

# Broadband

## June 2024

### Team Members

- Kate Fosburgh, Digital Access Analyst
- Katherine DiPasqua, Director

### Infrastructure & Deployment

#### Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Funding

- Starting early July, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will host a Challenge Process to accurately identify internet service levels for locations around the state of California. Challengers, including local governments, tribal nations, nonprofits, and internet service providers, can submit evidence to have the status of a location changed (e.g. from served to unserved). This process will ultimately decide which locations are eligible for BEAD funding and which are not. The Broadband Team is working with Sonoma County ISD to review the latest data and determine what level of outreach we will engage in.
- In a recent meeting with the National Telecommunication and Information Agency (NTIA), staff suggested BEAD applications likely will not open until late 2024 or early 2025.

#### Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant

- Tilson Technology, the Telecommunications Services firm contracting with Golden State Connect Authority, conducted drone surveying in our four priority areas from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>. The operation captured imagery of utility structures, roads, sidewalks, etc. to be used in the mapping phase of low-level design. Soon, the Broadband Team will be facilitating site visits to inform Hut construction at the approved locations for each project.

#### AT&T Application: Relief of Carrier of Last Resort Obligation- AB 2797 (McKinnor)

- In May, we provided an update that AT&T's application to the CPUC to be released from their "Carrier of Last Resort" (COLR) obligation was rejected. Since then, legislation was introduced that would accomplish the same aims as AT&T's application to the CPUC for relief of its Carrier of Last Resort Obligations. AB 2797 would allow any Carrier of Last Resort (COLR), in specified areas, to no longer provide service in those locations if the provider submits a notice to the CPUC that it meets certain requirements. Sonoma County is working on a letter to oppose this bill.

### Advanced Adoption

#### CA Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) Regional Broadband Consortia Leadership Grant

- The North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) submitted a final report for this grant on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We have signed a contract with Sonoma County ISD to utilize CETF funds to create a Broadband GIS Hub. This will include an internal tool for quick and effective decision-making and a public facing mapping hub to keep constituents informed on project status and broadband related issues.