

## SBCAG STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Draft Broadband Strategic Plan

**MEETING DATE:** September 15, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mike Becker

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive a presentation on the development of the draft Broadband Strategic Plan, including draft recommendations applicable to SBCAG.

**DISCUSSION:**

SBCAG, at the direction of the Board of Directors, and with the support of each of the region's local governments, is in the process of preparing a broadband strategic plan for the region. The work is being conducted by the Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast and managed by SBCAG staff.

The work is being completed in four broad phases.

1. Convene and Outreach – January through May 2022 – Complete
2. Data Collection – January through September 2022 – Complete
3. Analysis Development – January through September 2022 – Complete
4. Deliverables – August through November 2022 – In Progress

With the development of the draft plan underway, and the development of the final plan soon to be undertaken, there are a variety of milestones that will be completed between now and the end of the year.

1. Today – present the flow and recommendations of the draft plan to the SBCAG Board of Directors
2. October/November – present the draft plan to the region's city councils and the Board of Supervisors.
3. October/November – final plan formatting.
4. November – seek plan adoption by the SBCAG Board of Directors. Depending on feedback received, this may occur in December.
5. December 31, 2022 – project conclusion

The strategic plan is intended to position the region to capitalize on state and federal grants to improve the region's broadband network. It is expected to:

1. Identify the region's current broadband assets and gaps;
2. Assess gaps as compared to the region's disadvantaged communities;
3. Provide planning-level scopes of work for projects to build out the broadband network; and
4. Consider various governance scenarios to continue the work.

Of particular interest with today's item, the presentation will discuss the draft strategic plan's recommendations that pertain to SBCAG. In summary, these include the following.

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

1. Achieving access through improved capacity and connectivity
  - a. Build the middle mile
  - b. Complete the last mile
  - c. Accelerate outcomes
2. Achieve affordability and adoption
  - a. Launch a digital inclusion coalition
  - b. Leverage Federal programs
  - c. Conduct a last mile pilot
3. Achieve Redundancy and resiliency
  - a. Create a regional organization
  - b. Identify and prioritize funding opportunities
  - c. Maintain a GIS capability

Following today's item the project team will integrate any feedback and begin the process of scheduling presentations to city councils and the Board of Supervisors. The ad hoc committee and the technical advisory committee will continue to be engaged in the review process.

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Draft Broadband Strategic Plan (web posting only)