As of Monday July 24, forty percent of eligible California households has enrolled in the ACP program.

The following CBC members made additional comments:
- Jerry Winkler
- Christina Snider-Ashtari
- Darcie Houck
- Sarah Smith
- Scott Adams
- Emmanuel Aguayo

Agenda Item 7 – NTIA IIJA Programs – State Digital Equity Planning and BEAD

Deputy Director Scott Adams from CDT and Deputy Director Maria Ellis from CPUC provided updates of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Programs. In particular, they highlighted progress and coordinated collaborations between CDT and CPUC regarding the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) and Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD).

The following CBC members made additional comments:
- Sunne McPeak
- Darcie Houck

Agenda Item 8 – Public Comment

Staff proceeded to address public comments, starting with in-person comments, then those with their hands raised on Zoom, and then comment sent in via email. The following member of the public made comments:

- Patrick Messac (in-person)
- Lili Gangas (online via Zoom)
- Philip Neufeld (online via Zoom)

The only public comment received prior to the meeting in California Broadband Council inbox came from Philip Neufeld (Copied Below), which was also verbalized by Mr. Philip Neufeld during Public Comment.

"I am Philip Neufeld. Executive Officer of IT at Fresno Unified School District and Co-Founder of the Fresno Coalition for Digital Inclusion.

We learned during the pandemic the substantial gaps in internet infrastructure, how internet providers choose not to adequately serve areas of higher poverty, and the large number of unserved residents in urban and rural areas of poverty who do not yet show up on the state's broadband maps.

For example, the CPUC maps suggest Fresno County has around 3% of its residents who are unserved. Yet, the 2020 ACS showed 17% unserved and the Microsoft Digital Equity dashboard showed 50% unserved in Fresno County. Our 11,000,000+ myQoI speedtests from student laptops suggest 27% of the City of Fresno is unserved.

These areas of digital disinvestment most often affect vulnerable populations and traditionally marginalized communities barring these residents from participation in services like telehealth, online education, job searches, and so much more.
We've learned that many unserved residents live in multi-dwelling units. Yet these residents, about 30% of our population, are not counted as unserved.

We urge the CPUC to prioritize infrastructure investments in multi-dwelling units within the broadband plan, right after "unserved populations". We urge improvements to the broadband map to more equitably guide infrastructure investments and have offered the CPUC ways to improve those maps with crowd-sourced speed tests like myQoI (developed by Fresno Unified)."

Closing

Director Bailey-Crimmins thanked Council members, presenters, and attendees and noted the next meeting is Wednesday, October 25. The meeting adjourned at 11:34a.m.

(Meeting recording and presentation slides from the meeting will be posted to the Council's website)