



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

March 11, 2015

AGENDA: March 24, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Broadband Master Plan

Dear Members of the Board:

On February 10, 2015, your Board directed staff to return on today's agenda with the final assessment of the County's broadband options as part of establishing a Broadband Master Plan. Staff have been working with Design Nine, a nationally recognized broadband planning firm, to perform a "Rapid Assessment" of the County's current state of broadband and provide recommendations for future goals. The attached report details findings, goals and objectives based on the work of Design Nine, meetings with County staff and broadband stakeholders, and a tour of the County's focus areas for economic development.

One of the key goals identified in the report is to encourage and create public/private partnerships. It is our intention to coordinate strategic improvements with the Sunesys Project, a 91.18 mile fiber network from Santa Cruz to Soledad that is funded by a grant from the California Public Utilities Commission. Sunesys submitted an environmental study that was required by the State. Once Sunesys receives approval to move forward, the middle mile fiber network will be built within 18 to 24 months. Sunesys will then work with service providers and other entities to gain access to the network. Surfnet and Cruzio are two service providers and last mile carriers that have planned to partner with Sunesys and serve the Sunesys Project area. Through a public/private partnership, an independent Fiber Initiative Team (hereinafter referred to as FI) could be formed to build off these plans in developing a last mile fiber network. It would be appropriate to identify a plan, including funding and staffing components, to support the work of the FI.

As part of the Rapid Assessment, Design Nine also developed detailed cost estimates for potential projects within the County. They are organized into sections that would allow the FI to decide how and when to invest and what different options may cost. The estimates can also be used to model projects in other areas of the County. The approximate costs of materials and

labor are included in the estimates. The potential projects are located in Davenport, Live Oak, the Medical Area, Upper 41st and the Aptos Area. There is also a larger project that groups Live Oak, the Medical Area and Upper 41st as part of the Urban Core Backbone. These are all areas where the FI could partner with local service providers to invest in a last mile fiber network.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board take the following actions:


1. Accept and file this report;
2. Direct the County Administrative Officer to present the results of the Rapid Assessment, including the recommendation to form a Fiber Initiative Team, to the City Selection Committee; and
3. Direct staff in Information Services, Planning and Public Works to work with the cities to
 - 1) establish complimentary policies, such as the County's model "dig once" ordinance,
 - 2) propose changes in planning requirements for residential and business construction,
 - 3) explore grant opportunities, and
 - 4) coordinate sewer, water and road construction projects so that conduit for fiber can be incorporated where feasible in order to enhance broadband connectivity and expansion.

Sincerely,



Kathy M. Previsich
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. Broadband Network Rapid Assessment
2. Santa Cruz County Cost Estimates and Maps

cc: County Administrative Office
Information Services
Public Works