

CHAPTER X. COMMUNICATIONS

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x.010 : Purpose and Background

This chapter is intended to provide information, guidance, and recommendations as they relate to the development, implementation, and accessibility of communications infrastructure, particularly basic telephone, wireless telephone, and broadband Internet.

Telecommunications infrastructure and services are critical components for long-term growth and sustainability for the County, as they provide the basic resources necessary for businesses to operate and add to the quality of life for our residents. Increasingly, business success is tied to online accessibility, including e-commerce solutions, discoverability, and the overall necessity of high-quality broadband capable of high speeds with symmetric up and down transfer rates. Of equal importance is broadband to residents for access to online education, research, employment, health care, and government resources.

Historically, Mono County has suffered from a lack of quality broadband due to our rural nature and low population with dispersed community areas. With the installation of Digital 395 (see section x.020 for more information) in 2013, however, the capacity issues plaguing this area will be resolved, and new opportunities will present themselves. As such, this chapter is intended to better direct the deployment and utilization of this newly developed resource.

This chapter draws from a number of technical resources, reports, and other jurisdictions, including, but not limited to the Humboldt County General Plan, policy work developed by the City of Santa Cruz, the Eastern Sierra Innovation and Prosperity Report developed by Sierra Business Council, and the Mono County Economic Development Strategy. Each of these resources, in conjunction with their applicability to Mono County, have helped to better identify some issues, opportunities, and constraints, which are briefly addressed below, and more specifically addressed via the Goals, Objectives, and Policies that follow.

Mobile broadband and Cellular Service

With the rapid advances in mobile device technology, both providers and subscribers are increasingly looking to mobile solutions to help fill communication gaps and provide alternatives to typical fixed deployments. While the mobile alternatives are extremely valuable at fulfilling their role, they are not a panacea for solving broadband issues throughout the county.

The primary issues with the mobile broadband solution are the data caps that are placed on customers, the overall cost of the service, and the typical requirement of a long-term contract in order to receive the service. While these are hurdles typically overcome by those looking to utilize this technology as a secondary method for accessing the Internet, for those who are looking at it as their primary, they may be insurmountable.

Another issue with mobile broadband and cellular service is the effective coverage area that exists throughout the county. For the most part, some form of cellular coverage exists in almost every community; however, it is carrier dependent. AT&T and Verizon are the two main carriers, whose coverage models overlap, but do not provide the same coverage in all of the same areas. In addition to some communities not having cellular service, there are significant sections of our primary highway corridors that have areas without coverage, which poses safety concerns and is often very inconvenient for those utilizing these transportation routes.

It is conceivable that with Digital 395 cellular coverage throughout the county will improve as new sites are developed and existing sites improved with upgraded technology that adopts a fiber-fed backhaul. This is an important development pattern for the County that needs to be looked at strategically, and implemented thoughtfully, in order to meet the goals and objectives, while adhering to policies and parameters.

Broadband Accessibility, Reliability, and Adoption

Within the context of non-mobile broadband technology, Mono County continues to struggle with the basic aspects of accessibility, reliability, and adoption. These three aspects are closely related to each other, as the region as a whole has been starved of quality Internet until very recently. Where service is accessible (mainly in the major community areas), the reliability and usability of that service has not always been great enough to motivate everyone to adopt. Coupled with the demographics of the region (a mix of income levels, education, age, and ethnicities), there is still a portion of the population who do not use the Internet.

Outside of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the community of June Lake, most communities do not have more than one Internet Service Provider for customers to choose from. For the most part, smaller communities are serviced by a single fixed wireless provider (Schat.net), leaving only one other small, wireline provider (Escape Broadband) to compete with the bigger companies offering wireline service – Suddenlink and Verizon.

As a result, the market in each community has been dominated by a single (non-mobile) carrier, which limits consumer choice, stifles competition, and does not afford redundancy. In addition, business use of Internet is limited to residential grade service plans, with only a small number of T1 type connections, or similar higher speed service offerings. In general, this has not only resulted in those businesses being confined to Mammoth or June Lake, but also made it difficult or financially impractical for businesses to get higher speeds or symmetric service offerings.

This General Plan chapter places a high priority on broadband market development, and the engagement of Mono County in the regional deployment of this critical infrastructure. Participation in local, regional, statewide, and federal efforts that are aimed at the improved diffusion of broadband and communications technology is an important part of achieving the goals and objectives outlined below.

x.020 : Definitions

- **Digital 395** : A 583 mile long Middle Mile fiber optic project between Carson City, NV and Barstow, CA. This project was jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and a ratepayer fund dedicated to broadband development known as the California Advanced Services Fund which is administered out of the California Public Utilities Commission.
- **California Broadband Cooperative** : A not-for-profit telephone cooperative that will serve as the long-term owner and operator of the Digital 395 network.
- **Praxis Associates, Inc.** : A recognized California based fiber optic development firm responsible for securing the funding and serving as the lead on the design, management, and construction of the Digital 395 project.
- **Middle Mile** : In utilities and telecommunication networks, this is the core portion of the infrastructure that provides the high-capacity, long-haul routes from points of origin for service to local service providers and smaller distribution networks.
- **Last Mile** : In utilities and telecommunication networks, this is the local network that delivers service to consumers, as developed and carried out by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- **Anchor** : As it relates to Digital 395, these are government, education, and medical facilities, and service provider points of interconnect where services are provided by Digital 395.
- **Node** : As it relates to Digital 395, these are locations along the fiber route where hardware is located that amplifies signal in the fiber, routes traffic on the network, and provides points of interconnect.
- **Fiber Access Point (FAP)** : Typically located in underground vaults, these are points where it is possible to gain access to fibers broken out from the Digital 395 backbone for the purpose of providing a point of interconnect for future middle or last mile services.
- **Network Interface Device (NID)** : A piece of technology installed at anchors where the Digital 395 network is terminated and can be interfaced with a local network.
- **Mobile Wireless** : A general term used to describe broadband service that is offered typically by cellular carriers via 3G, 4G, LTE or similar types of networks to smartphones, tablets, and other mobile technology.
- **Fixed Wireless** : A term used to describe broadband service that is offered by an Internet Service Provider via wireless infrastructure that is installed on premise and aimed at a repeater site.
- **Wireline** : A general term that is used to describe a connection to the Internet which is provided via a hardwire, as in the case of DSL, Cable, or Fiber based technologies.

x.030 : Broadband Deployment & Implementation

Goal #1 : Facilitate the distribution of the best broadband service possible, to as many users within community areas and key transportation corridors as possible, in a timely and cost effective manner that minimizes impacts to visual and natural resources.

Objective 1A : Work with providers to deliver the best service possible to Mono County residents, businesses, and visitors.

Policy 1A-1 : Providers shall develop new infrastructure projects using the best available technology that meets or exceeds current industry standards.

Action 1A-1.1 : Monitor standards set by the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for 'Served' communities.¹ Encourage providers to deliver services that meet or exceed these standards.

Action 1A-1.2: Encourage new infrastructure projects to use high-capacity wireline solutions (such as Fiber-to-the-Premise). Providers should demonstrate a justification for alternative technologies and dispersed infrastructure requirements when wireline is impractical.

Policy 1A-2 : Providers shall develop and deliver services that improve accessibility to high quality broadband while protecting consumers and ensuring fair and equal access to those utilizing services within the County.

Action 1A-2.1 : Ensure Internet Service Providers (ISPs) possess a current Business License, and be current on all applicable Franchise Licenses, taxes, and fee payments.

Action 1A-2.2 : Ensure ISPs furnish and uphold Customer Service Standards that provide privacy protection, clear service and billing procedures, reliability, or a similar service level agreement, and means by which to contest service not meeting said standards. Enforcement? Via Business License?

Action 1A-2.3 : Establish and maintain consumer awareness information and materials. Periodically review and publish information on local providers based on service standards, including but not limited to coverage area, speeds, etc.

Determining if consumers are receiving service they are paying for

Objective 1B : Deploy broadband to as many community areas and key transportation corridors as possible, and pursue additional providers to increase competition, and improve quality of service.

Policy 1B-1 : Work with providers and other entities to develop projects that deliver broadband service to all communities.

Action 1B-1.1 : Establish and maintain a list of high priority communities that can be referred to when providers are looking to build new projects.

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Action 1B-1.2: Actively seek out providers and other reasonable alternatives to establish broadband service in Unserviced communities throughout the County.

Action 1B-1.3 : Coordinate and work with Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESCRBC) and other entities to locate funding opportunities for providers interested in building projects in 'Unserviced' and 'Underserved' communities.

Action 1B-1.4 : Pursue additional providers or other reasonable alternatives to improve the quality of service, competition, and reliability in communities throughout the County.

Action 1B-1.5: Look for opportunities to establish access to broadband in other rural or outlying areas for the purpose of enhancing Health & Safety or Economic Development purposes where traditional approaches or solutions are impractical.

Objective 1C : Minimize the impact on the environment and scenic resources while implementing projects.

Policy 1C-1 : Providers shall utilize distribution practices that cause the least amount of long-term/significant environmental and visual impacts.

Action 1C-1.1 : Look for underground opportunities in all project areas before considering overhead options.

Action 1C-1.2 : Require justification for overhead distribution before accepting or permitting.

Action 1C-1.3 : Follow policies and procedures set forth in the Mono County General Plan with respect to overhead distribution lines, including those specified in 11.010.

Action 1C-1.4 : Use existing utility corridors and common poles wherever possible, when overhead distribution has been determined to be necessary and appropriate.

Action 1C-1.5 : Look toward other route options before installing new poles.

Policy 1C-2 : Providers shall adhere to applicable regulations and guidelines when installing new infrastructure.

Action 1C-2.1 : Require new distribution lines be installed underground within Scenic Highway corridors unless a variance is granted by Mono County, and/or a deviation authorization is obtained from the California Public Utilities Commission for overhead installation.

Action 1C-2.2 : Require that a use permit be obtained prior to allowing overhead construction in County Rights of Way other than scenic corridors.

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Action 1C-2.3 : Ensure that new wireline infrastructure is installed underground in conformity with Mono County Code and General Plan Guidelines, including those presented in xx.030 2x.

Action 1C-2.4 : Require new towers & antennas for wireless distribution be placed in inconspicuous locations consistent with Mono County design guidelines, General Plan requirements, and CEQA.

Action 1C-2.5 : Ensure that any new overhead lines be installed in the least conspicuous manner possible consistent with Mono County design guidelines, General Plan requirements, and CEQA. See sections 11.010D & xx.030 2x.

Action 1C-2.6 : Allow the installation of new poles when necessary to avoid substantial adverse impacts, and in a manner consistent with section 11.010.

X.040 : Construction Of Communications Infrastructure

Goal #2 : Incorporate designs compatible with future communications infrastructure when designing public facilities such as streets, campuses, buildings, and public spaces. Accommodate potential future need for undergrounding of infrastructure when reconstructing or remodeling. Provide locations and development standards for communication infrastructure located throughout the County.

Objective 2A : Utilize existing infrastructure and facilities before constructing new ones.

Policy 2A-1 : Co-locate facilities and infrastructure to avoid proliferation of new sites and carefully choose sites to encourage the best coverage possible.

Action 2A-1.1 : Utilize existing wireline infrastructure (through fiber swaps, use of existing Digital 395 backbone, etc.) before constructing new wirelines.

Action 2A-1.2 : Place new wireline infrastructure in existing underground conduit before installing new conduit or new overhead lines.

Action 2A-1.3 : Place new telecom facilities and infrastructure on properties or at sites where other facilities exist before looking for new locations.

Action 2A-1.4 : Carefully evaluate new telecom sites so as to provide the best possible service and coverage area for the project.

Action 2A-1.5 : Require communication providers / developers to provide compelling justification as to the need for new infrastructure or locations before permitting such construction.

Action 2A-1.6 : Developers shall construct cell sites and antennae array towers with the capacity for additional providers to utilize that facility. Refer to the Mono County Design Guidelines for more information.

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Action 2A-1.7 : Maintain an inventory of shadow areas and coverage gaps throughout the County. Seek out projects to help fill critical ones in line with County objectives.

Policy 2A-2 : Develop sites using Context Sensitive Solutions, including the use of design and screening tactics that minimize visual impact on their surroundings.

Action 2A-2.1 : Encourage placement of towers outside of community areas.

Action 2A-2.2 : Mitigate tower height by locating towers on hill tops (other than ridgelines) or other high points.

Action 2A-2.3 : Providers shall remove infrastructure no longer in use within one year of abandonment.

Objective 2B : Utilize public spaces or property for communication sites or infrastructure.

Policy 2B-1 : The County shall provide sites or space for communication facilities, including cabinet structures, pedestals, antennas, etc. where appropriate and feasible.

Action 2B-1.1 : Evaluate County property for viable sites and establish an inventory of locations, permissible uses, and associated costs.

Action 2B-1.2 : Construct new facilities or perform improvements taking into consideration future communication infrastructure.

Action 2B-1.3 : Consolidate and co-locate facilities in logical locations that have access to power and backhaul without interfering with County infrastructure.

Action 2B-1.4 : Review locations of Digital 395 Fiber Access Points (FAPs) within County Rights of Way and determine how providers may utilize or access FAP and install necessary infrastructure in Right of Way.

Action 2B-1.5 : Establish a Capital Project Review & Prioritization Committee to help plan and oversee capital project development and ensure integration of County standards into projects.

Objective 2C : Promote and facilitate the development of underground infrastructure to accommodate current and future use demands, protect assets, and minimize future disturbance.

Policy 2C-1 : Providers shall utilize existing conduit where available and feasible.

Action 2C-1.1 : Require providers to utilize existing conduit infrastructure before installing new infrastructure.

Action 2C-1.2 : Require providers to show evidence of need for new conduit prior to permitting construction.

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Action 2C-1.3 : Establish permit review process for new communications infrastructure that encompasses all interested County departments and key players.

Policy 2C-2 : Projects conducted on County property, including Rights of Way, shall follow a 'Dig Once' objective.

Action 2C-2.1 : Install conduit in public streets during construction/re-construction for future communications infrastructure use.

Action 2C-2.2 : Look for opportunities for Special Districts to own and lease conduit space to providers.

Action 2C-2.3 : Ensure that conduit in a public rights of way is managed with net-neutrality or open standards such that any future providers may use infrastructure.

Action 2C-2.4 : Accommodate construction of conduit laterals leading to private property for potential future use.

Policy 2C-3 : Interested parties shall be notified of any opportunity for installing additional conduit or infrastructure in open trenches in County Right of Way.

Action 2C-3.1 : Look for opportunities to place new conduit through joint utility trenches.

Action 2C-3.2 : Require formal notification of utilities and interested parties of a joint trench opportunity prior to issuance of permit for construction work.

Action 2C-3.3 : Require installation of secondary or tertiary conduit whenever new conduit is being installed in public Rights of Way to accommodate future use/growth.

Objective 2D : Develop and manage underground infrastructure as 'basic infrastructure' that adheres to standards, is available for public use, and is managed as an asset in line with other public property.

Policy 2D-1 : Underground infrastructure shall be installed in accordance with standards regarding placement, material, and method.

Action 2D-1.1 : Conduit in public streets should be placed a minimum depth of three feet and meet Mono County Department of Public Works street & grading standards.

Action 2D-1.2 : Conduit installed for the purposes of Middle-Mile or long-haul routes, or that is installed in major streets or arterials should be the equivalent minimum of 4" in diameter.

Action 2D-1.3 : Conduit installed for the purposes of Last-Mile or distribution routes should be a minimum of 1½" in diameter.

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Action 2D-1.4 : Conduit should be installed at the intersection of streets that is the equivalent of at least 4" in diameter and made accessible via vaults or similar appropriate means.

Action 2D-1.5 : Encourage the use of microduct or similar technology in conduit installations so as to segregate providers.

Action 2D-1.6 : A reasonable amount of space shall be retained by the owner of the underground infrastructure for the purpose of their potential future use.

Policy 2D-2 : Underground infrastructure in public Rights of Way shall be accessible and remain available for use by qualified providers.

Action 2D-2.1 : Develop and maintain an inventory of underground conduit and infrastructure in a readily searchable manner, such as GIS.

Action 2D-2.2 : Require that all conduit in public Rights of Way contain Tracer Wire or be otherwise locatable using standard devices or means.

Action 2D-2.3 : Require that all new underground installations be mapped with GPS, or have accurate, georeferenced as-built digital drawings, and that such data is delivered to the County at the completion of construction.

Action 2D-2.4 : Require all new large-scale, commercially focused, underground infrastructure be filed with Underground Service Alert (USA).

Action 2D-2.5 : Accept offers of dedication for underground infrastructure from private developers and maintain conduit in the public's interest.

Action 2D-2.6 : Work with special districts, quasi-public entities, or third-party companies and vendors for long-term ownership or management of underground conduit, so long as the infrastructure remains available to the public at a fair price and in an open and competitive manner.

Action 2D-2.7 : Allow developers who install conduit to recover their costs through renting or leasing space in conduit at a fair and competitive price until the point that the cost of installation is paid off.

Policy 2D-3 : The County shall consider communications conduit as a standard aspect of a street and exploit opportunities to install infrastructure when opportunities exist and are appropriate.

Action 2D-3.1 : Conduit shall be incorporated in the design phase of new street, sidewalk, or other related transportation projects.

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Action 2D-3.2 : Costs for construction and materials of conduit network in a new transportation project shall be factored into overall cost of said project.

Action 2D-3.3 : Establish a dedicated revenue account to be funded through leases or rents of County property for communications infrastructure, and to be made available for future conduit development and maintenance projects.

Action 2D-3.4 : When funding is not available for conduit, look for alternative sources including grants, special districts, or improvement district in advance of actual construction effort.

Objective 2E : Continually look for opportunities to underground existing overhead infrastructure and evaluate priorities based on safety and reliability factors and community input.

Policy 2E-1 : Utilize Rule 20, grant funds, public-private partnerships, or other similar funding opportunities to complete undergrounding projects.

Action 2E-1.1 : Establish an underground project review committee to oversee and manage future underground project priorities, plan for projects, and seek out revenue or funding opportunities to complete them.

Action 2E-1.2 : Utilize a community-based public planning process to help identify and prioritize future undergrounding projects.

Action 2E-1.3 : Establish an inventory and set of priorities for each community for future undergrounding projects based on areas of high preference or priority, as driven by public safety, reliability, community benefit (commercial cores, downtowns, etc.), or visual blight issues.

Action 2E-1.4 : Seek out creative funding strategies, including loans, mortgages, public-private partnerships, grants, or other similar opportunities so as to expedite projects.

Action 2E-1.5 : Maintain an inventory of all underground districts and past funded projects in the County.

Objective 2F : Explore and utilize above-ground infrastructure opportunities when underground solutions are not viable, or would otherwise prevent customers from having access to the best available service.

Policy 2F-1 : Consider the development and placement of cell sites, radio repeaters, or similar infrastructure based on site feasibility, accessibility, coverage, and impact.

Action 2F-1.1 : Maintain an inventory of existing cell sites in Mono County, carriers present at each location, and approximate coverage area for each site.

Action 2F-1.2 : Perform gap analyses and determine holes in coverage patterns so as to better understand value of future cell site placement, as well as priority/target areas.

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Action 2F-1.3 : Require new cell sites to accommodate at least two carriers, and encourage carriers to work with existing sites before establishing new ones.

Action 2F-1.4: Require that applicants demonstrate the investigation of multiple site alternatives, and why the selected site is the preferred alternative. Require that applicants provide coverage area maps/data based on new site location.

Action 2F-1.5 : Allow developers to construct cell towers exceeding 60' in height only after obtaining a variance.

Action 2F-1.6 : Encourage use of public land for site location and pursue opportunities with federal agencies, special districts, or local agencies.

Action 2F-1.7 : Work with land management agencies to ensure knowledge and understanding of future development plans, County General Plan policies and guidelines, and find opportunities to synchronize policies and objectives between entities.

Action 2F-1.8 : Require that private property owners wishing to locate commercial communication infrastructure on their property for the benefit of consumers other than themselves secure a Director's Review approval prior to construction.

Policy 2F-2 : Install overhead distribution lines in the least conspicuous manner possible consistent with Mono County design guidelines, General Plan requirements, and California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

Action 2F-2.1 : The installation of overhead lines shall not significantly disrupt the visual character of the area. In evaluation of the impact, consideration shall be given to section 11.010D of the Mono County General Plan Land Use Element.

Action 2F-2.2 : Evaluate factors such as height that lines are placed on poles (where lower heights may better protect viewsheds), size, color, reflectivity, tension in line, etc. when reviewing projects.

X.050 : Strategic Planning For Communications Infrastructure

Goal #3 : Work with local service providers, agencies, and other resources to arrive at appropriate and creative solutions to solve communications challenges. Utilize Digital 395 infrastructure to support communication needs including expansion and development of future infrastructure.

Objective 3A : Evaluate opportunities and establish a plan for future communications infrastructure needs and development opportunities.

Policy 3A-1 : Establish a Joint Communication Planning Committee to coordinate and review communication development projects in neighboring jurisdictions or with a regional perspective.

Action 3A-1.1 : Work to develop a common set of standards and protocols for permitting, design, etc. that ensure consistency for providers and ensure the best delivery of service to our constituents.

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Planning for future infrastructure – look for gaps and build projects to address those needs

Policy 3A-2 : Develop strategic plan for communications development in Mono County.

Action 3A-2.1 : Work with cellular providers and third party tower developers to gain an understanding of future development intentions.

Action 3A-2.2 : Develop and update a list of priority “Unserved” and “Underserved” areas throughout Mono County in need of broadband and engage Last-Mile Providers with the intent of developing projects in those areas.

Action 3A-2.3 : Catalog potential projects and future development plans in a GIS database for internal reference purposes and planning efforts.

Action 3A-2.4 : Evaluate Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) for potential integration of broadband/communication projects.

Objective 3B : Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of communications, and related infrastructure for planning purposes.

Policy 3B-1 : The County shall establish a GIS database containing locations and information on existing infrastructure in public rights of way.

Action 3B-1.1 : Acquire maps, data, and other relevant information from special districts and service districts throughout the County who provide service to local residents.

Action 3B-1.2 : Inventory and develop a publicly accessible dataset that contains the best known locations for infrastructure that may be used by future providers for communication purposes, or potentially interfere with the installation of future communications infrastructure.

Policy 3B-2 : Providers shall submit digital data or accurate maps depicting the location of newly installed or upgraded infrastructure.

Action 3B-2.1 : Update existing databases with new information as it becomes available.

Objective 3C : Leverage existing broadband infrastructure, including Digital 395, before constructing new infrastructure.

Policy 3C-1 : Providers shall justify the need for additional infrastructure development prior to permit approval when projects overlap or parallel existing communications infrastructure.

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Action 3C-1.1 : Lease existing bandwidth, dark fiber, or conduit space from California Broadband Cooperative when network routes parallel Digital 395 infrastructure.

Action 3C-1.2 : Refer to County database of existing communications infrastructure when evaluating projects, and prior to permitting.

X.060 : Broadband Access, Adoption, & Application

Goal #4 : Work with providers to extend service to as many residents and businesses as possible. Find ways to utilize technology to improve public safety, quality of life, and economic stability of the region as a whole, while improving government accountability and transparency.

Objective 4A : Leverage Digital 395 and other broadband and communications resources to improve public safety.

Policy 4A-1 : Look for opportunities to improve communications systems for emergency services personnel, and the general public, in order to expedite response and improve service.

Action 4A-1.1 : Implement an Emergency Services Network using Digital 395 that connects the satellite facilities of emergency services personnel within Mono County, as well as surrounding jurisdictions with the intent of improving the exchange of information between all parties.

Action 4A-1.2 : Utilize the Emergency Services Network to improve Enhanced 911 services by coordinating information shared between dispatch and responders.

Policy 4A-2 : Improve cellular coverage area and establish redundant communications in communities.

Action 4A-2.1 : Evaluate provider's coverage area and perform shadow/gap analyses to determine areas along key transportation corridors and community areas without cellular coverage.

Action 4A-2.2 : Work with Joint Communications Planning Committee and neighboring land managers to pre-select and approve sites for future use in locating cell towers to improve coverage in above identified areas.

Objective 4B : Focus efforts on economic development as it relates to or relies on improved broadband and accessibility.

Policy 4B-1 : Develop an economic development strategy for Mono County with regard to broadband.

Action 4B-1.1 : Develop information and products including marketing collateral, white papers, case studies, and other relevant materials that can assist with the promotion of technology focused business in Mono County.

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Action 4B-1.2 : Develop a strategic outreach and marketing plan utilizing the developed materials and targeting technology focused businesses.

Action 4B-1.3 : Promote telecommuting as a viable method allowing visitors to stay in the region longer and work remotely, and attract new permanent residents to relocate to the area and work from Mono County.

Action 4B-1.4 : Promote workforce development and educational opportunities to train local residents and stakeholders about benefits and uses of technology, focused on the expansion of existing business and development of new business ventures.

Policy 4B-2 : Perform a business opportunity analysis study.

Action 4B-2.1 : Evaluate locations in the County that would be viable for various types and sizes of new technology businesses.

Action 4B-2.2 : Evaluate issues, opportunities, and constraints pertaining to business development in various locations of the County.

Action 4B-2.3 : Consider changes to policies that may hinder or otherwise complicate development of technology or green business development, including waiving of permit or licensing fees.

Objective 4C : Improve accessibility to broadband for personal consumption within community areas at a level of service and price comparable to urban centers.

Policy 4C-1 : Establish free WiFi in public spaces including County buildings, parks, community centers, and in commercial corridors in community areas.

Action 4C-1.1 : Provide free WiFi for public use in County offices and facilities.

Action 4C-1.2 : Work with service providers to establish free WiFi in commercial corridors and other public areas to support and promote local businesses.

Action 4C-1.3 : Limit speeds on public WiFi networks so as not to compete with residential or business connections offered by local service providers.

Policy 4C-2 : Support programs and initiatives that improve broadband adoption and digital literacy.

Action 4C-2.1 : Work with regional broadband consortia, state and national initiatives, and local service providers to offer discounted Internet to low income and at-risk populations.

Objective 4D : Utilize Digital 395 and technology as a whole to improve government accountability and accessibility.

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Policy 4D-1 : Leverage existing and implement new technology to utilize broadband to improve efficiency and reduce environmental and fiscal impacts.

Action 4D-1.1 : Promote use of video conferencing and virtual meetings as a means for trip reduction between County offices, and to non-County locations.

Action 4D-1.2 : Budget for, install, and make available video conferencing equipment at County locations, such as community centers, libraries, and satellite offices.

Action 4D-1.3 : Utilize mobile data terminals or other similar computing devices to provide service to customers in the field for applicable jobs and tasks.

Action 4D-1.4 : Explore and utilize paperless approaches for meetings, public information, and publication of reports, etc.

Action 4D-1.5 : Develop policies and guidelines that allow for certain County staff the ability to work remotely or telecommute when appropriate.

Policy 4D-2 : Improve government accessibility through the adoption and implementation of technology.

Action 4D-2.1 : Utilize the Internet, including websites, emails, and other similar communication vehicles to disseminate information to constituents and the general public.

Action 4D-2.2 : Provide access to public meetings via the Internet, "Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access Channels", or other similar communication vehicles.

Policy 4D-3 : Leverage and support the California Broadband Cooperative, Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium, and other similar not-for-profit broadband organizations to help achieve County goals and objectives.

Action 4D-3.1 : Maintain a County seat on the Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium and maintain the County's interest in regional broadband development and adoption programs.

Action 4D-3.2 : Appoint a non-elected representative to the Board of Directors for the California Broadband Cooperative.

X.070 : Additional Considerations/Topics/Sections:

- Seek out grants and other funding opportunities related to broadband adoption and deployment
- Consider the development of policies targeted at raising revenue to support future communications infrastructure development.

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¹ California Advanced Services Fund is a division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and is responsible for increasing broadband adoption in hard to reach areas of California. More information at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Information+for+providing+service/CASF/index.htm>.

DRAFT