



County of Santa Cruz

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

July 29, 2013

Agenda: August 6, 2013

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

REPORT ON BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND EXPANSION

Dear Members of the Board,

On May 14, 2013, your Board directed staff to return on August 6, 2013 with recommendations for any actions that should be considered to enhance broadband connectivity and expansion in Santa Cruz County. The purpose of this letter is to provide your Board with an update on our efforts to explore and evaluate government-driven administrative and planning initiatives that pose the greatest opportunity for achieving this objective.

Staff in the Information Services Department, Planning Department, Department of Public Works and County Administrative Office have identified and established a plan for responding to your Board's request. Activities to this end have included:

- Individual meetings with Internet Service Providers to discuss current fiber availability, broadband expansion plans, dig once policies, conduit specifications and impediments to broadband deployment.
- Discussions with broadband providers about fiber availability in areas highlighted in economic development reports.
- A group meeting with wireless carriers moderated by the Joint Venture Silicon Valley's Wireless Communication Initiative, which is working to improve wireless infrastructure.
- Outreach to organizations and stakeholders to obtain information on a variety of innovative initiatives, including broadband maps and plans, dig once policies and conduit specifications.
- Identification of potential projects for adding conduit to allow providers to lease from the County and run fiber to end users.

Information is still being collected and reviewed, and more time is needed in order to present recommendations for your Board's consideration.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report and direct staff to return on September 10, 2013 with recommendations related to broadband expansion.

Very truly yours,



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: Information Services Director
Planning Director
Public Works Director