

Agenda Title:**Presentation on draft county Broadband Goals and Strategies, and discussion on request for City Council endorsement of goals**

Summary of Request: The county Broadband Working Group has drafted a document (attachment 1) that identifies 5 large broadband goals for the county, and various strategies to reach each goal. These goals will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors tentatively in July and their endorsement/approval will be requested. Before that time, the Working Group hopes to show widespread support for these goals by obtaining endorsements from various agencies and city governments. These approved goals will then be important foundational work in the future development of a county Broadband Plan.

Background and clarification of various groups:

The Broadband Alliance is a grassroots group that was formed in 2010 by residents frustrated by lack of broadband options, and it's impact on economic development in the county. The only Broadband Plan that was ever developed for the county was drafted by the Alliance in 2012, and relied upon an open infrastructure project called "Golden Bear Broadband" as a foundation for the deployment of broadband around the county and to support existing providers. Unfortunately, that project was not funded by the CPUC, and there is currently no comprehensive plan for our county on how to meet current and future broadband needs.

The North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) is a 4-county collaboration for regional broadband planning, and works closely with the Alliance. The Broadband Working Group was initiated in 2016 as part of NBNCBC work plans specifically to get input from county agencies into the development of a Broadband Plan. The working group is composed of 9 members representing public safety, education, city government, business, providers, consumers, non-profits, and county IT (while being small enough to get things done). These goals are only the first step; next a conceptual infrastructure design will be developed as a foundation for a larger broadband plan in 2018.

These goals are also in alignment with portions of our county legislative platform which address broadband (attachment 2).

More information is also posted on the Alliance website - www.MendocinoBroadband.org/projects/goals-strategies.

The Fort Bragg City Council is requested to endorse these 5 large goals for our county in a show of support. The endorsement form (attachment 3) has a comments section, so the city council is welcome to suggest additions/edits of these goals/strategies. All comments will be compiled and included in the presentation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.