

# Broadband

## October 2023

### Team Members

- Brad Johnson, Department Analyst
- Kate Fosburgh, Digital Access Project Coordinator
- Katherine DiPasqua, Director

### Infrastructure & Deployment

#### Internet Service Provider (ISP) Outreach & Engagement:

- The EDB Broadband team has met with four major private providers (Comcast, Sonic, Frontier & AT&T) to begin brainstorming public private partnership opportunities. Below is a list of potential opportunities to partner with private providers, gauged simply by verbal interest from our outreach and meetings:
  - Multiple Dwelling Unit and Mobile Home Park Connection Assistance: This engagement could be either financial to help subsidize infrastructure on the residentially dense parcels or a form of outreach to ease access permissions from landlords.
  - Fostering Better Permitting Practices: Utilizing the State of [California's Local Permitting Playbook](#) and SB 378, "broadband infrastructure development project permit processing: microtrenching permit processing ordinance", the EDB would facilitate a conversation between providers and local permitting agencies to assist in processes that would safely and efficiently expedite broadband infrastructure deployment.
  - Reassembly of Access Sonoma Broadband Provider Convenings: The EDB, via Access Sonoma Broadband, would host quarterly meetings where ISPs, the County, and other broadband organizations could update each other on recent activities and deliberate on partnership opportunities. Providers expressed a desire for the return of these meetings and that function to be served.
  - Letters of Support: The County of Sonoma would provide letters of support for private provider's grant applications when and where appropriate and non-contradictory to its arrangement with Golden State Connect Authority.

#### Cloverdale Bridge Conduit:

- Among the four project areas included in the County's Federal Funding Account application, East Cloverdale/Preston is one of the key priorities. During the EDB's Broadband Team's discussions with the City of Cloverdale's management and executive staff, an opportunity emerged. They proposed the inclusion of conduit infrastructure in the engineering plans for the [permanent Asti bridge project](#). This would not only connect residents on both the East and West sides of the river to the open access network, but also allow for improved access to other digital resources and services for everyone in the area. The EDB Broadband Team engaged with the Sonoma County Department of Public Infrastructure (SPI), who confirmed this is a good idea. The EDB team is awaiting direction from SPI engineers on next steps.

#### City Partner Outreach:

- The EDB Broadband Team updated city partners on recent progress made for infrastructure deployment and advanced adoption. From that correspondence, the team connected the City of Cotati to Golden State Connect Authority to learn more about partnership opportunities and joining their open access network.

### Advanced Adoption

- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
  1. Approximately 38% (71,600) of all households (189,374) in Sonoma County are eligible for the ACP program. Currently 18% (12,640) of eligible households are enrolled in ACP.
    - The most significant enrollment progress has been made in the Santa Rosa area, with zip code enrollment rates as high as 46%.
  2. Upcoming Opportunities
    - Tabling for ACP enrollment at South County Office in Petaluma
    - Tabling for ACP enrollment at Economic Assistance Service Center (Paulin Dr, Santa Rosa)
- CA Emerging Technology Fund Regional Broadband Consortia Leadership Grant
  1. Preparing outreach to over 100 schools across the four counties, where ALL families are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program based on school participation in the Community Eligibility Provision program.
  2. Kate Fosburgh and Jeff Tyrrell (Mendocino) gave a presentation to California Regional Broadband Consortia on the North Bay North Coast region's broadband implementation strategies and best practices on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.