INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

To Participate on Your Computer:
https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109

To Participate by Phone:
Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 116 153 109

Please see next page for detailed instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Given recent public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Peter Waggonner at (213) 630-1402 or via email at waggonner@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1402. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.

Instructions for Public Comments

You may submit public comments in two (2) ways:

1. **Submit written comments via email to: CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.**

   All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. **If participating via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.**

   If unable to connect by Zoom or phone and you wish to make a comment, you may submit written comments via email to: CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

In accordance with SCAG's Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is "willfully interrupted" and the "orderly conduct of the meeting" becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

Instructions for Participating in the Meeting

SCAG is providing multiple options to view or participate in the meeting:

To Participate and Provide Verbal Comments on Your Computer

1. Click the following link: https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109
2. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
3. Select "Join Audio via Computer."
4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
5. During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function located in the participants' window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

To Listen and Provide Verbal Comments by Phone

1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 116 153 109**, followed by **#**.
3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing **#** to continue.
4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
5. During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

CEHD - Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
Members – February 2021

1. **Hon. Jorge Marquez**
   CEHD Chair, Covina, RC District 33

2. **Hon. Frank Yokoyama**
   CEHD Vice Chair, Cerritos, RC District 23

3. **Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler**
   Alhambra, RC District 34

4. **Hon. Al Austin**
   Long Beach, GCCOG

5. **Hon. David Avila**
   Yucaipa, SBCTA

6. **Hon. Megan Beaman-Jacinto**
   Coachella, RC District 66

7. **Hon. Russell Betts**
   Desert Hot Springs, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

8. **Hon. Drew Boyles**
   El Segundo, RC District 40

9. **Hon. Wendy Bucknum**
   Mission Viejo, RC District 13

10. **Hon. Juan Carrillo**
    Palmdale, North LA County

11. **Hon. Michael Carroll**
    Irvine, RC District 14

12. **Hon. Letitia Clark**
    Tustin, RC District 15

13. **Hon. Paula Devine**
    Glendale, RC District 42

14. **Hon. Steve DeRuse**
    La Mirada, RC District 31

15. **Hon. Diane Dixon**
    Newport Beach, RC District 15

16. **Hon. Rose Espinoza**
    La Habra, OCCOG

17. **Hon. Margaret Finlay**
    Duarte, RC District 35

18. **Hon. Alex Fisch**
    Culver City, RC District 41

19. **Hon. Mark Henderson**
    Gardena, RC District 28

20. **Hon. Peggy Huang**
    TCA Representative

21. **Hon. Cecilia Hupp**
    Brea, OCCOG

22. **Hon. Kathleen Kelly**
    Palm Desert, RC District 2

23. **Hon. Jed Leano**
    Claremont, SGVCOG

24. **Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson**
    Riverside, RC District 68

25. **Hon. Marisela Magana**
    Perris, RC District 69

26. **Hon. Anni Marshall**
    Avalon, GCCOG

27. **Hon. Andrew Masiel**
    Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative

28. **Hon. Lauren Meister**
    West Hollywood, WSCCOG

29. **Hon. Bill Miranda**
    Santa Clarita, SFVCOG

30. **Hon. John Mirisch**
    Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

31. **Sup. Holly Mitchell**
    Los Angeles County

32. **George Nava**
    Brawley, ICTC

33. **Hon. Kim Nguyen**
    Garden Grove, RC District 18

34. **Hon. Trevor O'Neil**
    Anaheim, RC District 19

35. **Hon. Ed Paget**
    Needles, SBCTA

36. **Hon. Sunny Park**
    Buena Park, OCCOG

37. **Hon. Michael Posey**
    Huntington Beach, OCCOG

38. **Hon. Misty Perez**
    Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

39. **Hon. Jan Pye**
    Desert Hot Springs, CVAG

40. **Hon. Nithya Raman**
    Los Angeles, RC District 51

41. **Hon. Rita Ramirez**
    Victorville, RC District 65

42. **Hon. Rex Richardson**
    Long Beach, RC District 29

43. **Hon. Sonny Santa Ines**
    Bellflower, GCCOG

44. **Hon. David Shapiro**
    Calabasas, RC District 44

45. **Hon. Becky Shevlin**
    Monrovia, SGVCOG

46. **Hon. Andy Sobel**
    Santa Paula, VCOG

47. **Hon. Mark Waronek**
    Lomita, SBCCOG

48. **Hon. Acquanetta Warren**
    Fontana, SBCTA

49. **Hon. Christi White**
    Murrieta, WRCOG

50. **Hon. Tony Wu**
    West Covina, SGVCOG

51. **Hon. Frank Zerunyan**
    Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:30 AM

The Community, Economic and Human Development Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
(The Honorable Jorge Marquez, Chair)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments by sending an email to: CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021. Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee will be allowed up to 3 minutes to speak, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR
Approval Item

1. Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Meeting

Receive and File

2. Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. Emerging Mobility Patterns During COVID-19 — 25 Mins.
(Tiffany Chu, CEO & Co-Founder, Remix)

4. Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Program Summary and Update — 20 Mins.
(Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director of Planning, Special Initiatives)

5. Community Development Financial Institutions — 20 Mins.
(OC Isaac, Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer, Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corporation (PCR))

6. SoCal Greenprint Update — 30 Mins.
(India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner)

CHAIR'S REPORT
(The Honorable Jorge Marquez, Chair)

STAFF REPORT
(Jonathan Hughes, SCAG Staff)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 4, 2021

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD)
THURSDAY, J!b¦!w¸ 7, 2021

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/

The Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting telephonically and electronically given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20.
A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair	***Covina***	**RC District 33**
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair	***Cerritos***	**RC District 23**
Hon. David Avila	*Yucaipa*	SBCTA
Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	*Coachella*	District 66
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	*Mission Viejo*	District 13
Hon. Juan Carrillo	*Palmdale*	District 43
Hon. Michael C. Carroll	*Irvine*	District 14
Hon. Steve De Ruse	*La Mirada*	GCCOG
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	*Duarte*	District 35
Hon. Alex Fisch	*Culver City*	District 41
Hon. Mark Henderson	*Gardena*	District 28
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	*Brea*	OCCOG
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	*Palm Desert*	District 2
Hon. Jed Leano	*Claremont*	SGVCOG
Hon. Marisela Magana	*Perris*	District 69
Hon. Anni Marshall	*Avalon*	GCCOG
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	*Tribal Gov't Regl Planning*	
Hon. Lauren Meister	*West Hollywood*	WSCCOG
Hon. Bill Miranda	*Santa Clarita*	SFVCOG
Hon. John Mirisch	*Beverly Hills*	*Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large*

Hon. George Nava	*Brawley*	ICTC
Hon. Kim Nguyen	*Garden Grove*	District 18
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	*Anaheim*	District 19
Hon. Jan Pye	*Desert Hot Springs*	CVAG
Hon. Nithya Raman	*Los Angeles*	District 51
Hon. Carmen Ramirez	*Ventura County*	*Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large*
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	*Bellflower*	GCCOG
Hon. David Shapiro	*Calabasas*	District 44
Hon. Becky Shevlin	*Monrovia*	SGVCOG
Hon. Mark Waronek	*Lomita*	SBCCOG
Hon. Christi White	*Murrieta*	WRCOG
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	*Rolling Hills Estates*	SBCCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Al Austin, II	*Long Beach*	GCCOG
Hon. Russell Betts	*Desert Hot Springs*	*Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large*
Hon. Drew Boyles	*El Segundo*	District 40
Hon. Paula Devine	*Glendale*	District 42
Hon. Rose Espinoza	*La Habra*	OCCOG
Hon. Holly Mitchell		Los Angeles County
Hon. Edward Paget	*Needles*	SBCTA
Hon. Sunny Park	*Buena Park*	OCCOG
Hon. Michael Posey	*Huntington Beach*	District 64
Hon. Rita Ramirez	*Victorville*	District 65
Hon. Rex Richardson	*Long Beach*	District 29
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	*Fontana*	SBCTA
Hon. Tony Wu	*West Covina*	SGVCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Jorge Marquez, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Marquez opened the public comment period and reported that the public comment procedures had been updated to allow to anyone on their computers to speak by using the "raised hands" function on the computer, and/or by staff announcing any member of the public from their phone.

Additionally, public comments received via email to CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov after 5pm the previous night, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

Staff reported that there were no public comments received. Chair Marquez closed the public comment period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no reprioritizations made.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Item

1. Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Meeting

Receive and File

2. California Air Resources Board (CARB) Acceptance of Connect SoCal and Recommendations

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Waronek) and passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: AVILA, BEAMAN JACINTO, BUCKNUM, CARRILLO, DE RUSE, FINLAY, FISCH, HENDERSON, HUANG, HUPP, KELLY, LEANO, MAGANA, MARQUEZ, MARSHALL, MASIEL, MEISTER, MIRISCH, NAVA, NGUYEN, O'NEIL, PYE, RAMAN, SANTA INES, SHAPIRO, SHEVLIN, WARONEK, WHITE AND ZERUNYAN (29).

NOES: (0).

ABSTAIN: RAMIREZ, C. (Minutes) (1).

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. Regional Housing Trust Funds

Chair Marquez introduced speakers, Adam Eliason, of the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, and Marisa Creter, Executive Director, San Gabriel Valley Association of Governments, to discuss the establishment of regional housing trust funds and their support in the production of affordable housing in the SCAG region.

Mr. Eliason and Ms. Creter presented highlights of their presentation, which included a wide range of strategies to increase access to affordable housing and efficiently address critical housing needs at a local level, including their perspectives on establishing and developing their respective regional housing trust funds, funding strategies and best practices. Additional highlights discussed included:

- Housing Trust Funds purpose and mission
- Funding sources that include matching funds and REAP administrative funds through SCAG and OCCOG
- Regional approach overview and affiliated member cities
- San Gabriel Valley project pipeline
- Next steps, including funding strategies and planning efforts

Mr. Eliason and Ms. Creter responded to comments and questions from the Committee, including questions pertaining to the establishment of community land banks along with housing trust funds, solutions to prevent corporate takeovers of distressed properties, administrative fees, and initial setup cost for cities to get started with a JPA, and if the permanent supportive housing units are eligible RHNA units.

Chair Marquez and the Committee thanked Mr. Eliason and Ms. Creter for their excellent presentation and noted that the Committee would follow-up with them for any additional ideas and or questions they may have.

The complete report with the PowerPoint presentation was included in the agenda packet.

4. Updates on Regional Data Platform (RDP)

Chair Marquez introduced Javier Aguilar, SCAG staff. Mr. Aguilar provided a brief update on the first in a suite of resources to be provided by the Regional Data Platform (RDP), an online tool used for SCAG and local jurisdictions to access data necessary for local general plan development and general decision making by monitoring transportation, land development trends, housing and economic growth and sustainability conditions.

Mr. Aguilar's PowerPoint presentation focused on the following highlights:

- RDP program goals and priorities
- RDP schedule and timelines
- Local jurisdiction outreach
- Next steps, training resources and additional support tools updated through 2021

Chair Marquez and the Committee thanked Mr. Aguilar for his presentation.

The complete report with the PowerPoint presentation was included in the agenda packet.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Marquez and the CEHD members recognized and welcomed incoming members to the CEHD Committee as well as recognizing of Councilmember Mike Posey, Huntington Beach who previously served as an OCCOG policy committee appointee and now continues his service as the Regional Council Member from District 64.

STAFF REPORT

Jonathan Hughes, SCAG staff, announced that the RHNA appeal hearings are being held in the month of January. He noted that the full RHNA appeals schedule is available on the SCAG website under the RHNA webpage heading.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Marquez adjourned the CEHD Committee meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carmen Summers
Community, Economic and Human Development Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CEHD COMMITTEE]
//

CEHD Members

2020-2021																
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Austin, Al	Long Beach	GCCOG													0
Avila, David	Yucaipa	SBCTA						1		1					2
Beaman Jacinto, Megan	Coachella	District 66		1		1		1		1					4
Betts, Russell	Desert Hot Springs	President's Appointment													
Boyles, Drew	El Segundo	District 40						1							1
Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo	District 13		1		1	1	1		1					5
Carrillo, Juan	Palmdale	District 43					1	1		1					3
Carroll, Michael, C.	Irvine	District 14				1		1		1					3
DeRuse, Steve	La Mirada	District 31		1		1	1	1		1					5
Devine, Paula	Glendale	District 42		1		1									2
Espinoza, Rose	La Habra	OCCOG		1											1
Finlay, Margaret	Duarte	District 35		1		1	1	1		1					5
Fisch, Alex	Culver City	District 41								1					1
Henderson, Mark	Gardena	District 28		1		1	1			1					4
Huang, Peggy	Yorba Linda	TCA		1		1	1	1		1					5
Hupp, Cecilia	Brea	OCCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Kelly, Kathleen	Palm Desert	District 2		1		1	1	1		1					5
Leano, Jed	Claremont	SGVCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Magana, Marisela	Perris	District 69					1			1					2
Marquez, Jorge, Chair	Covina	District 33		1		1	1	1		1					5
Marshall, Anni	Avalon	GCCOG				1	1	1		1					4
Masiel, Andrew		Tribal Govt Regl Planning Rep.		1						1					2
Meister, Lauren	West Hollywood	WSCCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Miranda, Bill	Santa Clarita	SFVCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Mirisch, John	Beverly Hills	President's Appointment		1		1	1	1		1					5
Mitchell, Holly		Los Angeles County													
Nava, George	Brawley	ICTC								1					1
Nguyen, Kim	Garden Grove	District 18		1		1	1	1		1					5
O'Neil, Trevor	Anaheim	District 19		1		1	1	1		1					5
Paget, Ed	Needles	SBCTA					1	1							2
Park, Sunny	Buena Park	OCCOG		1		1									2
Posey, Michael	Huntington Beach	District 64						1							1
Pye, Jan	Desert Hot Springs	CVAG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Raman, Nithya	Los Angeles	District 51								1					1
Ramirez, Carmen		Ventura County								1					1
Ramirez, Rita	Victorville	District 65		1				1							2
Richardson, Rex	Long Beach	District 29		1		1	1	1							4
Santa Ines, Sonny	Bellflower	GCCOG				1	1	1		1					4
Shapiro, David	Calabasas	District 44		1		1	1	1		1					5
Shevlin, Becky	Monrovia	SGVCOG				1	1	1		1					4
Waronek, Mark	Lomita	SBCCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5
Warren, Acquanetta	Fontana	SBCTA		1		1	1	1							4
Christi White	Murrieta	WRCOG								1					1
Wu, Tony	West Covina	SGVCOG		1		1	1								3
Yokoyama, Frank, Vice Chair	Cerritos	District 23		1		1	1	1		1					5
Zerunyan, Frank	Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG		1		1	1	1		1					5

Attachment: CEHD ATTENDANCE 1.7.21 (Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Meeting)

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 4, 2021

To: Community, Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

From: Roland Ok, Program Manager,
(213) 236-1819, ok@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:
Adopt Resolution 21-629-2 to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC AND TC:
Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide in underserved communities, including communities of color, rural communities and senior citizens, more apparent as work, commerce, health and other economic services have moved online. Residents in underserved communities are struggling to participate in the digital landscape as broadband services are unavailable to them due to lack of affordability or infrastructure. As such, there is a need to expedite broadband infrastructure deployment and provide connectivity at an affordable rate to underserved communities. SCAG staff has drafted a resolution (Resolution No. 21-629-2) for the Regional Council to adopt, which would establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide.

BACKGROUND:
The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has implemented several initiatives as stated in the September 3, 2020 staff report regarding Emerging Issues and Trends for Future

Planning[1] to address matters regarding the digital divide and matters of equity within underserved communities (including communities of color and rural communities).

The Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 20-623-2, which established a special committee on equity and social justice and directed SCAG to develop a program to address economic and social disparities within communities of color.

Broadband has become essential infrastructure for the 21st century. Schools, offices, retail and governments all rely on online platforms, offering people significant time savings and a digital avenue for economic prosperity. Additionally, digital skills are increasingly necessary for a growing number of jobs.

However, broadband can only deliver benefits to those who have access to connect, afford and know how to use it. By these measures, broadband is still far from a universal service in American cities. Over 2,000,000 Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service at benchmark speeds of 100 megabits per second downloads and as of December 2018, 23 percent of California housing units, housing 8.4 million residents do not have broadband subscriptions.

According to the 2019 United States Census Data, within the SCAG region alone, approximately 650,000 households (or 10 percent of all households) do not have access to adequate internet speeds (dial-up internet) or no internet access.[2] These households are disproportionately located in low income and rural areas and the populations are predominantly Black, Latino[3] or Senior Citizens (Age 65+).

Access to universal subscription is attributed to a range of factors. Broadband is still considered relatively expensive, and survey results regularly show prices as a significant barrier to broadband adoption.[4] Many also lack digital skills – significantly 52% of adults are "relatively hesitant" when it comes to new technologies and digital skills, meaning they have low levels of digital skills or limited trust in the internet.[5] Finally, there are still physical infrastructural gaps that provide another significant barrier for adoption.[6]

[1] SCAG Staff Report on Connect SoCal – Emerging Issues and Trends for Future Planning, pg. 801.
[2] 2019 U.S. Census ACS Survey Data, Household Income in the Last 12 Months by Presence and Type of Internet Subscription by Household (SCAG Region).
[3] Language and terms connected to equity and representation are evolving (Latino v. Latinx) and may not represent current or future best practices. The names of indicators used in this report are drawn from terminology used in the data source (U.S. Census) where they are taken from.
[4] Monica Anderson, "Mobile Technology and Home Broadband 2019" (Washington: Pew Research Center, 2019).
[5] John B. Horrigan, "Digital Readiness Gaps" (Washington: Pew Research Center, 2016).
[6] 2020 Broadband Deployment Report available at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-50A1.pdf

With the COVID-19 pandemic pushing more activities online, the pandemic has made the digital divide in underserved communities more apparent. At least 124,000 schools within the United States have closed, affecting approximately 55 million students.[7] With 10 percent of households in the SCAG region lacking proper access to broadband, many students within low income or underserved communities now face a disadvantage in learning and keeping pace with their peers. Further, telework has created a similar division, allowing for some to safely work from home while others must keep commuting to work and putting their health at risk. These issues extend to telemedicine, e-commerce, food delivery services, and entertainment. Activities shifting towards the digital landscape may remain so after the pandemic, and households without access to broadband will face significant educational, health and economic disadvantages.

Executive Order N-73-20 and State Broadband Action Plan

On August 14, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-73-20 (Attachment 2), which requires state agencies working on the digital divide to accelerate mapping and data collection, funding, deployment and adoption of high-speed internet. It also required the state's Broadband Council, which was established in 2010 to boost broadband deployment, form a new state Broadband Action Plan (Attachment 3). The Plan includes a roadmap for broadband deployment and adoption by local governments, publicly accessible information on funding opportunities for broadband and maximized access in underserved communities and tribal lands.

Sample Resolution and Policy Paper to Bring Broadband in Underserved Communities

Following the signing of Executive Order N-73-20 and at the behest of SCAG's Emerging Technology Committee, local jurisdictions and other stakeholders, SCAG and its sister metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), convened a working group to assist in bridging the digital divide. Members of the working group included various stakeholders throughout the region (elected officials, National CORE, BizFed, K-12 school districts, universities, broadband providers, public health officials and others). As a result, SCAG drafted a sample resolution and policy paper to bring broadband in underserved communities for local jurisdictions to adopt, with input from stakeholders (Attachment 4). The sample resolution and policy paper were presented to the Emerging Technologies Committee on October 29, 2020 for input and review.

[7] Coronavirus and School Closures", *Education Week*, March 6, 2020. Available online at https://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures.html.

The sample resolution and policy paper recognize broadband access throughout Southern California and exacerbation of the digital divide within underserved communities due to COVID-19. SCAG recognizes that some local jurisdictions (Los Angeles County) have adopted a resolution of their own. As such, the draft resolution was designed to complement existing programs rather than supersede them. Key items the resolution supports are as follows:

- Collaboration with Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties, broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California;

- The request for grant funding from the State and/or Federal government for a regional program that provides funding for free internet access for qualifying residents that bridges the economic digital divide;

- Working with collaborating jurisdictions to affect the deployment decisions of broadband providers by lowering permitting fees to a reasonable level, reduce the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems in our communities, reduce the risks of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases, provide opportunities for increasing revenue, and creating new avenues for competitive entry;

- Identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports the adoption of an emergency ordinance which would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to expedite low cost broadband deployment such as: waivers for microprojects, deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved communities and fixed wireless or other broadband technologies in rural communities;

- The adoption of consistent fees and expedited broadband permitting processes within collaborating jurisdictions.

To date, three of the six counties (Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles) within the SCAG region have adopted a resolution to address the digital divide, with Riverside and San Bernardino Counties using the working group's sample resolution as a template. SCAG recommends that local jurisdictions use the sample resolution and policy paper as a template for jurisdictions that are interested but have yet to adopt a resolution.

Resolution of SCAG Setting Forth Support to Increase Broadband Access to Bridge the Digital Divide throughout Southern California

As the State and local jurisdictions work towards rapid broadband development, stakeholders have requested that the SCAG Regional Council recognize and work towards bridging the digital divide through regional cohesiveness. As such, SCAG has developed its own resolution for the Regional Council to adopt. SCAG's Resolution recognizes its limited authority and upon approval would direct staff to develop its own Broadband Action Plan which may include but is not limited to the following:

- Develop a model resolution and policy paper addressing the digital divide, for local jurisdictions to adopt;
- Pursue grant funding opportunities and seek partnerships to assist local jurisdictions with broadband implementation, including a regional broadband needs assessment, to complement State efforts;
- Convene a working group which would act as a venue for SCAG, local jurisdictions, broadband providers and stakeholders to develop solutions to allow for rapid deployment of broadband technology such as: streamlining the permit process, lowering fees to a reasonable level, and reducing the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems within underserved communities;
- Include broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, as part of SCAG's efforts to ensure an inclusive Regional Economic Recovery and Strategy;
- Incorporate broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs (Environmental Justice, Transportation Demand Management, Goods Movement, Sustainability, Resilience, etc.);
- Based on SCAG's findings, utilize data as part of Scenario Planning Process for upcoming and future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval, Staff will provide regular updates to the Regional Council and Policy Committees on the progress of the SCAG's Broadband Action Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This project is funded in SCAG's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Overall Work Program (OWP) under project 020-0161A.04 (Environmental Compliance, Coordination and Outreach)

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. Resolution No. 21-629-2
2. Executive Order N-73-20
3. State Broadband Action Plan
4. Sample Resolution and Policy Paper for Local Jurisdiction

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

RESOLUTION NO. 21-629-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SETTING FORTH SUPPORT TO INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a Joint Powers Agency established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6502 et seq.;

WHEREAS, SCAG is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange and Imperial, pursuant to Title 23, United States Code Section 134(d);

WHEREAS, SCAG is responsible for bringing Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in more healthy, sustainable, and economically resilient communities;

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expands economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within underserved communities and/or areas (which include people of color, low-income households, residents in rural areas, and senior citizens) more apparent;

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes that lack of infrastructure, cost and household income are key barriers to broadband access;

WHEREAS, all residents, businesses and institutions need high speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables Work from Home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband is a "green technology" that reduces our impact on the environment, shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources, and saving energy;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents throughout the region to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases;

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety, and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient;

WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property;

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would support SCAG's commitment to address equity issues throughout the SCAG region (Resolution 20-623-2);

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would assist in implementing the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies (Connect SoCal);

WHEREAS, evaluating and/or developing strategies to bridge the digital divide would assist in the development of future Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments:

1. Declares that bridging the digital divide is integral to developing a healthy, resilient and economically competitive region;

2. Supports the FCC's (United States Federal Communications Commission) and CPUC's (California Public Utilities Commission) rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to bridge the digital divide;

3. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020 that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California;

4. Supports collaboration with local jurisdictions within the SCAG region, broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, MPOs, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California;

5. Hereby directs staff to develop a Broadband Action Plan which may include but are not limited to the following:

    a. Develop a model resolution and policy paper addressing the digital divide, for local jurisdictions to adopt;

    b. Pursue grant funding opportunities and seek partnerships to assist local jurisdictions with broadband implementation, including a regional broadband needs assessment, to complement State efforts;

c. Convene a working group which would act as a venue for SCAG, local jurisdictions, broadband providers and stakeholders to develop solutions to allow for rapid deployment of broadband technology such as: streamlining the permit process, lower fees to a reasonable level, reduce the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems within underserved communities;

d. Include broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, as part of SCAG's efforts to ensure an inclusive Regional Economic Recovery and Strategy;

e. Incorporate broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs (Environmental Justice, Transportation Demand Management, Goods Movement, Sustainability, Resilience, etc.);

f. Based on SCAG's findings, utilize data as part of Scenario Planning Process for upcoming and future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

PASSED, **APPROVED**, **AND ADOPTED**, by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 4th day of February, 2021:

_____

Rex Richardson
President, SCAG
Councilmember, City of Long Beach

Attested by:

_____

Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

_____

Michael Houston
Chief Counsel

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-73-20

WHEREAS deploying affordable and reliable broadband networks throughout California will accelerate continuous improvements in economic and workforce development, infrastructure, public safety, education, economy, and an engaged citizenry; and

WHEREAS broadband access, adoption, and training are essential components of digital equity for California's diverse populations; and

WHEREAS over 2,000,000 Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service at benchmark speeds of 100 megabits per second download, including 50 percent of rural housing units; and

WHEREAS as of December 2018, 23 percent of California housing units, housing 8.4 million residents, do not have broadband subscriptions; and

WHEREAS despite the increasing importance of broadband for employment, health, public safety information and community connections, 34 percent of adults 60 and over do not currently use the Internet; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the extent to which broadband is essential for public safety, public health, and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning; and

WHEREAS telehealth greatly expands the ability of Californians to access medical, behavioral and oral health services, and has been prioritized across health systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet not all Californians have access to sufficient broadband to allow live video connections; and

WHEREAS effective emergency services require using broadband infrastructure to integrate data in real time from all available sources so decision makers at the local, regional, and statewide level have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property; and

WHEREAS local and tribal governments play a critical role in understanding the broadband needs of their communities and in infrastructure planning and permitting.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. California state agencies subject to my authority are directed to pursue a minimum broadband speed goal of 100 megabits per second download speed to guide infrastructure investments and program implementation to benefit all Californians.

2. The California Broadband Council is requested to create a new State Broadband Action Plan by December 31, 2020, and to review the plan annually thereafter. The California Department of Technology's Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy is directed to support and monitor implementation of the Plan and this Executive Order. The Plan shall incorporate the 100 megabits per second goal, and include the following elements:

    a. A roadmap to accelerate the deployment and adoption of broadband by state agencies and to support such deployment and adoption by local governments.

    b. Publicly accessible information on all federal and state funding opportunities and eligibility requirements.

    c. Provisions to maximize the inclusion of tribal lands in all broadband access and adoption opportunities developed in consultation with tribal governments.

MAPPING AND DATA

3. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is requested to lead data aggregation and mapping efforts in collaboration with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and other relevant state agencies, local and tribal governments, and regional consortia. These efforts should address:

    a. Locations without broadband access;

    b. Information on public and private broadband network infrastructure;

    c. State-owned infrastructure and rights of way;

    d. The costs of deploying various middle and last-mile network components; and

    e. Information to support the development of local broadband infrastructure deployment and digital equity plans.

4. The California Department of Technology (CDT), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Department of General Services (DGS), is directed to regularly convene private-sector companies in an effort to understand and predict current and future demand for broadband, for the purpose of enabling the State to more effectively allocate resources and manage policies and

programs supporting broadband goals and continuing the State's leadership in broadband innovation.

FUNDING

5. GO-Biz is directed to identify funding opportunities for broadband deployment and adoption by:

    a. Collaborating with all cabinet-level agencies, independent departments, and independent constitutional officers to create a list of funding sources to support broadband, equipment, and digital literacy; and

    b. Coordinating efforts of state agencies to maximize federal broadband funding for California.

6. CDT, in collaboration with DGS, is directed to seek opportunities to leverage the State's contract authorities as resources to further statewide broadband access and adoption.

DEPLOYMENT

7. CalSTA and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are directed to work with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to identify and incorporate the installation of conduit and/or fiber into all appropriate and feasible transportation projects along strategic corridors.

8. CPUC, in collaboration with CDT and other relevant agencies, is requested to seek opportunities to use programs under its jurisdiction to accelerate broadband deployment and to leverage utility infrastructure to increase access to existing fiber and cost-effectively deploy new fiber.

9. DGS is directed to provide an inventory of state property for possible use for broadband infrastructure based on such criteria as may be provided by the CPUC, Caltrans, and other relevant agencies, to accelerate broadband deployment.

10. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is directed to coordinate with jurisdictions implementing Next-Generation 9-1-1 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public safety and disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

11. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is directed to identify and facilitate new broadband projects that support precision agriculture and food systems in rural communities. CDFA is also directed to work with CalOES to inventory the status of existing broadband connectivity at all fairgrounds.

12. The California Department of Housing and Community Development and the California Housing Finance Agency are directed to provide recommendations to the CPUC to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity at all publicly subsidized housing communities for residential units.

ADOPTION

13. GO-Biz is directed to coordinate the outreach efforts of existing statewide programs and institutions to inform residents of affordable Internet service offerings, including:

    a. The CPUC is requested to develop tools for low-income individuals and social service organizations to easily identify and subscribe to affordable broadband plans;

    b. The California Emerging Technologies Fund is directed to continue promoting affordable home Internet service offers to recipients of the National School Lunch Program; and

    c. The California State Library, in consultation with local libraries, is directed to promote affordable home Internet services within their communities.

14. The California Department of Education is requested to continue leading statewide efforts to ensure that students have the computing devices and connectivity necessary for distance learning and online instruction.

15. The California Department of Aging, in partnership with CDT and CPUC, is directed to analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and to identify program and partnership opportunities to close the digital divide among older Californians.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 14th day of August 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN 2020

CALIFORNIA BROADBAND FOR ALL

CALIFORNIA BROADBAND COUNCIL

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California

Re: the State of California's Broadband Action Plan

Dear Governor Newsom:

Broadband is essential to modern life. The Covid-19 pandemic has only reinforced our reliance on broadband—and the importance of closing the digital divide. With school, work, and health care increasingly—or completely—available online as a public health imperative, Californians' ability to access and use broadband became the difference between being able to fully engage in life, and being cut off.

In light of these challenges, in response to executive order N-73-20 calling for a California State Broadband Action Plan, the California Broadband Council developed the "Broadband for All" Action Plan with the understanding that broadband access, adoption, and training are essential components of digital equity. The Council solicited extensive engagement and input from state and local agencies, state legislative leaders, tribal nations, broadband industry leaders, nonprofits, and members of the public.

This Plan focuses on achieving three long-term goals: All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses; All Californians have access to affordable broadband and the devices necessary to access the internet; and All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion. To achieve these goals the California Broadband Council plans to leverage the state's full range of tools, including policy, programs, funding, partnerships, and collaborations with federal, local, and tribal governments.

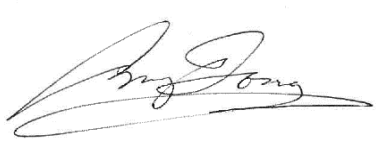
We recognize that enabling every Californian to access and adopt broadband will require time. Like the rest of the country, we face complex and deep-rooted challenges to delivering Broadband for All. We also recognize achieving Broadband for All will require partnerships with and support from the broadband industry and federal, local, and tribal governments. The California Broadband Council is committed to working with all partners to implement these actions, monitor progress, and update the action plan annually informed by what we accomplish, learn, and new opportunities.

We want to give special recognition to the California Broadband Council designees whose dedication and contributions to the Broadband for All Action Plan were invaluable.

We appreciate the opportunity to establish the state's Broadband for All Action Plan and proudly look forward to partnering across agencies and organizations at every level of government—and with industry—to take action that will ensure all Californians have equal access to affordable, high-performance broadband and the devices and skills needed to use it.

Sincerely,

The California Broadband Council



Amy Tong, Chair, State CIO and Director of California Department of Technology

Senator Ben Hueso, Vice-Chair, Member of the California State Senate
Sarah Smith, Designee, Consultant for the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee

Assemblyman Mike Gipson, Member, California State Assembly
Dr. Angelo Williamson, Designee, Chief of Staff

Tony Thurmond, Member, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jerry Winkler, Designee, Education Program Consultant for the California Department of Education

Marybel Batjer, Member, President of California Public Utilities Commission
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Designee, Commissioner

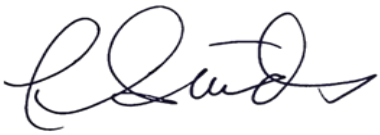
Mark Ghilarducci, Member, Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Mitch Medigovich, Designee, Deputy Director
Pat Mallon, Designee, Assistant Director Public Safety Communications

Daniel Kim, Member, Director of the Department of General Services
Brent Jamison, Designee, Deputy Director for the Interagency Support Division

David Kim, Member, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency
Lori Pepper, Designee, Deputy Secretary for Innovative Mobility Solutions

Greg Lucas, Member, Director of the California State Library
Anne Neville-Bonilla, Designee, Director of the California Research Bureau

Karen Ross, Member, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture
Arturo Barajas, Designee, Deputy Secretary



Christina Snider, Member, Governor's Tribal Advisor

Sunne Wright-McPeak, Member, President of the California Emerging Technology Fund

Table of Contents

Dedication

This Broadband for All Action Plan is dedicated to the memory of the late Honorable Gwen Moore. She was the fourth African American woman elected to the California Legislature in 1978. Assemblywoman Moore led transformative changes to California's telecommunication policies during her 16-year career in the legislature, 12 of which were as Chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee. Assemblywoman Moore not only crafted the state's Universal Service Act, bringing affordable telephone access to all Californians—she also imagined a California in which residents could all benefit from access to the internet, even proposing a statewide ISDN network in 1993. In a state that has led the world's technology innovations, the California Broadband Council remains grateful to a leader who believed and left a legacy of work to ensure all Californians should have equal and equitable access to these innovations and opportunities.

Executive Summary

Broadband is essential to modern life. It is an engine of economic possibility, educational opportunity, civic engagement, and access to health care. People and communities that lack broadband and the means to use it are falling behind.

Residents in less populated areas have much less access to broadband services. But lack of broadband is not just a matter of geography or density; income, education, disability status, age, race, and ethnicity all correlate with lower broadband adoption. In other words, the poor, the less-educated, the differently abled, seniors, and people of color also feel the costs of the digital divide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced our reliance on broadband—and the importance of closing the divide. With school, work, and health care increasingly—or completely—available online as a public health imperative, Californians' ability to access and use broadband became the difference between being able to fully engage in life, and being cut off.

In light of these challenges, this California State Broadband Action Plan—prepared in response to Governor Gavin Newsom's executive order[1]—reflects the state's belief that broadband is essential to economic and workforce development, public safety, education, and an engaged public.

The California Broadband Council developed this "Broadband for All" plan in fall 2020 understanding that digital equity warrants broadband access, adoption, and training.

The Council solicited extensive engagement and input from state and local agencies, state legislative leaders, tribal nations, broadband industry leaders, nonprofits, and members of the public. Besides our own research on national best practices, we reviewed 70 written comments and listened to ideas and concerns raised by many of the 150 organizations and more than 600 attendees that participated in listening sessions, online events, and meetings.[2]

This Plan focuses on achieving three long-term goals:

[1] California Executive Order N-73-20, https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/8.14.20-EO-N-73-20.pdf.

[2] All written public comments, transcripts and recordings of the listening sessions and the California Broadband Council meetings are available on the Council's website (https://broadbandcouncil.ca.gov/action-plan/).

Goal 1: All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

Goal 2: All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.

Goal 3: All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion.

To achieve these goals, the Council plans to leverage the state's full range of tools, including policy, programs, funding, partnerships, and collaborations with federal, municipal, and tribal governments. This Plan lays out key actions including:

- Modernize broadband speed and performance standards
- Simplify processes and leverage existing assets and construction
- Set reliability standards
- Increase access to affordable broadband services and devices
- Promote affordable broadband services and devices
- Encourage broadband competition
- Strengthen partnerships and coordinate initiatives
- Improve broadband data and mapping transparency and usability
- Develop technical assistance and support
- Bolster partnerships

We know this will take time. Like the rest of the country, we face complex and deep-rooted challenges to delivering Broadband for All.

We are making plans in an ever-changing landscape. For example, the potential impacts of federal programs like the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund remain unknown. The actions we propose here are first steps. We will revise these actions at least annually to reflect new achievements and opportunities.

We cannot do this alone. We need partnerships with and support from the broadband industry and federal, local, and tribal governments to achieve

Broadband for All. We expect to partner across agencies and organizations at every level of government and industry.

This is a moment for collaboration. The COVID-19 pandemic and devastating wildfire season have tested our state, our communities, and our loved ones. Californians have struggled to work, learn, and care for each other from home. In response, California's government, business, philanthropic, and nonprofit communities have come together to help blunt the worst effects of the digital divide.

- The Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery and the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Digital Divide Task Force helped secure donations of over 64,000 internet-accessible devices and 100,000 hot spots for students.[3]

- The Governor's task force also reached out to internet service providers such as Cox, Charter, and Comcast, which extended low-cost plans to low-income children and families to assist with distance learning. Several other internet service providers expanded their affordable offers and enacted more beneficial policies on service termination, fees, and data caps.

These examples of collaboration and philanthropy helped California address the worst of the short-term effects of the pandemic, make meaningful headway on devices, and illustrate the importance of the work ahead.

We are proud to partner across our state to ensure all Californians have equal access to affordable, high-performance broadband and the devices and skills needed to use it.

[3] "State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and Digital Divide Task Force Identify Resources, Partnerships Available to Support Successful Distance Learning in the Fall," California Department of Education, News Release, July 23, 2020, https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel61.asp.

Why Broadband for All?

Broadband can transform lives—and lack of access or adoption of broadband can limit Californians' economic, educational, and health care opportunities.

- ***Imagine*** two seniors with medical needs, struggling to find reliable transportation to get to and from weekly medical appointments—and unable to take advantage of telehealth visits because they do not have access to broadband (and might not know how to use it even if they did).
- ***Imagine*** a family of five working and learning from home. Imagine the kids trying to understand geometry while the video of their teacher pauses and freezes. Imagine adults taking turns sitting in the car to take work video calls—unable to connect because the family does not have enough bandwidth to keep from knocking each other offline.
- ***Imagine*** a college student working a full-time, minimum-wage job by day and attending online classes at night, and then coming home after a nine-hour day and spending the next five hours trying to stream courses and submit homework through a smartphone.
- ***Imagine*** a farmer in the heart of the Central Valley who cannot effectively compete in global markets because of the lack of broadband access necessary to utilize internet-enabled machinery that other farms use to optimize soil fertility and yield more crops.

Since the beginning of the internet era, California's policymakers have envisioned a California in which all residents can communicate using robust and affordable services, and where they are empowered to leverage these technologies for economic and social benefits.[4] Even as far back as 1993, the state considered at what point internet access would become so essential that broadband should be made affordable to everyone.[5]

[4] See, for example, AB 1289 (Stats. 1993 Ch. 1143), which made it the policy of the state "to promote economic growth, job creation, and the substantial social benefits that will result from the rapid implementation of advanced information and communications technologies by adequate long-term investment in the necessary infrastructure." And SB 1563 (Stats. 2002, Ch. 674) which made it the policy of California "To assist in bridging the 'digital divide' by encouraging expanded access to a state-of-the-art technologies for rural, inner-city, low-income, and disabled Californians."

[5] California Public Utilities Commission. "Enhancing California's Competitive Strength: A Strategy for Telecommunications Infrastructure (A Report to the Governor)." November 1993, 48.

The Council's pursuit of Broadband for All is rooted in a belief that broadband internet access is a critical service, not a luxury:

- Broadband access enables individuals to work, study, communicate, apply for government services, operate home-based businesses, receive emergency information, and access health care.
- Broadband powers the state's most critical systems, from its electrical grid to its water supply systems, its public safety and emergency response networks. Broadband underpins modern life.
- Broadband has helped ensure California's ability to compete on the world stage for years. Broadband enables communities to build thriving economies by attracting talent and businesses. It powers California's advancement and success in industries from higher education to manufacturing and agriculture, and in the service economy.

Like residents of every other state, however, Californians have uneven access to and adoption of broadband.

These challenges existed when Governor Newsom announced in November 2019 that he would bring stakeholders together to develop a Broadband for All plan.[6] Four months later, the COVID-19 pandemic upended many aspects of Californians' lives—and broadband, already essential to so many activities, became the only point of entry to many critical life needs. Nearly 7 million California K-12 students saw their schools close and started learning from home,[7] employees who were able to telework began working remotely, and Medicare patients began seeing their doctors through telehealth visits at much greater rates.

Even as in-person activities resume, digital tools and services will continue to become integral to modern life. Those without broadband will fall further behind. They will miss out on professional opportunities and quality-of-life improvements. This is especially troubling for historically underserved communities already behind their connected peers.

---

[6] "In Fresno at the California Economic Summit, Governor Newsom Highlights New Investments in Higher Education, Actions to Strengthen California's Workforce & His Administration's Focus on Regional Growth Strategies," Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, News Release, November 8, 2019, https://www.gov.ca.gov/2019/11/08/in-fresno-at-the-california-economic-summit-governor-newsom-highlights-new-investments-in-higher-education-actions-to-strengthen-californias-workforce-his-administrations-focus-on-regiona/.

[7] Council staff calculation: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/ceffingertipfacts.asp.

Broadband for All also represents new opportunities; a way not just to keep up, but a means to get ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic compelled many employers, employees, and entrepreneurs to pivot quickly to working from alternative places. That same type of innovation could be harnessed to encourage new regional economic development efforts after the pandemic—building on the Governor's Regions Rise Together initiative.[8]

[8] "Regions Rise Together," State of California, https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d056b93e3116413cbd1ad25cc4245221.

The Current State of Broadband in California

Delivering broadband to a state as large and diverse as California is complicated. Regions and communities vary by levels of competition, historic investment, and the need for subsidies to incentivize infrastructure deployment and broadband adoption.

While broadband infrastructure and increasing adoption have helped power California's fiscal health and well-being for decades, uneven access to this essential service remains.[9] According to the most recent figures, 23 percent of California housing units—home to 8.4 million residents—do not have broadband subscriptions.[10]

At the end of 2018, broadband services that advertised download speeds of 100 Mbps or greater were available to nearly 95 percent of California households. This achievement reflects widespread cable and fiber deployment in dense urban areas.

Nevertheless, many homes in urban areas remain unserved or do not have access to the same broadband infrastructure (especially fiber) that is available to wealthier neighbors, illustrating a historical pattern of uneven investment.[11] In addition, in rural California less than half of households (46.5 percent) can adopt broadband at this speed. Even in urban areas some communities lack availability.

---

[9] In this report we refer to broadband "availability" when the infrastructure is available such that a household could access it. We refer to broadband "adoption" when a household subscribes to an available service. We refer to the "digital divide" to describe either lack of availability or lack of adoption (the latter of which might be caused by issues related to lack of affordability, devices, or digital skills).

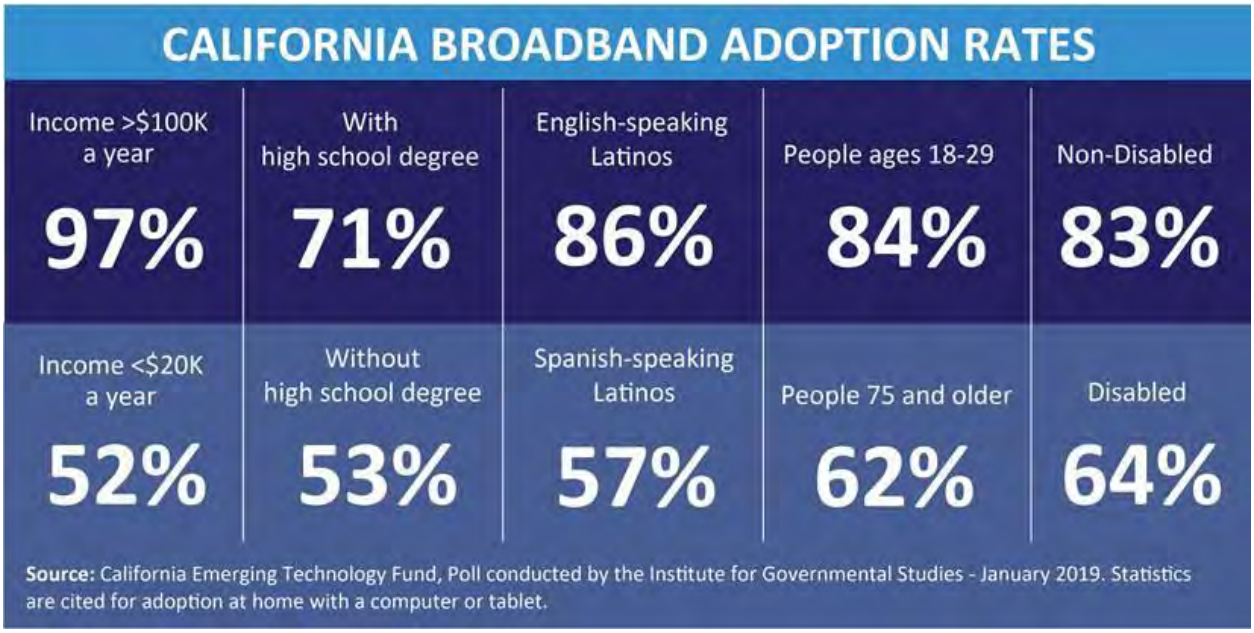
[10] Council staff calculation. California's population was approximately 39.5M in 2019, assuming average household size of 3.05, and 22 percent of households did not subscribe to broadband at home through a computing device. See 2019 California Emerging Technology Fund survey for figures on non-smartphone broadband subscriptions: https://www.cetfund.org/action-and-results/statewide-surveys/2019-statewide-surveys/

[11] See the below resources on lack of access (particularly to fiber) in urban communities:
"Who gets access to Fast Broadband? Evidence from Los Angeles County 2014-2017," Hernan Galperin et. al, October 2019, https://arnicusc.org/publications/who-gets-access-to-fast-broadband-evidence-from-los-angeles-county-2014-17/
"On the Wrong Side of the Digital Divide," Greenlining Institute, June 2020, https://greenlining.org/publications/online-resources/2020/on-the-wrong-side-of-the-digital-divide/
"AT&T's Digital Redlining: Leaving Communities Behind for Profit," National Digital Inclusion Alliance and Communication Workers of America, October 2020, https://www.digitalinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/10/ATTs-Digital-Redlining-Leaving-Communities-Behind-for-Profit.pdf

Approximately 674,000 households in the state lack high-capacity broadband, with about 305,000 located in urban areas and 369,000 located in rural areas.[12]

The geographical challenge is immense. Consider that urban California covers nearly 8,200 square miles and contains almost 95 percent of the state's population. Rural California is home to 5 percent of the population spread across 147,000 square miles—an area larger than the combined land areas of Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and West Virginia.[13]

But California's challenge is not only geography. Many Californians struggle to access broadband even when it is physically available.[14] Income, education, disability status, age, race, and ethnicity all correlate with lower broadband adoption, as the following data illustrates.[15]



[12] "California Advanced Services Fund: 2019 Annual Report," April 2020, p. 11, https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=9226.

[13] Council staff calculation. "United States Summary: 2010," U.S. Census, https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/cph-2-1.pdf.

[14] "Statewide Survey 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund, https://www.cetfund.org/action-and-results/statewide-surveys/2019-statewide-surveys/.

[15] The California Public Utilities Commission concluded income was the most significant factor contributing to low adoption rates: "Broadband Adoption Gap Analysis," CPUC, June 2019, https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUCWebsite/Content/UtilitiesIndustries/Communications/Reports_and_Presentations/CDVideoBB/BAGapAnalysis.pdf.

Challenges to Achieving Broadband for All

State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, nonprofits, and philanthropies have all made investments to address these challenges over the past 20 years. While California has made significant progress toward digital equity, the evolving complexity and scope of the challenges means much work remains.

The Council identified five core roadblocks preventing Californians from accessing or adopting broadband: availability (speed and reliability), affordability, access to devices, digital skills, and data.

Challenge 1: Availability (speed and reliability)

Californians' need for high-performance broadband continues to increase

In 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defined broadband internet as a 200 kbps speed service—fast enough to send and receive email. Bandwidth needs clearly have increased since then, but speed benchmarks lag behind those needs.

The FCC last updated its definition of broadband to a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3 Mbps) in 2015.[16] That benchmark was intended to be sufficient for people engaging in "light use" (email, browsing, basic video, VoIP, internet radio) or moderate use (basic functions plus one high-demand application such as videoconferencing, online gaming, or streaming HD video) for up to three devices at a time.[17]

California's current standard is slower than the FCC's definition. California defines broadband service in its core broadband subsidy program, the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), as 6/1 Mbps or higher, and subsidizes build out at 10/1 Mbps or higher. This makes California one of 32 states that defines service below the FCC's benchmark.[18] California also does not include latency standards, which are critical for applications like video and emerging Internet of Things and Smart Cities applications.

---

[16] "2015 Broadband Progress Report and Notice of Inquiry on Immediate Action to Accelerate Deployment," Federal Communications Commission, February 4, 2015, https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-15-10A1.pdf.

[17] "Household Broadband Guide," Federal Communications Commission, February 5, 2020, https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/household-broadband-guide.

[18] "State Broadband Policy Explorer," Pew, July 31, 2019, https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2019/state-broadband-policy-explorer.

There is little chance that Californians will need less broadband in the future. Americans already are outgrowing today's federal 25/3 Mbps standard. For example, the Federal Communications Commission's 2018 "Measuring Broadband America" report found that among participating home internet service providers, the median download speed experienced by users was approximately 72 Mbps, nearly triple the current federal standard.

In addition, the FCC found that from 2016 to 2017, between 2 and 50 percent of DSL subscribers, 4 and 100 percent of cable subscribers, and 14 and 80 percent of fiber subscribers moved to higher-speed tiers—either because the subscriber changed their broadband plan, or because the subscriber's service provider upgraded their plan.[19]

The number of internet-connected devices continues to grow. In 2019 there were approximately 10 billion Internet of Things devices connected worldwide. Industry forecasts suggest this will triple to 30.9 billion by 2025, with growth driven by personal and home devices.[20]

Rural, tribal and some urban communities lack high-performance broadband, network resiliency, and redundancy

A large portion of California's population now has access to some broadband. At the end of 2018, 96.3 percent of Californian households had residential access to broadband at speeds of 25/3 or greater, and nearly 95 percent had access to download speeds of 100 Mbps or greater.[21] The areas of the state in which these speeds are not available are disproportionately rural. Less than 47 percent of rural households have broadband access at 100 Mbps and just over two-thirds have access at 25/3.[22]

Having low-quality or no broadband creates not only missed economic or quality-of-life opportunities but also threatens people's lives and homes. As the Governor's Wildfires and Climate Change Strike Force report noted in 2019, "the lack of broadband in rural communities and access to cell services makes it difficult to communicate clear emergency evacuation orders to residents or to

[19] "Eighth Measuring Broadband America Fixed Broadband Report," Federal Communications Commission, December 14, 2018, https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/measuring-broadband-america/measuring-fixed-broadband-eighth-report.

[20] "State of the IoT 2020: 12 billion IoT connections, surpassing non-IoT for the first time," IoT Analytics, November 19, 2020, https://iot-analytics.com/state-of-the-iot-2020-12-billion-iot-connections-surpassing-non-iot-for-the-first-time/.

[21] "California Advanced Services Fund: 2019 Annual Report," p. 11.

[22] "California Advanced Services Fund: 2019 Annual Report," p. 11.

locate residents when they are in trouble."[23] Progressively worse fire seasons have shone a spotlight on the limited capacity of the current infrastructure absent substantively more investment in redundancy and infrastructure hardening. Given the changing climate, there is a risk that broadband services may fail because of public safety power shutoffs or damage done to fragile infrastructure.

Tribal lands, which are largely rural, remain consistently underserved by broadband. While FCC data reports that over 98 percent of non-tribal areas in California have access to a fixed broadband provider, nearly a quarter of tribal lands lack access to such service.[24] Too many tribal lands in California are unserved.[25] Rural tribal communities often have less robust services available than their urban counterparts. According to the FCC's Native Nations Task Force November 2019 Report, challenges include "statutory obstacles, regulatory and economic barriers, geographic and economic barriers, mapping challenges, Tribal consultation and engagement issues, accessibility, and adoption and demand issues."[26] The result is a pattern of underinvestment and an exacerbation of existing inequalities.

The economics of infrastructure deployment help explain recurrent underinvestment in rural and tribal communities. Programs like CASF are designed to address this issue. There is a higher cost to build network infrastructure in less densely populated rural areas.[27] One possible result is that the private sector will choose not to offer services in low-density areas, especially without a subsidy.[28] If a provider does offer service, it will be under no obligation to continue providing internet access, even if it is the only provider in a community. Competition among

---

[23] "Wildfires and Climate Change: California's Energy Future," A Report from Governor Newsom's Strike Force, April 12, 2020; p 12.

[24] "Fixed Broadband Deployment: California," Federal Communications Commission, https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/area-summary?version=dec2019&type=state&geoid=06&tech=acfow&speed=25_3&vlat=37.418960761431 45&vlon=-119.30660699999999&vzoom=3.9361444836050796

[25] Analysis showing the reservation and trust lands (excluding tribal communities not on these lands) that 15 of California's federally recognized tribes have no broadband and 30 have less than 25 Mbps download. See Order Instituting Rulemaking into the Review of the California High Cost Fund-A Program (Rulemaking 11-11-007), Opening Comments of the Public Advocates Office on the Assigned Commissioner's Fifth Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling (Feb. 29, 2020) at pate 10, https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M336/K533/336533984.PDF. See

[26] Native Nations Task Communications Task Force, Improving and increasing Broadband Deployment on Tribal Lands, Nov 5, 2019.

[27] "Rural Broadband Economics: A Review of Rural Subsidies," CostQuest Associates, 2018, page 10, https://www.ustelecom.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Rural-Broadband-Economics-A-Review-of-Rural-Subsidies-final-paper-1.pdf.

[28] "Rural Broadband Economics: A Review of Rural Subsidies," page 13.

providers is also more difficult in these communities because they offer thinner profit margins and require large capital investments.

As a result, prospective internet service providers in these areas of California require concerted help to overcome the challenges of building new infrastructure. Public intervention, particularly in the form of capital subsidies like those offered through the CASF program and various federal programs, is often necessary to incentivize providers to deliver equivalent service to poor and rural communities.

We must make it easier to serve unserved and underserved communities. This will require collaboration and consideration of alternative models and strategies to lower barriers to entry, such as making public infrastructure available for lease, barring anti-competitive agreements in multiple dwelling units like apartments, and streamlining permitting processes. For example, the Council heard from providers about the challenges associated with permitting and building across jurisdictions. This is an area that warrants continued focus and innovation,[29] especially in unserved and underserved communities.

Delivering Gigabit Service to unserved and underserved Californians will require at least $6.8 billion in new private, federal, and state investments.[30]

Broadband infrastructure is a long-term capital investment. The state must continue to invest public resources in infrastructure that will serve Californians for decades to come.

Several last-mile technologies can deliver these speeds to Californians. Fiber is always a critical component for last-mile and advanced wireless services, whether to the home, community or somewhere between.[31] It is a critical backhaul for next-generation wireless technologies, such as 5G.[32] A home's

[29] See, for example: "Public Infrastructure/Private Service: A Shared-Risk Partnership Model for 21st Century Broadband Infrastructure," published by the Benton Institute for Broadband and Society, 2020, https://www.benton.org/publications/public-infrastructureprivate-service.

[30] See California Broadband Cost Model, https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/communications/costmodel/.

[31] "The Case for Fiber to the Home, Today: Why Fiber is a Superior Medium for 21st Century Broadband," Electronic Frontier Foundation, 2019, page 22, https://www.eff.org/document/case-fiber-home-today-why-fiber-superior-medium-21st-century-broadband.

[32] "5G Deployment: FCC Needs Comprehensive Strategic Planning to Guide Its Efforts," U.S. Government Accountability Office, June 2020, page 19, https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/707530.pdf.

proximity to fiber improves service quality dramatically.[33] The economics of building fiber do not make sense in parts of the state. These places will require alternative solutions.[34] Providing fiber connectivity across California will take a long time, and require considerable investment from the state and the federal government.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) contracted with experts to estimate the network investment required to build fiber networks that can provide broadband and voice services to California homes and businesses. The model includes the cost of middle-mile for use by multiple service providers. The model estimates the cost to build a network to serve currently unserved locations specified in three different tiers: 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload, and 100 Mbps download with no upload considered. It includes investment in "extremely high-cost" areas supported by monthly FCC subsidies. The estimates are for a passive fiber optical network delivering broadband and voice service to residences and businesses.

Because the areas of the state unserved today are often difficult to reach, it is possible that build-out may present more challenges—and need more resources—than the cost model estimates. Regardless, the model provides an informative baseline from which the state can plan targeted investments. Comparing the estimated costs for middle-mile and last-mile for three speed tiers illuminates details about how the model considers each part of the network, as described below.

Middle-mile provides a critical transport platform that multiple service providers can use between last-mile nodes. Middle-mile is distinct from wireless backhaul, which is usually built for a single provider. Although middle-mile fiber is already present in many locations, often it is not available for use by all service providers due to price, bandwidth, or owner policies. The estimated cost to build a statewide, middle-mile, dark fiber network along highways from scratch is $2.2 billion. (Operators' electronics would be priced separately.)

For the last-mile or access network, the model estimated three tiers of service that include middle-mile costs. Each estimate is standalone, meaning that each speed tier provides for a complete network in unserved areas at that speed tier.

---

[33] "Issue Brief: California's Digital Divide," Little Hoover Commission, December 2020, page 4, https://lhc.ca.gov/sites/lhc.ca.gov/files/Reports/253/IssueBrief1.pdf.

[34] For example, each year California schools and libraries solicit bids from providers for broadband access. In some cases, rural schools and libraries receive no bid for fiber or they receive a single bid, usually for fixed wireless.

Unserved areas are the places where a network that provides this speed does not currently exist. Unlike the middle mile estimate, the last mile model network considers using infrastructure of existing service providers. The model factors in existing facilities costs such as pole attachments, conduit/duct, and manholes. The cost model does not currently reflect the costs of a new entrant into a market, which are likely to differ from incumbents. The CPUC could consider changes to the model to reflect a full range of deployment scenarios.

For last-mile network speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, the estimated cost for the California network build, including middle-mile, is $5.6 billion. For last-mile network speeds of 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload, the estimated cost for the California network build, including middle-mile, is $6.8 billion. For last-mile network speeds of 100 Mbps download without estimating an upload speed, the estimated cost for the California network build, including middle-mile, is $6.7 billion. The difference between these two model estimates is the cost of network electronics.

The CPUC's cost modeling tool will help the state target subsidized funding and deployment—and, with enhancements, can provide the state with better tools to measure progress.

Challenge 2: Affordability

Price matters. When we consider what broadband costs a Californian, we have to account for all of the components in its price tag. The service cost is just one component; there are also taxes, surcharges, rental charges for modems and routers, and the cost of devices used for getting online—such as laptops and tablets. There are also additional unexpected costs of contractual penalties if a family falls behind and has to catch up, cancel, or switch plans. Each of these is a mandatory cost—and barrier—to getting online.

Compared to many other countries, broadband in the United States is expensive. Across the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, only Mexico has higher broadband prices than the United States.[35] For a family with a tight budget, it is easy to see how paying for food, electricity, rent, and other necessities would take precedence over purchasing internet services.

That is one reason cellular phone subscriptions are the core communications service purchased by many Californians. However, smartphones provide only

[35] "Broadband Portal," OECD, http://www.oecd.org/sti/broadband/broadband-statistics/. See fixed broadband basket, high user.

limited broadband access, and have a limited ability to share service with others—a spouse, children, or an elderly parent—in the household.

Over half of Californians without broadband at home cannot afford market prices or do not own a computer.[36] Many lower-income households believe they could afford $10 to $15 per month for broadband.[37]

Unfortunately, many existing affordable broadband programs cost more per month, have limited eligibility, and limited awareness. Providers limit eligibility for their affordable programs to people living right above the poverty line. This restriction makes them more limited in scope than the federal Lifeline subsidy program, in which most broadband providers do not take part. Affordable broadband programs also do not offer broadband at high speeds. Most affordable programs provide only at least 15/2 Mbps. In a pre-pandemic survey, over 70 percent of California non-adopters did not know these programs existed.[38] The state's LifeLine program does not offer broadband by itself.[39] And there are no broadband programs to support families at risk of losing their service, like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program.

Competition, which can drive down prices in an open, lightly regulated market, is more difficult to find for a service with such high capital costs. In its 2018 report on the state of competition among retail communications services in California, the PUC found that regional fixed broadband markets are highly concentrated, and that competition is weaker at higher speed thresholds.[40]

The lack of competition is particularly striking at higher speeds. For example, FCC data on 100/10 Mbps access shows that 4 percent of households have no access, 28 percent only had one provider, 45 percent have two choices, and only 23 percent were able to choose between three or more providers.[41]

In general, wealthier communities are two to three times more likely to have more than two choices than communities with households that have lower-than-

---

[36] "Statewide Survey 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund.

[37] Jonathan Sallet, "Broadband for America's Future: A Vision for the 2020s," Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, October 2019, pages 65–66, https://www.benton.org/publications/broadband-policy2020s.

[38] "Statewide Survey 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund.

[39] California LifeLine, https://www.californialifeline.com/en.

[40] "Retail Communications Services in California," California Public Utilities Commission, December 2018, https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUCWebsite/Content/UtilitiesIndustries/Communications/Reports_and_Presentations/CD_Mgmt/re/CompetitionReportFinal%20Jan2019.pdf.

[41] "Fixed Broadband Deployment," Federal Communications Commission, December 2019 map data, https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/.

average income.[42] This results in greater inequities in poorer communities. Consumers benefit when companies compete for customers, and research shows that broadband competition reduces prices, and improves service.[43]

Challenge 3: Devices

As we focus on creating digital equity, we must look at not only what is available and affordable, but also how Californians access the internet.

In 2019, only 82 percent of California households had a desktop or laptop at home.[44] For those not yet connected to the internet, a device can be a barrier. For example, 51 percent of non-adopters stated that broadband was too expensive or they did not have a computer at home.[45] Several hundred dollars is a significant investment for a lower-income household. If that household lacks good credit, the true cost can be much higher.

Households that access the internet through a smartphone only are unable to fully participate in modern digital life. In 2019, 78 percent of California households with home internet had a home desktop, laptop, or tablet computer, but 10 percent of those households only accessed broadband through their smartphone.[46] Smartphone-only users are often limited to consumer applications, finding it challenging to use such basic tools as word processors and spreadsheets. In addition, Smartphone-only users must contend with plans that have usage limits, resulting in a kind of "workaround ecosystem" using free Wi-Fi hotspots—exactly the kind of workaround the 2020 pandemic has disabled.[47]

---

[42] Jonathan Sallet, "Broadband for America's Future: A Vision for the 2020s," Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, October 2019, https://www.benton.org/sites/default/files/BBA_full_F5_10.30.pdf.

[43] Jonathan Sallet, "Broadband for America's Future: A Vision for the 2020s."

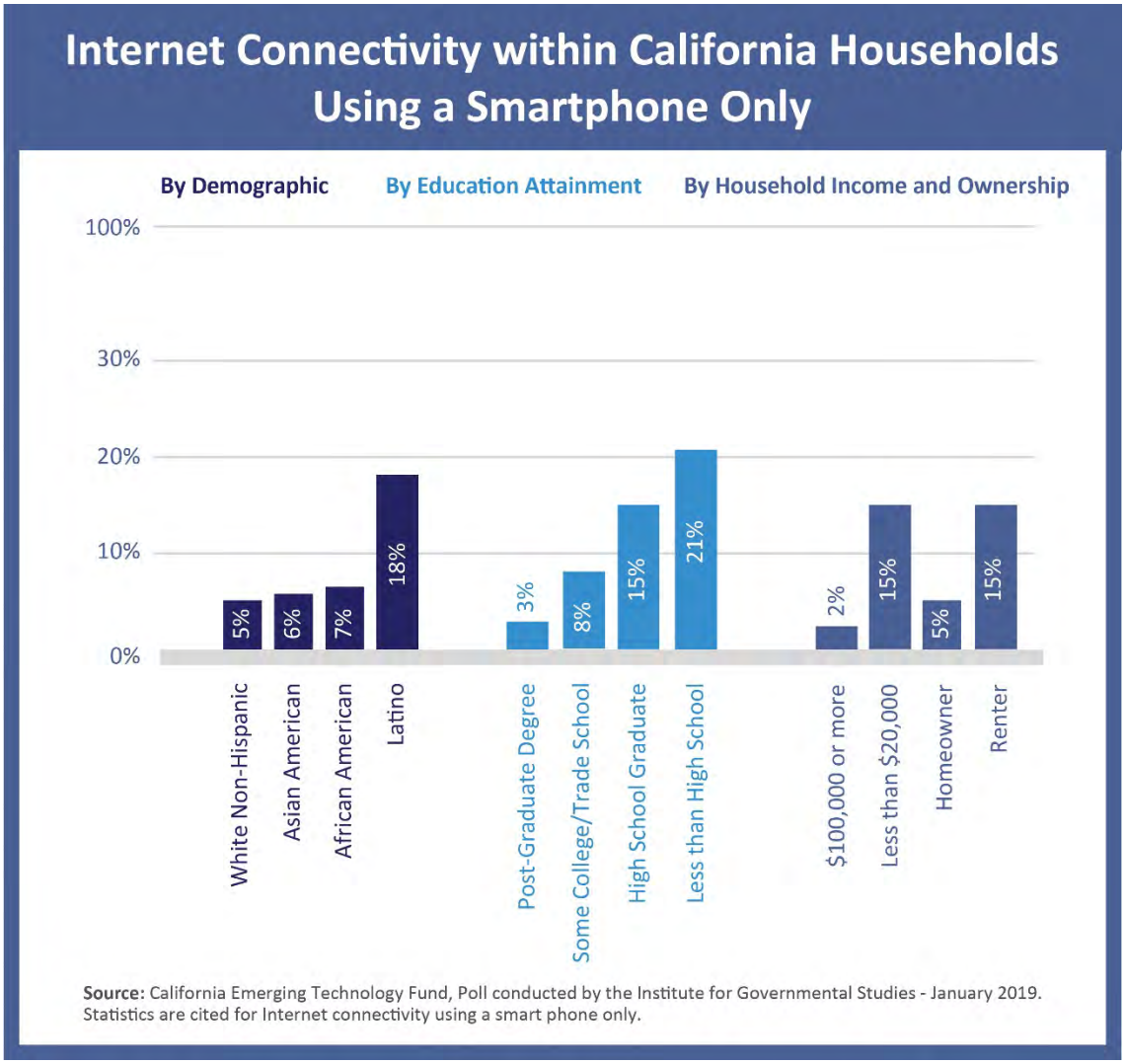
[44] "Types of Computer and Internet Subscriptions," U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019 (Table S2801), https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=computer%20ownership&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S2801&hidePreview=true. An additional 0.6 percent have a tablet, but no other computing device.

[45] "Internet Connectivity and the 'Digital Divide' in California - 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund, page 12.

[46] "Internet Connectivity and the 'Digital Divide' in California - 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund, page 5.

[47] Monica Anderson and John B. Horrigan, "Smartphones help those without broadband get online, but don't necessarily bridge the digital divide," Pew, October 3, 2016, https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/10/03/smartphones-help-those-without-broadband-get-online-but-dont-necessarily-bridge-the-digital-divide/.

Vulnerable populations are often the most likely to be smartphone dependent, as the following data illustrates.



Often our most vulnerable populations can only access the internet on a smartphone.[48] Mobile service is an important tool, but it cannot bridge the digital divide. People who can access the internet through smartphones only cannot enjoy the full benefits of high-speed broadband.

Not everyone will have access to a desktop or laptop at home. Computer labs at libraries and nonprofits, and programs in which students can bring laptops home from schools will continue to be critical. Discount or refurbishing programs may help some afford devices. Others may continue to struggle to afford devices for a variety of reasons ranging from housing insecurity to concerns about privacy. In these cases, libraries and nonprofits fill a gap by providing computer and internet

[48] "Internet Connectivity and the 'Digital Divide' in California - 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund. See "underconnected" users.

access to all. Across the nearly 1,200 library branches in California, community members used public computers 24 million times in fiscal year 2018–2019.[49] While this does not substitute for home adoption, it is an important backstop for the most vulnerable Californians.

Challenge 4: Digital skills

Broadband adoption requires more than a device to access affordable, available broadband. It also requires digital skills. The skills to get online are essential for ensuring Broadband for All.

Digital literacy is a spectrum, from basic computing and internet search skills to computer science. And, like other forms of literacy, the need for digital literacy changes over time. A young child needs different digital skills than someone searching for a job, seeing a doctor for a telehealth visit, or engaging in civic life. So, we need to build digital skills to address different needs at different phases in life.

For new broadband adopters, creating equity starts with ensuring access to introductory skills. For example, a study of users of Comcast's program for low-income subscribers, Internet Essentials, found that significantly more of these households felt they would need help setting up a new device (69 percent) compared to the control group (50 percent).[50]

For households where broadband is available, but not adopted, research demonstrates that a low price is not the only barrier.[51] These households worry they may not be able to use the internet. A large share of new adopters feel uncomfortable in even setting up a device. Therefore, local digital learning programs run by cities, community colleges, libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations play a critical role in creating a digitally inclusive California, and require ongoing support.

It is important to note that in the same Comcast Internet Essentials study, the users who engaged in basic training were more likely to "use the internet for learning,

[49] 2018–2019 California State Library Annual Survey. Results available at https://www.countingopinions.com/pireports/report.php?7ee907072fa6bbb008b6b06b39cad413&live.

[50] John Horrigan, PhD, "Reaching the Unconnected: Benefits for kids and schoolwork drive broadband subscriptions, but digital skills training opens doors to household internet use for jobs and learning," Technology Policy Institute, August 2019, p. 23, https://techpolicyinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Horrigan_Reaching-the-Unconnected.pdf.

[51] Horrigan, "Reaching the Unconnected," pages 3 – 4.

job searching, and improving job skills."[52] This lends further credence to the notion that digital skills training is important because it impacts the way people use the internet.

Digital literacy often focuses on reaching late adopters who risk falling further behind. This is important as the lack of digital literacy compounds existing disadvantages and excludes them from opportunities. For example, a lack of digital literacy excludes potential students from opportunities to build skills online.

Challenge 5: Data

Try solving a problem when you do not know exactly who has it, or where it occurs, or how much it will cost to fix it. We face this situation today in trying to solve California's digital divide. Data about costs, gaps, speeds, and access to broadband in California is disparate and subjective.

Key data problems are granularity and accuracy.[53] Data about broadband availability exists at the census block level. Blocks in urban areas might be an actual city block, but in rural areas they might span miles. In remote areas, blocks may encompass several hundred square miles.[54] Additionally, concerns over the accuracy of California and FCC availability data remain. Inaccurate data can make communities eligible or ineligible for state and federal funds.

Another part of the problem is that we do not have critical data to understand the quality of availability and adoption. For example, for the affordable broadband programs what is the take-up rate? How quickly do customers cycle off? How many people that apply are turned away? What are the prices for the same kind of service in different parts of the state?

Finally, actual service data remains elusive. Broadband subscription data is critical for understanding where people actually have internet service, as opposed to where providers advertise service. Subscription data by address provides granularity to map broadband affordability and adoption accurately.

High-quality data is not an end to itself. But without accurate, transparent, and updated data, we cannot develop good policies to solve real problems. Other critical sectors provide models for gathering better data. As one example, the U.S.

---

[52] Horrigan, "Reaching the Unconnected," page 26.

[53] Ryan Johnston, "FCC's annual broadband report criticized for 'inconsistent' methodology," StateScoop, May 30, 2019, https://statescoop.com/fccs-annual-broadband-report-criticized-for-inconsistent-methodology/.

[54] "Glossary: Blocks (Census Blocks)," U.S. Census Bureau, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html.

Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects the location of energy infrastructure throughout the country from industry, and makes it public. EIA also collects cost and pricing data from industry and consumers, and publishes data at the state level. These robust data sets provide policymakers the tools needed to respond to supply and pricing challenges, particularly for low-income consumers.

From Obstacles to Opportunity: California's Broadband Goals

For all Californians to have access to affordable broadband and the means to use it, we must meet three goals:

Goal 1: All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

Broadband is not available or resilient in all corners of the state. Rural communities, tribal lands, and some urban areas face particular challenges. Californians also need fast enough internet to live and thrive in modern society. Learning, getting government services, working, and receiving health care increasingly assume broadband access. All Californians should have high-performance broadband available where they live. This includes low-income neighborhoods. The homeless or those without broadband at home should have access to broadband in their communities. Schools, libraries, and community-based organizations will continue to provide critical community access.

Goal 2: All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.

Broadband service is still unaffordable for too many Californians today. The total cost of access is challenging. The costs stack up: a computer, a mouse, a router, a subscription. These costs can put broadband out of reach, particularly for lower-income families or those with little credit. All Californians should have affordable broadband service and devices available, regardless of geography or household income.

Goal 3: All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion.

Broadband adoption requires more than availability and affordability of service and devices. People need digital literacy to want broadband services, and to enjoy the many (and ever-increasing) digital opportunities. Californians must have access to digital skills training for job opportunities to thrive in a digital world.

Action Plan

Delivering tangible and measurable results will require innovation and action across many sectors and levels of government. This action must be grounded in strong partnerships among federal, state, tribal, and local governments, and with the private sector, nonprofits, and philanthropy.

Key opportunities for progress are reflected in the Action Plan items below. The Council and its partners will begin working on these items in 2021, recognizing that some may require legislative action. The Council will evaluate priorities and results over the next year in order to update the plan in 2022.

Actions to ensure all Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses

The state must pull all levers to make high-performance broadband available to all Californians. These levers include modernizing state broadband definitions, optimizing the state's financial toolkit, simplifying deployment, leveraging existing assets, and setting reliability standards for critical infrastructure. Universal access to high-performance broadband will take time, and it is critical that the state build a strong foundation to ensure meaningful and efficient investment.

Modernize broadband speed and performance standards

1. Recommend, and adopt shared standards among all state grant-funding and related broadband programs:

    a. Define "broadband" with dual definitions: (1) a baseline definition to match the FCC standard of 25/3 Mbps and (2) a goal of 100/20 Mbps that reflects the Governor's Executive Order of a minimum of 100 Mbps download, and growing demand for higher upload speeds. These dual definitions bring the state in alignment with current federal standards[55] and adopt a forward-looking speed as bandwidth needs continue to grow. Federal funding benchmarks will be updated accordingly in the coming years.

    b. Mitigate the problems with federal data. California should evaluate broadband at the serviceable location level to bring greater accuracy and granularity.

    At the same time, state programs should evaluate definitions of "unserved" and "underserved" with each state funding opportunity to ensure that awardees are best positioned to leverage state funding to pursue competitive federal funding opportunities. Projects eligible for funding should deliver at least 25/3 Mbps to align with national and

[55] Federal Communications Commission, "FCC Launches $20 Billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund To Expand Rural Broadband Deployment," https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-5A1.pdf. See above baseline performance tier.

international standards, and 100/20 Mbps ideally to align with the Governor's Executive Order.

Review broadband funding speed targets for infrastructure subsidies or grants annually in light of national and international trends to ensure California remains competitive. Also review standards in light of federal funding requirements and scoring criteria to ensure that California applicants are able to leverage state funding to unlock federal grant and other funding opportunities.

c. Develop criteria for state funding around demonstrated local and tribal government involvement that align with criteria for federal broadband funding, specifically the Department of Agriculture's ReConnect and Community Connect programs. Requiring robust demonstrated support will help to make state-funded projects even more competitive to receive funding from federal programs that require significant community support.

d. Prioritize funding open access, middle-mile infrastructure, including connections to anchor institutions.

Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Education, California State Library, California Department of Housing and Community Development and any other agency that makes broadband-eligible infrastructure grants.

2. Identify alternative financing opportunities with government and philanthropic partners to maximize funding for new infrastructure. The state should work with local governments to explore opportunities for public financing, including but not limited to bond instruments. The state should also engage with active philanthropy organizations to identify areas of shared interest and potential sources of funding to support new broadband deployments in unserved and underserved areas.

   Key Parties: Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and California Public Utilities Commission

3. Modernize California's universal service programs to support the deployment and ongoing maintenance of broadband networks.

   Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission

Additional areas worth consideration:

- Increase financial resources allocated to expanding broadband availability statewide.
- Establish obligations for existing Internet Service Providers to serve all customers.

Simplify processes and leverage existing assets and construction

4. Implement a Dig Smart policy to install conduit as part of any appropriate and feasible state-funded transportation project in strategic corridors, as an incentive for service build-outs to un- and under-connected communities. Dig Smart policies present an opportunity to lower the capital cost of infrastructure deployment and minimize disruptions caused by ongoing or duplicitous construction, both incentivizing and expediting new investment.

   Key Parties: California State Transportation Agency

5. Continue improving state encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-way management to accelerate broadband deployment projects that will serve un- and under-connected communities.

   Key Parties: California State Transportation Agency

6. Explore various actions to enhance permitting processes at all levels of government through meaningful partnerships. Convene semi-annual meetings with broadband providers and local governments to enhance permitting processes that support the construction of broadband infrastructure and the needs of local governments. In addition, the office should launch a formal partnership with federal agencies to support prioritization of permits for broadband construction through federal land and when permit holders are experiencing delays.

   Key Parties: California Department of Technology

7. Identify state property for possible use for broadband infrastructure, based on specific criteria identified by the CPUC, Caltrans and other relevant agencies, to accelerate broadband deployment.

   Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission, Department of General Services, California State Transportation Agency, California Department of Technology

8. Regularly coordinate and convene with jurisdictions implementing next-generation 9-1-1 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public

safety and disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

Key Parties: California Office of Emergency Services

Set reliability standards

9. Establish standards for middle mile and backhaul resilience and reliability. Recent experiences responding to wildfires throughout the state can be leveraged to identify shortcomings in network resilience and reliability. Analysis of demonstrated gaps can be used to set standards and a timeline for bringing networks throughout the state in line with such goals.

   Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission in consultation with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services

10. Establish clear standards of consumer protection and provisioning of equitable service by providers. Evaluate the surcharge collections and overall bill impacts, including other, non-public charges, to minimize total customer bill impacts. Examine whether broadband service in underserved and unserved communities is consistent with current licensing requirements.

    Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission

Additional areas worth consideration:

- Explore framework to ensure broadband resilience and reliability standards are met.

Actions to ensure all Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices

The Council recognizes that broadband affordability remains an obstacle for many Californians. Partnerships with anchor institutions such as libraries, schools, and community organizations, as well as with philanthropies and private industry, will continue to be critical in ensuring access to internet-enabled devices and ultimately encouraging broadband adoption. The Council believes we can make significant progress in helping Californians enroll in existing affordable internet programs.

Increase access to affordable broadband services and devices

11. Within the scope of the California Public Utilities Commission's current proceeding, "Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish a Framework and

Processes for Assessing the Affordability of Utility Service," develop a framework to define essential broadband service affordability standards, evaluate those standards relative to other essential service costs, and develop a range of metrics to provide a comprehensive assessment of households' ability to afford essential broadband service.

Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission

12. Improve the California LifeLine Program by including stand-alone broadband service, and work in partnership with internet service providers to encourage participation in the program.

    Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission

13. Leverage existing California Department of Housing and Community Development programs, such as the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, to provide free broadband service for tenants in newly built housing. Funding programs could incorporate opportunities for awardees to provide 100/20 Mbps broadband service for free of charge to all tenants in publicly subsidized units.

    Key Parties: Department of Housing and Community Development

14. Promote existing state contractual vehicles with internet service providers and equipment vendors to support cost savings and efficient purchasing of broadband services and equipment by local public entities, such as school and library districts. Leveraging existing contracts is a resource-efficient strategy to help other public entities acquire affordable broadband services, especially in bulk.

    Key Parties: Department of General Services, California Department of Technology, California Department of Education and California State Library

15. Analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and identify programmatic and partnership opportunities to meet these needs.

    Key Parties: California Department of Aging, California Department of Technology, California Public Utilities Commission

Additional areas worth consideration:

- Ensure all affordable broadband offers meet minimum state standards for broadband

Promote affordable broadband services and devices

16. Partner with internet service providers to promote, track, and publicly report the progress of adoption of affordable internet services and devices throughout the state.

    a. Request providers to develop multi-language marketing materials for distribution to under-adopting communities and support dissemination by leveraging existing public programs and campaigns, such as: CalFresh, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), CalWorks, Covered California, public libraries, public housing, and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), investor-owned utility CARES and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) programs.

    b. Develop tools for low-income individuals and service organizations to identify and subscribe to affordable broadband plans easily.

    c. Continue promoting affordable broadband and device offers to:

        i. Recipients of the National School Lunch program

        ii. Public library patrons

    Key Parties: California Department of Technology, California Public Utilities Commission, California Emerging Technology Fund and California State Library with support from all departments listed above, providers, manufacturers, and local government

Encourage broadband competition

17. Provide guidance to local governments and partner with tribal governments to develop broadband strategies and explore options for increasing competition in their communities. Specifically, provide guidelines for communities to inventory local infrastructure assets, publish template lease agreements, and make assets available on an open-access basis.

    Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission

    Additional areas worth consideration:

- Identify if there are new incentives to encourage competitive leasing of privately-owned infrastructure to encourage competition.
- Explore methods of promoting competition within multi-dwelling units – for example, through statewide adoption of San Francisco's Article 52 – to

enable tenants in apartment buildings to choose among multiple internet service providers.

Actions to ensure all Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion

Digital skills and literacy training are essential for digital inclusion. Nearly a quarter of Californians who do not subscribe to broadband today say that they are uncomfortable using a computer or going online.[56] The California Broadband Council thinks the state can make headway by better aligning skills training with infrastructure build-outs. The state can identify existing grant funds that can support digital skills training and can continue to support the organizations leading the way today—local governments, libraries, nonprofits, schools, and other stakeholders.

Strengthen partnerships and coordinate initiatives

18. Develop and manage a multi-layer network of digital-inclusion stakeholders to discuss ongoing needs, share resources, and coordinate initiatives.

    First, leverage California Broadband Council meetings and the GO-Biz broadband funding identification initiative to strengthen partnerships among anchor organizations such as schools, libraries, workforce development boards, and county social service departments.

    Second, convene local government broadband coordinators and managers quarterly to identify barriers to local programming, new actions undertaken, and tools developed at the local level. Also, regularly convene private and nonprofit sector companies in an effort to understand and predict current and future demand for broadband.

    Third, convene broadband adoption practitioners, including libraries, nonprofit organizations, and others semi-annually to share best practices and ongoing community needs to innovate and create new digital literacy tools, and develop curriculum and training programs to meet the needs of the workforce, community, and students.

    Key Parties: Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, California Public Utilities Commission, Department of General Services, state agencies that work with the local

[56] "Internet Connectivity and the 'Digital Divide' in California - 2019," California Emerging Technology Fund, table 6.

agencies listed above, California Emerging Technology Fund, private and nonprofit sector broadband providers, and local partners.

Additional areas worth consideration:

- Build out digital skills training programs that include core digital literacy as well as more advanced technical training that is linked specific jobs and career pathways.

Actions to support all goals

Achieving the goals presented in this action plan requires cross-cutting action in three key areas: data transparency, technical assistance, and partnerships.

First, improve and share accurate, granular data to help stakeholders develop targeted solutions to improve broadband availability and adoption.

Second, expand technical assistance for local and tribal governments and their key partners to better leverage funding availability.

Finally, bolster partnerships among local, state, and federal governments, as well as with industry providers to ensure all resources are leveraged to the fullest extent possible.

Improve broadband data and mapping transparency and usability

19. Collect more granular and accurate broadband data and leverage this information to build out the public California Interactive Broadband Map.

    Collecting and mapping broadband availability data at the home address level will provide internet service providers and local and tribal governments the tools needed to pursue state and federal funding opportunities competitively. It will also enable them to advocate proactively for their eligibility to participate in such programs, by being able to demonstrate a lack of broadband access.

    Improve the California Interactive Broadband Map by incorporating: existing public broadband assets, geographic boundaries, roads, anchor institutions, public rights-of-way, and fairgrounds.

    Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission in partnership with other departments/agencies including the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

20. Leverage the California Public Utilities Commission's cost model to inform broadband planning and investments, project broadband availability based on existing resources, and inform statewide discussions of additional resources required to achieve our broadband goals.

    Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission in partnership with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the California Department of Technology

21. Establish a Broadband For All portal to enable easy access to broadband information and tools and serve as a central repository, including:

    a. A page for the public to submit data to validate or dispute broadband mapping data related to broadband speeds and availability.

    b. Resources and toolkits specific to broadband planning and implementation.

    c. Digital inclusion plans, initiatives, and best practices developed by local governments, nonprofits, anchor institutions, and community partners. When possible, entities should include resources that can be replicated or built upon by other entities.

    d. Digital skills training tools, such as curricula, fact sheets, promotion collateral, and more.

    e. Information on affordable internet offers and devices, including cost, eligibility, customer service contact information, and instructions on how to sign up.

    f. State and federal broadband funding opportunities using the grants.ca.gov site, including program status, eligibility requirements, and ability to be leveraged as match for other programs.

    Key Parties: California Department of Technology

Develop technical assistance and support

22. Identify additional opportunities to provide technical assistance to local governments, Tribes, nonprofits, and their partners to best leverage local, state, federal, and private funding opportunities. This may include supporting the creation of special districts or cooperatives to deploy networks, and providing support in navigating the technical, regulatory, and financial hurdles to deployment.

Key Parties: California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Technology

Additional areas worth consideration:

- Building out a technical assistance program that could include feasibility studies for potential infrastructure build-outs.
- Explore mechanisms for private entities to share asset availability with local governments on a project-by-project basis to enable efficient investment.

Bolster partnerships

23. Form a planning group of all state agencies that oversee any potential infrastructure or broadband adoption funding to meet quarterly to ensure alignment in funding goals and implementation, and to identify existing and new programs that can support Broadband for All. The planning group will:
    a. Allow various agencies to coordinate funding priorities to ensure maximum impact of state funds, maximization of new and existing federal funding opportunities,[57] and that various programs complement one another in meeting the state's broadband goals.
    b. Explore setting shared standards among state grant programs to prioritize joint infrastructure and adoption projects.
    c. Explore opportunities to use programs under their jurisdiction to accelerate broadband deployment and to leverage utility infrastructure to increase access to existing fiber and cost-effectively deploy new fiber.
    d. Identify and facilitate new broadband projects that support precision agriculture and food systems in rural communities.
    e. Identify ways to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity at all publicly subsidized housing communities for residential units.
    f. Include updates from the California Department of Education as it continues leading statewide efforts to ensure that students have computing devices and connectivity necessary for distance learning and online instruction.

[57] Existing funding opportunities include broadband-specific programs, but also those programs for which broadband access and adoption are an eligible use of funds (e.g., CARES Act, TANF, SNAP, U.S. Department of Labor funds)

g. Identify additional opportunities for cross-department partnerships that bring new funding sources together, such as the current initiative by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California State Library that supports access to online training and digital literacy.

h. Support issuing guidance on how state agencies and local partners can support digital inclusion via existing federal programs, as has already been happening across departments.[58]

i. Support access to broadband in fast-growing, inland parts of the state, as well as facilitate the growth of second offices for established CA companies, new startups, and telework opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled consistent with the state's climate commitments.

Key Parties: Governor's Office Business and Economic Development, California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Education, California State Library, California Department of Housing and Community Development, California Department of Water Resources, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Aging, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and any other agency with broadband infrastructure and adoption eligible programs.

24. Request that the executive branch entities and constitutional agencies incorporate broadband into their strategic plans, and provide broadband priorities to the California Broadband Council annually to ensure effective interagency collaboration.

Key Parties: All executive branch state entities (agencies, departments, commissions, etc.), and if they agree, constitutional agencies.

[58] See, for example, recent guidance from the California Department of Social Services to County Welfare Departments, which includes adoption and training options for program recipients: https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACINs/2020/I-76_20.pdf?ver=2020-11-05-094747-987.

What's Next

This Broadband Action Plan will be a live, iterative document. The California Broadband Council will update the Plan on an annual or more frequent basis through 2025 as directed by Governor Newsom's broadband executive order N-73-20.[59]

The California Broadband Council—in partnership with key state, local, and Tribal government agencies, internet service providers, nonprofits, and other broadband stakeholders—will continue to collaborate and identify critical action items.

Lead agencies or organizations will regularly report on their ongoing progress and provide assessments of each assigned action to the California Broadband Council—and the Council will convene quarterly meetings to discuss and determine next steps.

The Council appreciates the public input it has received during the preparation of this Plan. Public comments on the Broadband Action Plan may be submitted via email (CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov) or during public comment periods at the California Broadband Council meetings.

[59] California Executive Order N-73-20, https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/8.14.20-EO-N-73-20.pdf.

Acknowledgements

This report would not be possible without the time and energy invested by the members of the California Broadband Council and their staffs, designees, and other experts around the state. In particular, the Council wishes to thank Stephanie Tom, Deputy Director for Broadband and Digital Literacy at the California Department of Technology, and Justin Cohan-Shapiro, Chief Strategist at the California Department of Technology, who led the development of this Plan.

The Council is also grateful to the following staff, stakeholders, and experts for their feedback, research, and input: the analysts at CTC Technology & Energy, Sara Hudson, Technical Writer, and the California Regional Broadband Consortia. Also special recognition goes to Anne Neville-Bonilla, Director of the California Research Bureau, and Stuart Drown, Deputy Secretary, California Government Operations Agency, whose significant contributions to the writing and editing of this report were invaluable.

A committed team coordinated the Council's efforts on this Plan. At the California Department of Technology, Adelina Zendejas, Deputy Director of Special Projects; Jules Stein, Manager for Broadband and Digital Literacy and Legislation; Sachin Brahme, Information Technology Manager, Bob Andosca, Acting Deputy Director of Communication; Katherine Milton, Communications Manager; and Michelle Wagner, Graphic Designer all provided invaluable support to the Council's meetings and operations for this report.

A special note of appreciation to California Forward, Elizabeth Dooher, Broadband Facilities Coordinator at the Department of Transportation, and Christina Snider, the Governor's Tribal Advisor for their support leading the listening sessions with the community, local government, and Tribes to ensure diverse and inclusive feedback was obtained and incorporated into the Plan.

The collective support of the Council, staff, stakeholders, and experts, yielded unprecedented feedback and engagement from over 650 individuals through the following channels:

- 8 Council meetings with an average of 70 attendees.
- 6 listening sessions with an average of 60 participants.
- 2 tribal consultants with a total of 15 participants.
- 8 public working sessions with an average of 20 participants.
- 12 individual one-on-one meetings with California Broadband Council staff.

- 77 submitted written public comments.

The Council thanks all of these contributors for the skill, energy, and dedication they brought to creating this Plan.

Appendix A: Summary of 12-Month Action Plan

GOAL #1: Actions to ensure all Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses

Modernize broadband speed and performance standards

1. Recommend, and adopt shared standards among all state grant-funding and related broadband programs:

   a) Define "broadband" with dual definitions: (1) a baseline definition to match the FCC standard of 25/3 Mbps and (2) a goal of 100/20 Mbps that reflects the Governor's Executive Order of a minimum of 100 Mbps download, and growing demand for higher upload speeds. These dual definitions both bring the state in alignment with current federal standards and adopt a forward-looking speed as bandwidth needs continue to grow. Federal funding benchmarks will be updated accordingly in the coming years.

   b) Mitigate the problems with federal data. California should evaluate broadband at the serviceable location level to bring greater accuracy and granularity.

   At the same time, state programs should evaluate definitions of "unserved" and "underserved" with each state funding opportunity to ensure that awardees are best positioned to leverage state funding to pursue competitive federal funding opportunities. Projects eligible for funding should deliver at least 25/3 Mbps to align with national and international standards, and 100/20 Mbps ideally to align with the Governor's Executive Order.
   Review broadband funding speed targets for infrastructure subsidies or grants annually in light of national and international trends to ensure California remains competitive. Also review standards in light of federal funding requirements and scoring criteria to ensure that California

Key Parties:

- California Public Utilities Commission,
- California Department of Education,
- California State Library,
- California Department of Housing and Community Development, and
- Any other agency that makes broadband-eligible infrastructure grants.

applicants are able to leverage state funding to unlock federal grant and other funding opportunities. c) Develop criteria for state funding around demonstrated local and tribal government involvement that align with such criteria for federal broadband funding, specifically the Department of Agriculture's ReConnect and Community Connect programs. Requiring robust demonstrated support will help to make state-funded projects even more competitive to receive funding from federal programs that require significant community support. d) Prioritize funding open access, middle-mile infrastructure, including connections to anchor institutions.	
2. Identify alternative financing opportunities with government and philanthropic partners to maximize funding for new infrastructure. The state should work with local governments to explore opportunities for public financing, including but not limited to bond instruments. The state should also engage with active philanthropy organizations to identify areas of shared interest and potential sources of funding to support new broadband deployments in unserved and underserved areas.	Key Parties: • Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and • California Public Utilities Commission
3. Modernize California's universal service programs to support the deployment and ongoing maintenance of broadband networks effectively.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission
Additional areas worth consideration: • Increase financial resources allocated to expanding broadband availability statewide. • Establish obligations for existing Internet Service Providers to serve all customers.	TBD

Simplify processes and leverage existing assets and construction	
4. Implement a Dig Smart policy to install conduit as part of any appropriate and feasible state-funded transportation project in strategic corridors, as an incentive for service build-outs to un- and under-	Key Parties:

connected communities. Dig Smart policies present an opportunity to lower the capital cost of infrastructure deployment and minimize disruptions caused by ongoing or duplicitous construction, both incentivizing and expediting new investment.	• California State Transportation Agency
5. Continue improving state encroachment permitting processes and rights-of-way management to accelerate broadband deployment projects that will serve un- and under-connected communities.	Key Parties: • California State Transportation Agency
6. Explore various actions to enhance permitting processes at all levels of government through meaningful partnerships. Convene semi-annual meetings with broadband providers and local governments to enhance permitting processes that support the construction of broadband infrastructure and the needs of local governments. In addition, the office should launch a formal partnership with federal agencies to support prioritization of permits for broadband construction through federal land and when permit holders are experiencing delays.	Key Parties: • California Department of Technology
7. Identify state property for possible use for broadband infrastructure, based on specific criteria identified by the CPUC, Caltrans and other relevant agencies, to accelerate broadband deployment.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission, • Department of General Services, • California State Transportation Agency, • California Department of Technology
8. Regularly coordinate and convene with jurisdictions implementing next-generation 911 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public safety and disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.	Key Parties: • California Office of Emergency Services

Set reliability standards	
9. Establish standards for middle-mile and backhaul resilience and reliability. Recent experiences responding to wildfires throughout the state can be leveraged to identify shortcomings in network resilience and reliability. Analysis of demonstrated gaps can be used to set standards and a timeline for bringing networks throughout the state in line with such goals.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission in consultation with the • Governor's Office of Emergency Services
10. Establish clear standards of consumer protection and provisioning of equitable service by providers. Evaluate the surcharge collection and overall bill impacts, including other non-public charges to minimize total customer bill impacts. Examine whether broadband service in underserved and unserved communities is consistent with current licensing requirements.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission
Additional areas worth consideration: • Explore framework to ensure broadband resilience and reliability standards are met.	TBD

GOAL #2: Actions to ensure all Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices

Increase access to affordable broadband services and devices	
11. Within the scope of the California Public Utilities Commission's current proceeding, "Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish a Framework and Processes for Assessing the Affordability of Utility Service," develop a framework to define essential broadband service affordability standards, evaluate those standards relative to other essential service costs, and develop a range of metrics to provide a comprehensive assessment of households' ability to afford essential broadband service.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission
12. Improve the California LifeLine Program by including stand-alone broadband service, and work in partnership with internet service providers to encourage participation in the program.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission

13. Leverage existing California Department of Housing and Community Development programs, such as the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, to provide free broadband service for tenants in newly built housing. Funding programs could incorporate opportunities for awardees to provide 100/20 Mbps broadband service free of charge to all tenants in publicly subsidized units.	Key Parties: • Department of Housing and Community Development
14. Promote existing state contractual vehicles with internet service providers and equipment vendors to support cost savings and efficient purchasing of broadband services and equipment by local public entities such as school and library districts. Leveraging existing contracts is a resource-efficient strategy to help other public entities acquire affordable broadband services, especially in bulk.	Key Parties: • Department of General Services, • California Department of Technology, • California Department of Education • California State Library
15. Analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and identify programmatic and partnership opportunities to meet these needs.	Key Parties: • California Department of Aging, • California Department of Technology, • California Public Utilities Commission
Additional areas worth consideration: • Ensure all affordable broadband offers meet minimum state standards for broadband	TBD

Promote affordable broadband services and devices	
16. Partner with internet service providers to promote, track and publicly report the progress of adoption of affordable internet services and devices throughout the state. a) Request providers to develop multi-language marketing materials for distribution to under-adopting communities and support dissemination by leveraging existing public programs and campaigns, such as: CalFresh, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), CalWorks, Covered California, public libraries, public housing, and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), investor-owned utility CARES and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) programs. b) Develop tools for low-income individuals and service organizations to identify and subscribe to affordable broadband plans easily. c) Continue promoting affordable broadband and device offers to: i. Recipients of the National School Lunch program ii. Public library patrons	Key Parties: • California Department of Technology, • California Public Utilities Commission, • California Emerging Technology Fund and • California State Library, with support from all departments listed above, providers, manufacturers, and local government

Encourage broadband competition	
17. Provide guidance to local governments and partner with Tribal governments to develop broadband strategies and explore options for increasing competition in their communities. Specifically, provide guidelines for communities to inventory local infrastructure assets, publish template lease agreements, and make assets available on an open-access basis.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission
Additional areas worth consideration: • Identify if there are new incentives to encourage competitive leasing of privately-owned infrastructure to encourage competition. • Explore methods of promoting competition within multi-dwelling units – for example, through statewide adoption of San Francisco's Article 52 – to enable	TBD

tenants in apartment buildings to choose between multiple internet service providers.	

GOAL #3: Actions to ensure all Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion

Strengthen partnerships and coordinate initiatives	
18. Develop and manage a multi-layer network of digital inclusion stakeholders to discuss ongoing needs, share resources, and coordinate initiatives. First, leverage California Broadband Council meetings and the GO-Biz broadband funding identification initiative to strengthen partnerships among anchor organizations such as schools, libraries, workforce development boards, and county social service departments. Second, convene local government broadband coordinators and managers quarterly to identify barriers to local programming, new actions undertaken, and tools developed at the local level. Also, regularly convene private and nonprofit sector companies in an effort to understand and predict current and future demand for broadband. Third, convene broadband adoption practitioners, including libraries, nonprofit organizations, and others semi-annually to share best practices and ongoing community needs in regard to, innovate and create new digital literacy tools, and develop curriculum and training programs to meet the needs of the workforce, community, and students.	Key Parties: • Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, • Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, • California Public Utilities Commission , • Department of General Services, • State agencies that work with the local agencies listed above, • California Emerging Technology Fund, • Private and nonprofit sector broadband providers, and • Local partners.
Additional areas worth consideration: • Build out digital skills training programs that include core digital literacy, as well as more advanced technical training linked to specific jobs and career pathways.	TBD

Actions to support all goals	
Improve broadband data and mapping transparency and usability	
19. Collect more granular and more accurate broadband data and leverage this information to build out the public California Interactive Broadband Map. Collecting and mapping broadband availability data at the home address level will provide internet service providers and local and tribal governments the tools needed to pursue state and federal funding opportunities competitively. It will also enable them to advocate proactively for their eligibility to participate in such programs by being able to demonstrate a lack of broadband access. This will incorporate the following data in the California Interactive Broadband Map: Existing public broadband assets, geographic boundaries, roads, anchor institutions, public rights-of-way, and fairgrounds.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission in partnership with other departments/agencies including the • California Department of Food and Agriculture and the • Governor's Office of Emergency Services.
20. Leverage the California Public Utilities Commission's cost model to inform broadband planning and investments, project broadband availability based on existing resources, and inform statewide discussions of additional resources required to achieve our broadband goals.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission in partnership with the • Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the • California Department of Technology
21. Establish a Broadband for All portal to enable easy access to broadband information and tools and serve as a central repository, including: a) A page for the public to submit data to validate or dispute broadband mapping data related to broadband speeds and availability. b) Resources and toolkits specific to broadband planning and implementation. c) Digital inclusion plans, initiatives, and best practices developed by local governments, nonprofits, anchor institutions, and community	Key Parties: • California Department of Technology

partners. When possible, entities should include resources that can be replicated or built upon by other entities. d) Digital skills training tools, such as curricula, fact sheets, promotion collateral, and more. e) Information on affordable internet offers and devices, including cost, eligibility, customer service contact information, and instructions on how to sign up. f) State and federal broadband funding opportunities using the grants.ca.gov site, including program status, eligibility requirements, and ability to be leveraged as match for other programs.	

Develop technical assistance and support	
22. Identify additional opportunities to provide technical assistance to local governments, Tribes, nonprofits and their partners to best leverage local, state, federal, and private funding opportunities. This may include supporting the creation of special districts or cooperatives to deploy networks, and providing support in navigating the technical, regulatory, and financial hurdles to deployment.	Key Parties: • California Public Utilities Commission, • California Department of Technology
Additional areas worth consideration: • Building out a technical assistance program that could include feasibility studies for potential infrastructure build-outs. • Explore mechanisms for private entities to share asset availability with local governments on a project-by-project basis to enable efficient investment.	TBD

Bolster partnerships	
23. Form a planning group of all state agencies that oversee any potential infrastructure or broadband adoption funding to meet quarterly to ensure alignment in funding goals and implementation, and further identify existing and new programs that can support Broadband for All. The planning group will:	Key Parties: • Governor's Office Business and Economic Development, • California Public Utilities Commission,

a) Allow various agencies to coordinate funding priorities to ensure maximum impact of state funds, maximization of new and existing federal funding opportunities, and that various programs complement one another in meeting the state's broadband goals. b) Explore setting shared standards among state grant programs to prioritize joint infrastructure and adoption projects. c) Explore opportunities to use programs under their jurisdiction to accelerate broadband deployment and to leverage utility infrastructure to increase access to existing fiber and cost-effectively deploy new fiber. d) Identify and facilitate new broadband projects that support precision agriculture and food systems in rural communities. e) Identify ways to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity for residential units at all publicly subsidized housing communities. f) Include updates from the California Department of Education as it leads statewide efforts to ensure that students have the computing devices and connectivity necessary for distance learning and online instruction. g) Identify additional opportunities for cross-department partnerships that bring new funding sources together, such as the current initiative by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California State Library that supports access to online training and digital literacy. h) Support issuing guidance on how state agencies and local partners can support digital inclusion via existing federal programs, such as has already happened across departments. i) Support access to broadband in fast-growing inland parts of the state, as well as facilitate the growth of second offices for established CA companies, new startups, and telework opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled consistent with the state's climate commitments.	• California Department of Food and Agriculture, • California Department of Education, • California State Library, • California Department of Housing and Community Development, • California Department of Water Resources, • California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, • California Department of Social Services, • California Department of Aging, • Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and • Any other agency with broadband infrastructure and adoption eligible programs.
24. Request that executive branch entities and constitutional agencies incorporate broadband into their strategic plans, and provide broadband priorities	Key Parties: • All executive branch state entities

to the California Broadband Council annually to ensure effective interagency collaboration.	(agencies, departments, commissions, etc.), and if they agree, constitutional agencies.

Appendix B: CPUC Cost Model

Excerpt from the California Broadband Cost Model CBCM Report (December 2020). Available at https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/communications/costmodel/.

Authored By:
CostQuest Associates
1430 E. McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45206
U. S.

Publication Date: December 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Chico State University, on behalf of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), engaged CostQuest Associates, Inc. (CQA) to provide a statewide cost model for broadband and voice services using methods consistent with the adopted FCC Connect America Cost Model (CACM) as modified by the approach requested by the CPUC. The CACM is used under multiple FCC funding mechanisms, including the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) program[1]. It must be noted here however that the California State Broadband Cost Model (CBCM) is not the CACM. The CBCM has as its purpose the estimation of investment to build broadband network infrastructure to given locations on a one-time capital cost basis.

The cost elements comprising CBCM are based on network design and engineering methods, to model, as closely as possible, estimated network deployment costs of a fiber to the premises network capable of meeting current and future consumer bandwidth demand requirements. The model's inputs are flexible, so that information about cost factors specific to areas of California may be adjusted going forward, at the option of the CPUC.

The purpose of the CBCM is to provide the CPUC and state Policy Makers with cost estimates for broadband across the state. To that end, and to support the various needs the CPUC seeks to address, the CBCM is provided as an iterative process. This model provides Middle Mile and Access Network investment with aggregate build out costs for Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) for the access networks and service tiers as described in the Scope section of this report. FTTP networks are capable of providing services with bandwidth up to 1000 Mbps. Investment is categorized above and below a threshold. The threshold value is intended to help identify areas which may be too costly for economically viable FTTP.

Future iterations of the model may be expanded to include additional network tech types, tiers of service, and geographies. We note, for example, a majority of California housing units are served with broadband services provided by cable companies. At the request of CPUC staff, the model may be adjusted to evaluate areas served by cable companies.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

The cost models provide estimates for a Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) network. The Fiber to the Premises network is constructed for all unserved locations. Unserved locations *over* an investment threshold are served with the same network as those *under* the threshold.

[1] The FCC RDOF Program information is available at: https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904. RDOF mapped locations in California are available via CPUC mapping at: https://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/federalfunding/. The CPUC's support mechanisms for in-state RDOF bidders and federal program updates are available at: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/broadbandfederalfunding/.

The estimated investments to provide voice and broadband[2] were calculated for areas not served by the following speed standards:

1. 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload
2. 100 Mbps download / no specified upload
3. 100 Mbps download / 10Mbps upload

Results are presented in Tables 1-4, below. The access network values allocate 100% of the middle mile structure to the voice and broadband network. Associated state maps for each speed standard table can be found in a separate document; see appendix D for detail.

Table 1: Estimated Investments - Statewide Comparative Summary, by Speed Tier[3]

	Category	Structure Count (Demand Locations)	Passed Access Investment	Service Turnup Based Investment	Total Investment
Tier 1 (25/3) Total Network Investment	Unserved Network Subtotal	513,700	$3,034,255,049	$350,898,450	$3,385,153,499
	Statewide Middle Mile Network Subtotal	na	na	na	$2,167,280,701
See: Table 2	Total Investment	na	na	na	$5,552,434,200
Tier 2 (100 Down) Total Network Investment	Category	Structure Count (Demand Locations)	Passed Access Investment	Service Turnup Based Investment	Total Investment
	Unserved Network Subtotal	760,053	$4,058,476,496	$507,437,479	$4,565,913,975
	Statewide Middle Mile Network Subtotal	na	na	na	$2,167,280,701
See: Table 3	Total Investment	na	na	na	$6,733,194,676
Tier 3 (100/10) Total Network Investment	Category	Structure Count (Demand Locations)	Passed Access Investment	Service Turnup Based Investment	Total Investment
	Unserved Network Subtotal	779,065	$4,114,007,951	$518,715,826	$4,632,723,777
	Statewide Middle Mile Network Subtotal	na	na	na	$2,167,280,701
See: Table 4	Total Investment	na	na	na	$6,800,004,478

[2] The Service Turnup investment (ONT and Drop) is not sensitive to the service speed deployed, up to 1 Gb of best-efforts service. The access network investment, while fairly static, is sensitive to the delivered speeds mainly with respect to splitter ratios and core electronics. Those sensitivities will be driven by bandwidth consumption assumptions for the end user, services consumed, and the number of supported end users connected to the network in an area.

[3] The Statewide Middle Mile Network Subtotal is based on a full state greenfield analysis.

CALIFORNIA
BROADBAND COUNCIL

SAMPLE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XXXX
SETTING FORTH SUPPORT TO INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expands economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within underserved communities and/or areas (which include people of color, low income households, residents in rural areas, and senior citizens) more apparent; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that cost and household income is a primary barrier to broadband access.

WHEREAS, all residents, businesses and institutions need high speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables Work from Home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband is a "green technology" that reduces our impact on the environment, shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety, and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and

WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision markers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property; and

WHEREAS, to accelerate the deployment of broadband, the primary objective is to deploy private-sector capital as quickly as possible through improved public cooperation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this XX day of XXXXX 2020 that the XXXXXX County Board of Supervisors does hereby as follows:

1. Supports FCCs (United States Federal Communications Commission) and CPUCs (California Public Utilities Commission) rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to bridge the digital divide.

2. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020 that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California; and

3. Supports collaboration with [Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties], broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California; and

4. Determines that closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits; and

5. Supports the request for grant funding from the State and/or Federal government for a regional program that provides funding for free internet access for qualifying residents that bridges the economic digital divide; and

6. Supports a minimum broadband speed capability of 100 megabits per second today and 1 gigabit per second by 2030 for all residential and business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of our region; and

7. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to affect the deployment decisions of broadband providers by lowering permitting fees to a reasonable level, reduce the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems in our communities, reduce the risks of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases, provide opportunities for increasing revenue, and creating new avenues for competitive entry; and

8. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to identify broadband opportunity zones in underserved communities; and

9. Upon identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports the adoption of an emergency ordinance which would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to expedite low cost broadband deployment such as: waivers for microprojects, deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved communities and fixed wireless or other broadband technologies in rural communities; and

10. Supports the adoption of consistent fees and expedited broadband permitting processes within collaborating jurisdictions; and
11. Supports the concept of “Dig Smart” and/or “Dig Once” whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

Sample Model Policy to bring Broadband in Underserved Communities
(For Use by Local Governments)

Findings and Declarations

The [Name of Local Government] hereby finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced residents of [Name of City/County] to completely restructure the way we live, work and, learn and access to "broadband" (which includes both wireline and wireless technologies) has become essential advancing public health, education and equity. However, not everyone has equal access to high-speed broadband and the pandemic has exposed the vast and damaging effects of the "digital divide." Families left between are concentrated among communities of color, low-income and rural households. As such, 2020 is demanding that local governments address persistent differences in who has high quality internet access at home.

The [Name of Local Government] finds and declares that Broadband is an essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy. It is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in [Name of Local Government] and throughout California. And, it can enable [Name of Local Government] to mitigate economic, educational and health disparities within underserved communities. During and beyond the current COVID-19 crisis, [Name of Local Government] need to develop long-term and short-term solutions that redress persistent inequalities in broadband access in an expedited manner.

The ability to be "connected" instantly through the Internet to information, services and digital tools is increasingly critical for access to and success in education, jobs, and economic opportunities. The deployment and adoption of broadband is a major strategy to spur economic development because it improves productivity, which attracts more capital investment and generates jobs, while saving both time and money for consumers.

Although California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of information technologies and broadband, the use of broadband technology by California residents is only approximately equivalent to the national average and there is a significant Digital Divide that must be closed to remain globally competitive.

In addition, broadband is a "green technology" that can significantly reduce impacts on the environment, shrink the carbon footprint, and decrease dependence on foreign oil by offsetting vehicle trips, decreasing the use of resources, and saving energy, and assists in solving key environmental justice issues (reducing environmental and health impacts in low-income communities).

[Name of Local Government] is committed to helping families and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient. And, it is recognized that the use of broadband can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide. Therefore, it is important that all residents within [Name of Local Government] have high-speed Internet access, particularly those living in lower-income and rural households and those living in publicly supported housing.

[Name of Local Government] also is committed to helping students obtain the highest-quality education possible and understands that the ability to learn and prepare for higher education is significantly enhanced if schools incorporate digital literacy and high-speed Internet connectivity into curriculum. The availability of computing devices both at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of the [Name of Local Government] to facilitate the rapid deployment and adoption of broadband to provide our residents with opportunities, quality of life, and convenience. Further, it is recognized that consumers need sufficient speeds of data transmission capability for the applications that they perceive as relevant to their daily lives and expect broadband networks to keep pace with those needs over time. Thus, it also shall be the policy of the [Name of Local Government] to encourage and facilitate upgrades to existing broadband infrastructure to ensure that the public and private sectors have access to sufficient broadband speeds to support consumer demand for new and evolving applications that save time, money and resources.

Responsibilities and Roles: Opportunities to Promote Broadband

The [Name of Local Government] recognizes that it has many responsibilities that affect deployment (supply) and adoption (demand) of broadband technologies and applications, including the following roles: (1) policy leader; (2) planner; (3) regulator (of land use); (4) consumer; and (5) service provider. As a policy leader, [Name of Local Government] may promulgate policies and ordinances to advance and protect the public interest or implement state and national laws that promote and accommodate high-speed Internet access. As a planner, [Name of Local Government] identifies opportunity areas, develops ordinances and permit streamlining. As a regulator, [Name of Local Government] approves permits which can encourage, promote and/or require rapid deployment of infrastructure and facilities to underserved communities within our jurisdiction. As a consumer, [Name of Local Government] purchases telecommunications and information technology equipment and services which, in turn, drives demand and improvements in these technologies and services. And, as a service provider, [Name of Local Government] has the ability to expand e-government functions by providing more information and access to public services online, thus encouraging broadband adoption. It shall be the policy of [Name of Local Government] in all of its roles and responsibilities to work with neighboring jurisdictions, service providers, and other stakeholders to actively identify opportunities to implement policies, programs and actions to encourage broadband deployment and adoption.

Implementation

[Name of Local Government] shall adopt strategies and implement provisions and ordinances that will expedite broadband deployment to underserved and rural communities, as well as promote economic development and improve security within the community:

Broadband Opportunity Zones:

- Collaborate with neighboring cities, county, MPOs, school districts, community college districts, universities, the state of California, the federal government, broadband providers and stakeholders to identify locations without broadband access.

- Develop and conduct multi-lingual surveys specifically targeting households in low-income and/or rural communities, focusing on access, usage, and barriers to internet adoption.

  Quantify and describe [Name of Local Governments] level of digital engagement, digital divide, and level and source of digital inequality (city/county-wide and by qualified census tracts).

- Participate in the Federal Communications Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection broadband access map crowdsourcing initiative.

- Develop and disseminate information to support the development of local broadband infrastructure deployment and digital equity plans.

- Develop a public outreach campaign to educate residents in [Name of Local Government] on the science behind new and emerging technologies and try to address potentially unfounded concerns as they become integrated into society.

Promote existing programs and develop new programs for short term and temporary use:

- Promote existing programs from broadband providers that offers subsidies or covers the cost of internet for low-income internet access.

- Promote existing state and/or federal government programs that offers subsidies for broadband access.

- Collaborate with broadband providers, community outreach groups, school districts, community colleges, universities and the business community to develop programs to cover the cost of broadband subscriptions for low-income students.

- Promote the use of public buildings, such as libraries, parks and convention centers, as broadband "hot spots" to allow residents affordable [or free] high-speed Internet access.

Adoption of an Emergency Ordinance for underserved communities

- Adopt an emergency ordinance to allow for rapid deployment of broadband in identified opportunity areas.

- Require a minimum broadband speed capability of 100 megabits per second today and 1 gigabit per second by 2030.

- Where feasible, exempt broadband opportunity areas from community character ordinances or local jurisdiction design guidelines.

- Where feasible, allow aerial fiber and other broadband infrastructure to be installed on pre-existing infrastructure such as existing powerlines to minimize impacts to aesthetics.

- When aerial fiber or other aboveground broadband infrastructure is not viable for last-mile solutions, allow for micro trenching in suitable areas as a viable short-term option.

- Should underground installation near a roadway occur, require the use of "dig-once" practices whereby conduit is installed for future immediate use for broadband installation.

Streamline permitting

- Develop a streamlined permitting process that lowers the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems, reduce the risks of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases, provides opportunities for increasing revenue, and creating new avenues for competitive entry.

- Allow for cost/permit waivers for broadband "microprojects".

- Permit grouping multiple projects under one permit to expedite the planning and construction phase.

- Collaborate with local jurisdictions to determine and agree upon a uniform permitting fee throughout the Southern California region.

- Identify local public rights-of-way and public facilities that can be used for broadband deployment and promulgate procedures to streamline the approval of easement encroachment permits consistent with principles of fairness and competition for all providers.

- Ensure a level playing field for all broadband providers—private and public (or government-led), wireline and wireless—making the use of public assets available to all providers on a competitive basis, commensurate with adopted policies regarding public benefits.

Smart and Affordable Housing

- Require all new residential subdivisions to be served with state-of-art broadband infrastructure with sufficient transmission rates to support applications relevant to residential consumers.

- Require all publicly subsidized housing development projects to provide an independent "advanced communications network" to drive economies of scale that can result in a significantly reduced cost basis for the lower-income residents. An "advanced communications network" is broadband infrastructure that, at a minimum, makes available affordable market-comparable high-speed Internet access service to all units via the aggregation and consolidation of service across the property. It is infrastructure in addition to

the standard cables, wiring and other infrastructure required for power, television and telephone service.

- Request the housing authority (authorities) to adopt policies to promote and support smart affordable housing with advanced communications networks whenever their public funds are used to subsidize the construction and provision of housing for lower-income residents.

Interagency Cooperation

- Request that the chief executive officer [County Administrative Officer or City Manager] outline a process for ensuring inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional cooperation which shall include: sharing this policy with other jurisdictions in the region; meeting with them to explore common needs for infrastructure; exploring opportunities to collaborate on broadband applications, such as telemedicine, or regional projects, such as library networks; and notifying neighboring jurisdictions about major infrastructure projects, such as transportation improvements along shared corridors.

- Explore opportunities to work with other public and private entities, such as schools, special districts, utilities, and private health and medical providers, to cooperate and joint venture on broadband deployment projects and adoption programs.

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 4, 2021

To: Community, Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Transportation Committee (TC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

From: Hannah Keyes, Associate Regional Planner,
(213) 236-1887, keyes@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Emerging Mobility Patterns During COVID-19

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
In her October 1, 2020 article in Forbes, "Covid-19 Is Not The 'Death Of The City' - It's The Rise Of The Neighborhood Center," Tiffany Chu, Remix CEO and co-Founder, discussed the emerging neighborhood-centric mobility patterns seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Chu will discuss this concept with the SCAG Transportation Committee and Community Economic and Human Development Committee as it relates to key concepts of Connect SoCal.

BACKGROUND:
The Core Vision of Connect SoCal is to build upon and expand land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern. This vision is articulated in several focus areas, those most relevant to the topic of the rise of the neighborhood center are Sustainable Development, Transit Backbone, and Complete Streets. Additionally, Connect SoCal's identified Priority Growth Areas align well with the shift to a focus on more neighborhood-centric, walkable areas. In her discussion, Ms. Chu will address the core concepts of the 15-minute community, the ties between this concept and Connect SoCal, how recent quick changes to our streets due to COVID-19 have been deployed to begin addressing this concept, and some key benefits of adopting this approach related to mobility and equity.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Covid-19 Is Not The ‘Death Of The City’ - It’s The Rise Of The Neighborhood Center

Oct 1, 2020, 08:00am EDT | 14,157 views

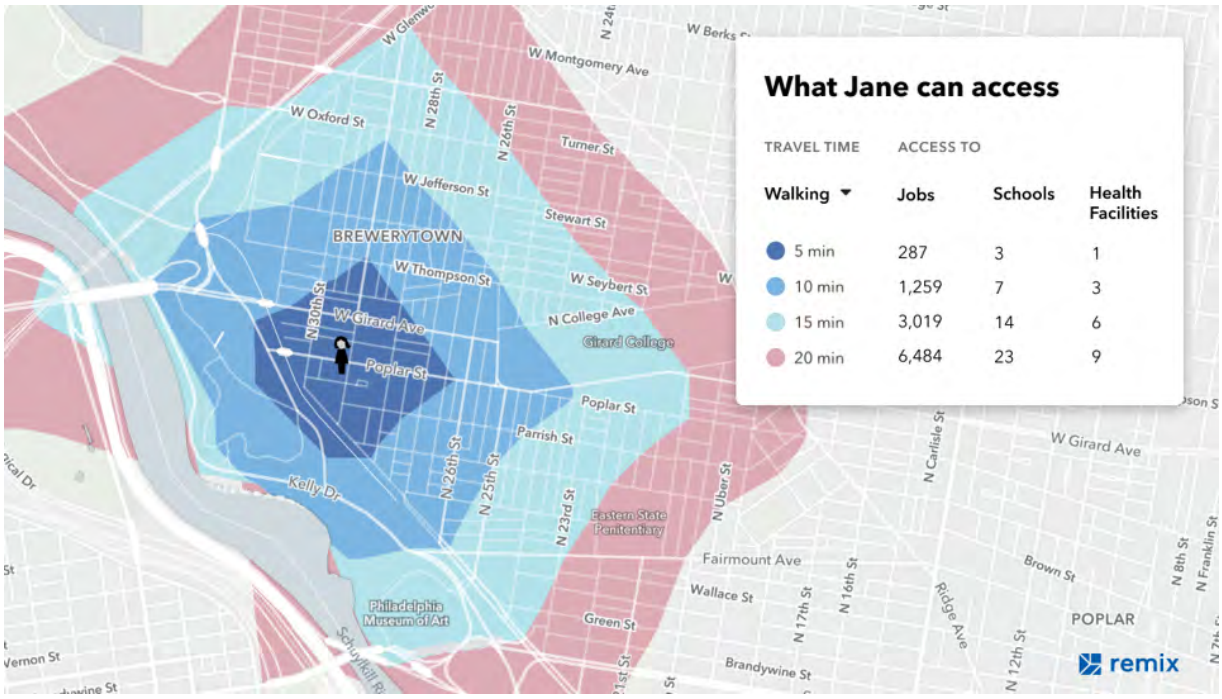
Covid-19 Is Not The 'Death Of The City' – It's The Rise Of The Neighborhood Center

Tiffany Chu Contributor

Transportation

I'm the CEO & co-founder of Remix (remix.com), a commissioner at San Francisco's Department of the Environment, and sit on the city's Congestion Pricing Policy Advisory Committee.

Transportation systems are often designed for peak commuters going downtown, which has plummeted since the pandemic. To not only recover but emerge improved, cities must invest in a travel pattern long neglected: the neighborhood trip.



An isochrone analysis of what's accessible within a 5, 10, 15, and 20-minute walk from ... [+] REMIX

This pandemic has caused widespread speculation on the future of cities. Will we all telework? Will everyone move to places where they have more space? Politico, Wall Street Journal, and other outlets have gone so far to announce that this could mark the death of cities, with commercial areas a dry husk of former commerce.

What these perspectives overlook is that not everyone has the means to leave, and that the pandemic may force cities to adapt in positive, sustainable ways. In January 2020, weeks before Covid-19 hit, Mayor Anne Hidalgo unveiled her plan to transform Paris into a "15-minute city." It would redistribute the city into a cluster of neighborhoods where Parisians **have access to everything they need within 15-minutes of travel by bike or foot from their home.** The plan calls for streets closed to cars, intersections into pedestrian plazas, gardens in parking spots, and more.

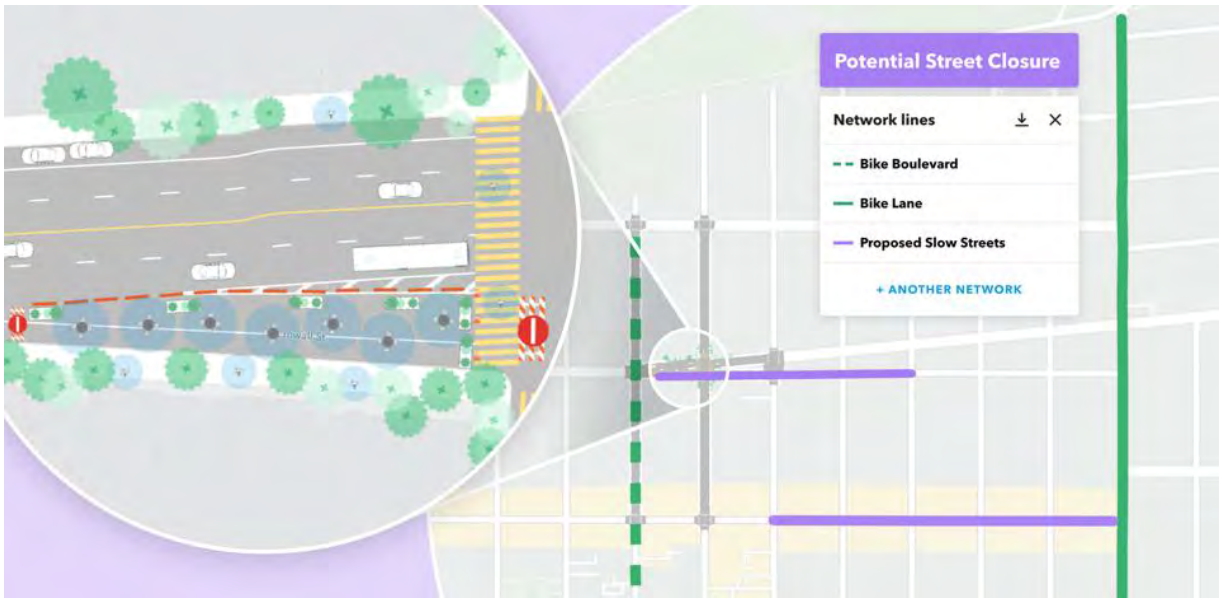
Sound familiar? During quarantine, cities created ad hoc solutions intended to serve residents who needed to move—often in their neighborhood. We saw an iterative wave of quick changes including “slow streets,” “streateries,” and the prioritization of bike and pedestrian networks.

Transit agencies had to plan specifically for essential workers, typically off-peak commuters, low-income, female, black, indigenous, or people of color. If ridership equalizes throughout the day, maybe it no longer makes sense to double train or bus service during morning and evening commute peaks — and we should instead run steady, dependable headways for a longer day span. For those of us who have long fought for mobility of the car-less, of low-income BIPOC communities, this is not the death of the city—**it’s a refocusing on the needs of those underrepresented that will make our cities more resilient.**

Bicycles And Buses Will Be Future's Dominant Modes Of Urban Mobility, Predict 346 Transport Experts

Why Slower Commutes Can Be A Good Thing

BETA



In a span of a few weeks, cities like Oakland, Somerville, Sydney launched quick-build projects as ...

[+] KELSEY JONES AND CHARLENE FOOTE, REMIX

The Rise of Neighborhood Centers: A Different Kind of Commute

The cost of transportation serving primarily peak commuters is under-researched and thus not widely understood. Caroline Criado Perez, the author of *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, highlights research in Sweden which examined snow plow route prioritization effects by gender. Plowing had always started with major roads and later got to smaller neighborhood streets. They found that men typically commuted via major roads, whereas women used local streets frequently to walk with kids in tow, care for family members, and more. By reversing the snow plow prioritization, the number of women admitted to the emergency room and subsequent health care costs actually dropped.

An increased focus on neighborhoods gives us **the chance to plan for the non-peak commuter** — such as

parents taking kids to and from school, shift workers, caregivers, seniors — and the results could be tremendous for health and well-being, much akin to the promise of the 15-minute city.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo's vision for le ville du quart d'heure, or city of 15 minutes. PARIS EN COMMUN

Refocusing on Travel Patterns Long Neglected

Some city agencies and transportation departments are re-examining travel patterns and needs. Los Angeles released a report on pandemic commutes which specifically compared travel trends between low-income and affluent neighborhoods. They also surveyed transit riders and found that *almost 50% are depending on transit to run essential errands.*

In a recent webinar with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, SFMTA Director Jeffrey Tumlin, and myself, Tumlin described a notable change: **transit ridership has shifted to local routes connecting neighborhood centers, rather than downtown routes primarily serving the financial district**. Despite the pandemic, San Franciscans are still traveling between neighborhoods to access amenities and services. Urban activity is still very much alive, just more distributed. In response, SFMTA is providing more local route service, which has been a challenge: "It often takes a lot more staff time to do what is equitable rather than what is easy," Tumlin said, but he adds that doing so will help the city survive and recover.

Moving beyond "the peak commuter"

The pandemic has forced our cities to think about how to get folks in and around their neighborhood needs safely. As major cities seek to create an

inclusive plan for the future of all of their residents, it's clear that this is not the death of the city, **it's a push to serve the needs of residents who are not traditional "peak commuters."** That refocusing has brought more right-of-way for cyclists and pedestrians, more street space for gathering outdoors, and more studies focused on those who have been underserved — investments that will surely lead to greater resilience and bring us closer to the promises of the 15-minute city.

Tiffany Chu is an environment commissioner for the City of San Francisco and the CEO of Remix. This piece was co-written by Rachel Zack and Janice Park.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.

Tiffany Chu

I'm the CEO & co-founder of Remix (remix.com), a collaborative platform helping 350+ cities around the world plan and envision their mobility future. I also serve as a...

Read More

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 4, 2021

To: Community
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

From: Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director of Planning,
(213) 630-1448, hornstock@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Program Summary and Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD:
Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC, TC AND RC:
Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG is eligible for $47 million in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding to support local governments and stakeholders with housing planning activities that accelerate housing production and meet the region's goals for producing 1.3 million new units of housing by 2029, as determined by the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

The REAP funding is a one-time planning program that authorizes subregional partnerships and encourages inter-governmental collaboration on projects that have a broader regional impact on housing production. SCAG is administering the REAP funds through a combination of direct technical assistance, including housing element data components and policy assessments, subregional partnerships with councils of government, community-based partnership grants in collaboration with philanthropic organizations, and planning support offered through the Sustainable Communities Program to local jurisdictions or entities serving single or multiple jurisdictions.

SCAG has framed the REAP funding into three umbrella categories:

1. ***Partnerships and Outreach***
2. ***Regional Housing Policy Solutions***
3. ***Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Integration***

BACKGROUND:

Under the California 2019-20 Budget Act, SCAG is eligible for $47 million in REAP funding to support local governments and stakeholders with housing planning activities that accelerate housing production and meet the region's goals for producing 1.3 million new units of housing by 2029, as determined by the 6th Cycle RHNA.

On February 6, 2020 the Executive/Administration Committee and Regional Council reviewed information about the REAP and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) funds, including a Draft Regional Housing Framework and early survey indications of needs of SCAG jurisdictions, and authorized SCAG staff to apply for up to twenty-five (25) percent of the $47.5 million for early program funding. Information related to the early application was also shared at the February 6, 2020 CEHD Committee meeting.

SCAG staff was successful in securing the $11.9 million of REAP early program funding. These early funds were used to:

1. Support completion of the development of the expanded methodology for allocation of SCAG's requirement to produce 1.3 million units of housing in the 2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs Assessment;
2. Develop a full suite of programs to support the region in producing the state-mandated 1.3 million units of housing, with a focus on updating housing elements, streamlining of development processes, new financing tools and other housing supportive land use policies and programs;
3. Conduct outreach to the sixteen (16) SCAG subregions, develop the guidelines for and launch the $23 million Subregional Partnerships Program (SRP), further described below, and provide "phase 1 funding" to the SRP recipients; and
4. Recruit additional temporary and limited term staff to implement and monitor the REAP program.

On December 3, 2020, the SCAG Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-627-1 which authorized staff to request the balance of SCAG's REAP allocation, or $35.6 million in additional REAP funding. At the time of drafting this report, that application request is in draft form and will be submitted on or before the January 31, 2021 deadline.

This remainder of this report provides an update on the current and future REAP program implementation activities, organized by each umbrella category:

1. Partnerships & Outreach
2. Regional Housing Policy Solutions
3. Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Integration

1. Partnerships and Outreach

There are 4 programs within the partnerships and outreach category of SCAG's REAP funding.

1) Subregional Partnership Program

SCAG has set aside approximately $23 million of its REAP housing funding for the Subregional Partnership Program (SRP) to fund subregional partnership planning activities that will accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance in implementing a jurisdiction's 6th cycle RHNA. The program is intended to augment resources available through locally received SB 2 and LEAP grants and foster subregional collaborations to take advantage of economies of scale in meeting housing goals. The funding amount available for each subregional partner is based on the final RHNA allocation.

The planning activities are required to accommodate the development of housing and supportive infrastructure that will accelerate housing production in a way that aligns with state planning priorities, housing, transportation, equity, and climate goals and regional priorities. Projects must be aligned with the regional priorities of the adopted Connect SoCal plan and the Housing Policy Framework included in the October 2019 Regional Council agenda.

In September 2020, the Regional Council voted to approve the SRP guidelines which outline program requirements, eligible projects, and the application processes. While most of SCAG's fifteen defined subregional entities are considered as subregions for this program, several jurisdictions have membership in more than one subregion. Additionally, several jurisdictions span more than one subregion. For these reasons, the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and County of Riverside were considered as individual subregional partners under this program. The sixteen agencies designated as subregions under this program and thus eligible program applicants are:

Coachella Valley Association of Governments	Orange County COG (Council of Governments)
Gateway Cities COG	San Bernardino COG
Imperial County Transportation Commission	San Fernando Valley COG
Las Virgenes-Malibu COG	San Gabriel Valley COG
City of Los Angeles	South Bay Cities COG
County of Los Angeles (unincorporated)	Ventura COG

County of Riverside (unincorporated)	Westside Cities COG
North Los Angeles County	Western Riverside COG

The first date for subregions to file applications was September 17, 2020, with a final deadline of December 1, 2020. Between September 2020 and December 2020, SCAG staff reviewed preliminary applications submitted by subregions and held consultation meetings with subregional representatives to discuss project eligibility connection to housing production, alignment with regional priorities, and augmenting SB 2 and LEAP activities. Except for the Las Virgenes-Malibu COG, who declined to apply for REAP funding, SCAG received fifteen (15) applications from the subregions by the December 1, 2020 deadline. Staff reviewed all applications within thirty days and has provided feedback and comments to applicants. As of January 12, 2021, eight applications have been fully approved. Seven applications are in process of comment and review. Staff expects to finalize all approvals by early February 2021.

Following the approval of the SRP application, each subregion will receive an award letter and will enter into an agreement with SCAG. To meet the reimbursement deadlines of REAP, all REAP funded projects must conclude by June 30, 2023.

2) Call for Collaboration

In July 2020, the Regional Council voted to approve $1 million of the early application REAP grant funding to establish the Call for Collaboration partnership program with the intent to support new partnership models and engage a wider range of stakeholders to advance the region's housing goals. SCAG is partnering with the California Community Foundation (CCF), joined by the Irvine Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and other funding partners for the California Call for Collaboration. The program will fund community-based organizations and non-profit led activities that result in action-oriented planning policies and programs demonstrating a nexus to accelerating housing production. This collaboration fosters diverse community-driven approaches and strategic coalitions to shape and execute a vision for more housing in every community while addressing historic racial inequities.

SCAG has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CCF to identify other funding sources and administer the grant funding. In December and January 2021, CCF and SCAG procured a technical assistance provider, to be funded by the foundation partners, to support the grant program awardees in their planning activities. CCF is scheduled to release the Request for Proposals for the grant program on January 19, 2021. The grant will offer funding in two categories:

- **Partnership Programs:** Awards of up to $125,000 to support the expansion and/or implementation of existing plans, initiatives, and/or partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

- **Spark Grants:** Smaller, capacity-building grants of around $50,000 (1) to seed new models of collaboration and engagement to support community-driven approaches and partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

Eligible applicants include non-profit community-based organizations and/or a partnership with a local government entity (including JPAs and housing authorities). Examples of activities that this program could fund are:

- Education, outreach, community organizing, research, and policy development.
- Additional technical assistance for local planning activities (e.g. fellowships, internships, consultants, support for engaging with development of local ordinances, community plans, housing element policies/programs, etc.).
- Planning and policy efforts to increase infrastructure / community improvements needed to accelerate housing production.
- Technical assistance for establishing regional or county housing trust funds for affordable housing or community land trusts (e.g. planning activities and processes, guidelines, charters).

Grant awards are expected to be announced in late March 2021, with the grant performance period beginning in April 2021 and lasting eighteen (18) months.

3) Local Housing Leadership Academy

SCAG will seek a consultant team to develop and lead a housing leadership academy that aims to convene, educate, and engage elected officials, local leaders and influential stakeholders on housing issues related to production and preservation of housing. The objectives of this program are to educate and elevate local leadership to proactively contribute to accelerate housing production, develop regional pro-housing coalitions, better utilize housing funding opportunities, implement housing elements, and collaborate with SCAG's emerging housing program. SCAG intends to curate cohorts of up to 40 participants specific to each Southern California county to offer concurrent training sessions.

The trainings will cover key housing topics and best practices including, but not limited to:

- Barriers to housing production
- NIMBY opposition
- Advocacy and coalition building
- Equitable housing development
- Economic recovery housing strategies
- Meeting RHNA targets
- New laws and ordinances
- Racial equity and housing/land use

SCAG plans to procure consultants by June 2021 and host the training academies through June 2023.

4) Pro-Housing Campaign

SCAG will develop a community outreach and advertising campaign with the goals of creating positive associations with housing development and housing-supportive land use policies. This effort will be modelled on the success of SCAG's Go Human campaign, a community outreach and advertising campaign with the goals of reducing traffic collisions in Southern California and encouraging people to walk and bike more. This campaign offered education, advocacy, information sharing and events that help residents re-envision their neighborhoods. The Go Human campaign also spurred partnerships with foundations and other municipal entities with shared goals, and SCAG will seek to create partnerships around the housing campaign to generate more funding for advertising.

This campaign will be general enough to apply across the region, with at least 3 targeted messages in support of housing production.

2. Regional Housing Policy Solutions

There are 3 programs in the Regional Housing Policy Solutions category.

1) RHNA Methodology/Allocation

SCAG implemented an extensive process for development of the 6th Cycle RHNA. In particular, SCAG developed an expanded methodology process to incorporate adjustment for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), with a minimum 150 percent social equity adjustment and an additional 10 to 30 percent added in areas with significant populations that are defined as very low or very high resource areas. *Importantly, and in contrast with past cycles, over 60 percent of the RHNA housing unit total was allocated on the basis of region-wide job and transit accessibility measures in order to promote infill development, efficient development patterns, improved intraregional jobs-housing relationships, and the region's greenhouse gas emissions targets.* A dynamic estimator tool and data appendix with a full set of various underlying data and assumptions to support the RHNA methodology were made available.

The final RHNA methodology was developed involving outreach by SCAG's Environmental Justice Working Group to maximize outreach to lower income, minority and other disadvantaged populations, and considered a wide range of nearly 250 stakeholder comments. The appeals process is to conclude with adoption of the Final RHNA in February 2021. SCAG will use lessons learned from the 6th cycle process to inform its recommendations to the California Department of

Housing & Community Development (HCD) for revamping the RHNA process to be provided pursuant to Health and Safety Code 50515.05

2) Data Tools and Technical Support for Housing Element Updates

In partnership with HCD, SCAG is providing several data and technical assistance tools to local jurisdictions. These resources will help member jurisdictions reduce costs associated with developing 6th cycle housing element updates as well as streamline the review process.

SCAG presented a two-part webinar series in August 2020 focused on providing local governments and other stakeholders in the SCAG region with information and resources to support their 6th cycle housing element updates. The workshop provided information on changes in housing element and related planning laws as well as available technical assistance offered by HCD and SCAG. In July 2020, SCAG published housing element needs and affordability data sets for each local jurisdiction, pre-certified by HCD for use in housing element updates.

SCAG also released a Regional Accessory Dwelling Unit Affordability Analysis to support cities in determining housing inventory analyses of sufficient suitable land available for residential development to meet the jurisdictions' requirements for the 6th Housing Element Planning Cycle. SCAG conducted this analysis in order to provide local governments in the region with assumptions for ADU affordability that can be used to assign ADUs to income categories for the purpose of 6thcycle housing elements.

In December 2020, SCAG launched the SCAG Housing Element Parcel Tool (HELPR), a web-mapping tool developed to help local jurisdictions and stakeholders understand local land use and site opportunities for aligning housing planning with the state's 6th cycle housing element updates. Developed with input from HCD, the HELPR tool supports site selection and includes several data layers and documentation to assist local jurisdictions with new housing element update requirements and facilitate site selection consistent with the principles undergirding Connect SoCal, including Environmental Justice, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, priority growth areas, etc.

3) Housing Policy Solutions Research

Building upon prior internal research efforts which focus on housing policies and fiscal innovations, this work item envisions a set of collaboratively funded university studies ("university partnerships") or other studies that provide research and recommendations on best practices that accelerate housing production, as well as additional small-ticket consultant items as needed, and staff time. The key deliverables would consist of policy briefs and periodic white papers on timely

topics and best practices. The project will begin with forming the first-year partnerships in Spring 2021- and second-year partnerships in Spring 2022.

3. Sustainable Communities Strategies Integration

There are 3 programs in the SCS Strategies Integration category.

1) 2020 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) – Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD)

This program (https://scag.ca.gov/sustainable-communities-program) will provide resources and direct technical assistance to approximately 25 jurisdictions to complete local planning efforts that both accelerate housing production as well as enable implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) of Connect SoCal. Eligible categories for this program include implementing ADU programs, Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones, and Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts, and streamlining housing permitting, parking reduction strategies, housing-related specific plans and other pro-housing policies.

The SCP-HSD Call for Applications was released in November 2020 and applications are due Jan. 29, 2021, with awards and procurement estimated in April 2021, projects underway in fall 2021, and implementation occurring through June 2023.

2) Transit Oriented Development Work Program

LA Metro Partnership: SCAG and Metro will enter into a Transit Oriented Development/Transit Oriented Communities (TOD/TOC) partnership via an MOU to fund a variety of programs and studies that promote housing production near transit stations.

SCRRA (Metrolink): SCAG and SCRRA will enter into a partnership through an MOU to identify and encourage transit-oriented housing production opportunities throughout Metrolink's network and around its stations. Particular emphasis will be made to support and add value to the Metrolink Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) capital improvement and service enhancement program. Local cities and CTCs will also be included as needed to maximize coordination on issues such as alignment of land development policies and regulations, land ownership and site control opportunities of transit station areas and supporting facilities.

3) Priority Growth Area (PGA) Analysis and Data Tools

Partnerships: SCAG will pursue partnerships to further next steps on housing supportive land use analysis and strategy development in PGAs. All programs and studies will include deliverables that provide inventories/counts of potential for housing production at sites that are under study.

Planning and Policy Research: SCAG will partner with academic institutions as well as other stakeholder groups and industry associations to identify best practices to unlock new housing development potential, remove barriers to housing development, reduce the cost of development, and decrease development timelines. These efforts will focus on various community typologies and housing types, consistent with the SCS and will also build on SCAG's CEQA streamlining efforts.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will submit its request to the state for the $35.8 M balance of its allocation of REAP funds by January 31, 2021 and will continue to implement the REAP-funded programs described in this report. As appropriate, individual programs and consultant contracts will be brought to the appropriate committee and/or Regional Council for review and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 20-21 Overall Work Program (21-300.4872.01: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants Program (AB 101)).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - REAP Program

SCAG's Regional Early Action Program (REAP)

Program Summary and Status

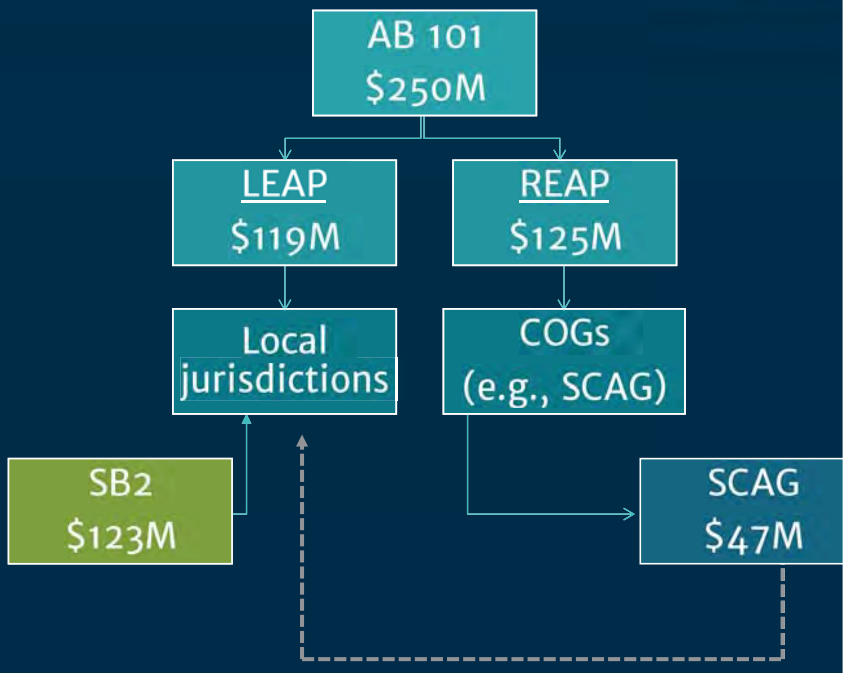
Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director of Planning, Special Initiatives
Ma'Ayn Johnson, AICP, Housing Program Manager
Lyle Janicek, Assistant Regional Planner, Sustainability

www.scag.ca.gov

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Background: REAP

- Establishes a one-time funding source to accelerate housing production and increase housing supply
- Intended to facilitate meeting 6th RHNA allocations, including supporting housing element updates

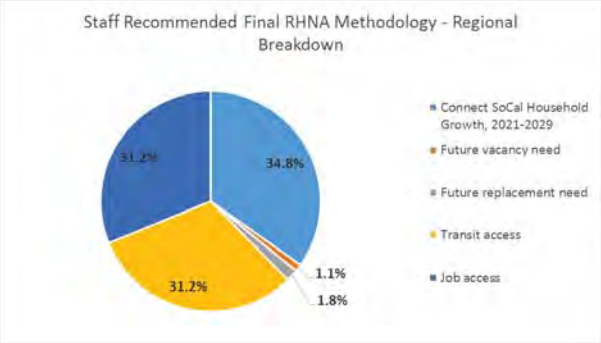


Background: 6th Cycle RHNA

Regional Determination

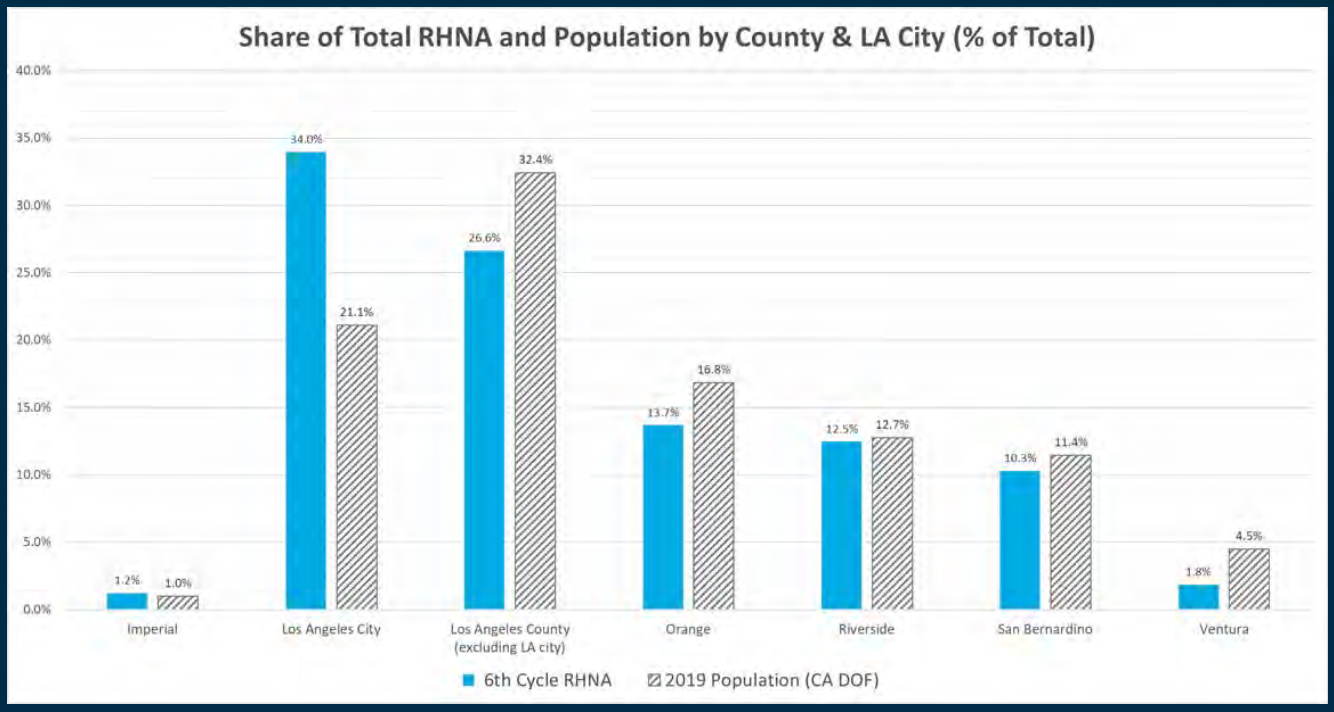
- 1,341,827 Housing Unit Need
  - Very-Low: 351,796
  - Low: 206,807
  - Moderate: 223,957
  - Above-Moderate: 559,267
- Process
  - SCAG submits to HCD RHNA Consultation Package (6/19)
  - HCD provides Draft Regional Determination (8/19)
  - SCAG submits Objection to Determination (8/19)
  - HCD provides Final Determination (10/19)
  - SCAG President meets with HCD to reinforce concerns (01/20)

Regional Methodology



- February 2019: Methodology development begins
- March 2020: Final methodology adoption
- September 2020: Draft RHNA Allocation
- October 2020-January 2021: RHNA Appeals Process
- March 2021: Final RHNA Plan adoption

Background: *Draft* RHNA Allocation Plan



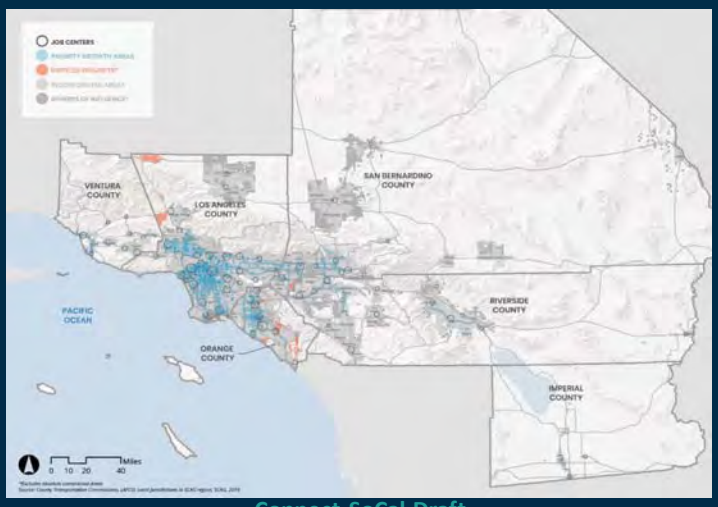
Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation - REAP Program (Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Program Summary and Status)

Background: 2020 Housing Element Updates

- March 2021: Final RHNA Allocation Plan adoption
- October 2021: Housing elements must be adopted
- February 2021: Housing elements must be adopted by this date to avoid reverting to a 4 year housing element cycle

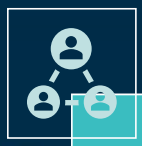
- Several recent housing bills require additional analyses on selecting sites to meet RHNA
  - AB 1397 (additional analyses)
  - SB 166 (no net loss)
  - Others

- REAP to support sustainable development



Connect SoCal Draft

REAP Program Areas

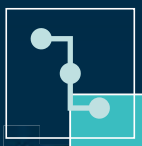


Partnerships & Outreach

- Subregional Partnership Program
- Call for Collaboration
- Housing Leadership Academy
- Pro-Housing Campaign

Regional Housing Policy Solutions

- RHNA Methodology/Allocation
- Data and Technical Support for Housing Element Updates
- Housing Policy Solutions Research



Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Integration

- Sustainable Communities Program
- Transit Oriented Development Work Program
- Priority Growth Area (PGA) Analysis and Data Tools

Subregional Partnership Program - Funding by Subregion*

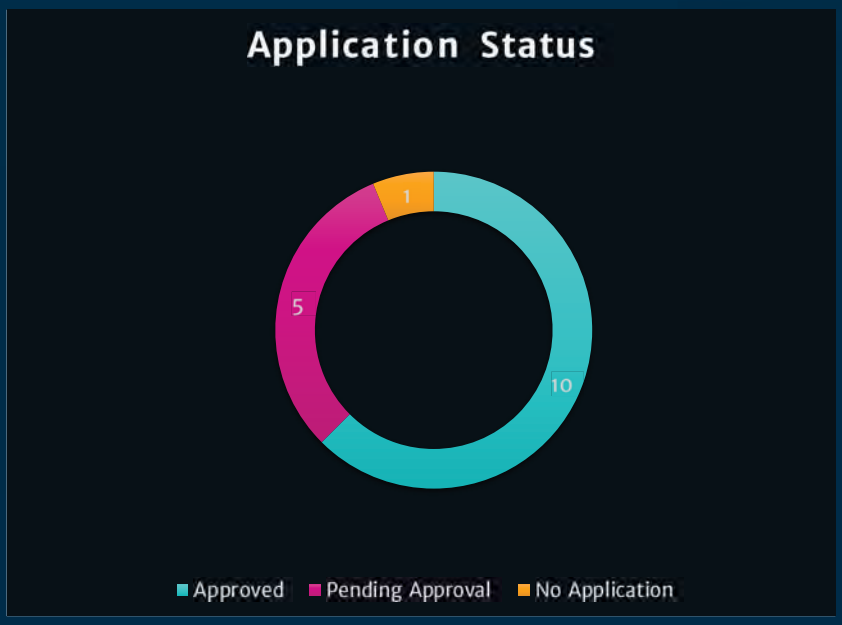
Subregion	Estimated subregional allocation (millions)
Arroyo Verdugo	$3.9
CVAG	$0.5
Gateway	$1.3
Imperial	$0.2
Las Virgenes-Malibu	$0.01
City of Los Angeles	$8
County of Los Angeles	$1.5
North LA County	$0.4
OCCOG	$3.2
County of Riverside	$0.7
SBCTA	$2.4
SGVCOG	$1.5
South Bay Cities	$0.6
Ventura	$0.4
Westside Cities	$0.3
WRCOG	$ 1.6

**Estimates based on RHNA methodology adopted in March 2020. Final subregional allocations will be based on the adopted final RHNA allocation.*

REAP Subregional Partnership Application Status

Approved Applications
LA County
SBCTA
Ventura County
WRCOG
Gateway Cities COG
South Bay Cities COG
North LA County/Palmdale
ICTC
CVAG
Westside Cities COG
SGVCOG

Applications Pending Review
OCCOG
City of LA
County of Riverside
SFVCOG



REAP Subregional Partnership Project Types

- 6th Cycle Housing Elements Development and Implementation
- ADU Encouragement Strategies/ Pre-Approved Designs
- Formation of Housing Trust Funds
- Inclusionary Housing Strategy/Ordinances
- Housing Finance Strategies
- Site Inventory & Site Analysis
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Framework and Action
- Stakeholder Education & Community Outreach

Call for Collaboration Overview

- Goal: Develop and support deeper community engagement in planning activities and programs that accelerate housing production throughout the SCAG region
- Eligible applicants: Non-profit community-based organizations and/or a partnership with a local government entity
- Important Dates

  1/19/2021: RFP released

  2/23/2021: Applications due

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
up to $125,000 to support the expansion and/or implementation of existing plans, initiatives, and/or partnerships.

SPARK GRANTS
Up to $50,000 to seed new models of collaboration and engagement

Leadership Academy

- Convene, Educate, and Engage elected officials, local leaders and influential stakeholders on housing issues related to production and preservation.
- Education and Coalition Building to empower decisionmakers to say "Yes" to housing.
- Cohorts by County, 20-40 people per cohort, up to 6 concurrent sessions across the region
- Procurement starting this quarter
- Anticipate kick-off in Summer 2021

SESSION TOPICS
- Housing barriers
- Exclusionary land use policies
- Reaching RHNA goals
- Building coalitions
- Addressing opposition to housi

Data Tools and Technical Support for Housing Element Updates

Housing Element Update Webinar – August 2020

Information on changes in housing element and related planning laws as well as available technical assistance offered by HCD and SCAG.

Housing Element Local Profiles – July 2020

Needs and Affordability Data Sets for each local jurisdiction, pre-certified by HCD for use in housing element updates.

Regional Accessory Dwelling Unit Affordability Analysis - July 2020

Support cities in determining housing inventory analyses of sufficient land suitable available for residential development and assumptions for ADU affordability

SCAG Housing Element Parcel Tool (HELPR) – December 2020

Web-mapping tool developed to help local jurisdictions and stakeholders understand local land use and site opportunities and support site selection

Housing Policy Solutions Research

- Partnerships with universities to be formed in two rounds: Spring 2021 and Spring 2022
- Exploration of topics, which could include
  - Tax increment financing
  - Small lot development tools
  - Impact fee analyses
- Development of policy briefs, best practices, and tools

2020 Sustainable Communities Program – Housing and Sustainable Development

- Resources and technical assistance for local planning efforts that accelerate housing production and support the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Connect SoCal.

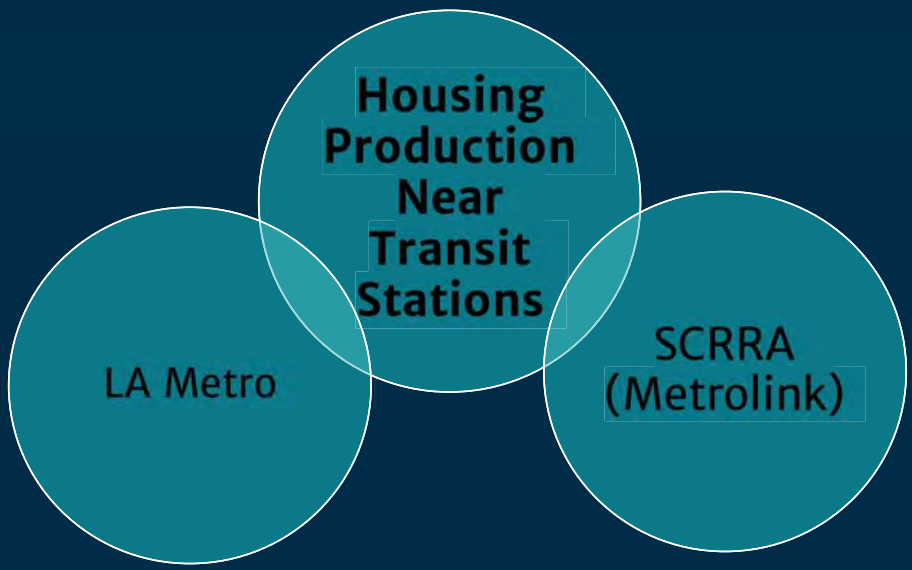
Key Dates

- November 9, 2020 – Call for Projects Released
- January 29, 2021– Application deadline
- April 2021 - Awards and procurement estimated
- Fall 2021- June 2023 Project implementation

Project Types

- Advancing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Implementation
- Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones, and Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts
- Objective Development Standards for Streamlined Housing, Pro-housing Designation Program and Parking Innovation

Transit Oriented Development Work Program



For More Information visit SCAG's Housing and Land Use Webpage

www.scag.ca.gov/housing

Questions or Comments
Contact: Jenna Hornstock
hornstock@scag.ca.gov | (213) 630-1448
www.scag.ca.gov

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

AGENDA ITEM 5
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

February 4, 2021

To: Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD)

From: Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director of Planning, (213) 630-1448, hornstock@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Community Development Financial Institutions

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) can support a strategy to increase access to funding for a range of community-serving functions. OC Isaac, Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corporation (PCR) will provide a presentation highlighting how CDFIs can play a role in an inclusive economic recovery strategy for the SCAG region and will provide insights into how local jurisdictions can effectively partner with CDFIs.

BACKGROUND:
CDFIs are specialized organizations providing financial services and products in low-income communities to people and businesses that lack access to financing. The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, a division of the U.S. Treasury Department, determines CDFI certification.

The CDFI Fund's mission is to generate economic growth and opportunity by assisting people and businesses in economically distressed communities in accessing financial products and services. The fund offers tailored resources and innovative programs that invest federal dollars alongside private capital.

CDFIs are eligible to apply for multiple programs offered by the CDFI Fund that provide direct funding through awards or grants and indirect funding, such as through a bond guarantee program. CDFIs can also access resources such as technical assistance, training and capacity-building initiatives to support their mission.

In 2019, there were over 1,000 certified CDFIs in the United States and their total activity was over $141 billion in equity investments, loans and loan guarantees. There are approximately 100 CDFIs in California.[1]

An organization must meet seven criteria to be certified as a CDFI:

- Be a legal entity
- Be a financing entity
- Primarily serve one or more target markets
- Have a primary mission of promoting community development
- Provide development services in conjunction with its financing activities
- Maintain accountability to its defined target market, and
- Be a non-governmental entity and not be under the control of any government entity (typically excluding tribal governments).

SCAG President Rex Richardson has made generation of an Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy a key part of the FY20/21 work plan, and staff have launched this effort using the approach of listen, convene, catalyze. As part of efforts to explore solutions rooted in racial and social equity, SCAG has invited OC Isaac, Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Center, to present on the programs that PCR manages and new programs they are developing. Mr. Isaac will discuss the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on small businesses and underserved communities and the programs and partnerships that PCR offers to center resources on Black and Latino owned small businesses that operate in underserved communities.

Establishing, working and partnering with CDFIs is a strategy that will be explored in the development of SCAG's Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy, which is in progress and will be completed by May 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

[1] https://cdfi.org/california/

Southern California Association of Governments

February 4, 2021

To: Community, Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

From: India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner,
(213) 236-1919, Brookover@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SoCal Greenprint Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 3: Be the foremost data information hub for the region. 6: Deploy strategic communications to further agency priorities and foster public understanding of long-range regional planning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
SCAG has completed the first year of the two-year SoCal Greenprint development process. The SoCal Greenprint will serve as a strategic conservation tool and website to help users make improved land use and transportation infrastructure decisions and support conservation investments based on the best available scientific data. Specifically, the SoCal Greenprint will serve as an online mapping and reporting platform illuminating the multiple benefits of natural and agricultural lands through data related to key topics such as habitat connectivity, biodiversity, clean water, agriculture, flood risk reduction, and greenhouse gas sequestration. This presentation will provide an overview of the project's progress to date and identify deliverables and milestones for 2021.

BACKGROUND:
A "greenprint" is a strategic conservation plan or assessment tool that reveals the economic and social benefits that parks, open space, and working lands provide to communities. In 2018, SCAG staff and stakeholder members of the Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group identified the opportunity to develop a greenprint to balance regional growth with the multiple challenges affecting Southern California such as drought, climate change, and habitat loss; to help better prioritize lands for mitigation that have regional conservation benefits; to accommodate infrastructure development while protecting important natural resources; to address the lack of consistent, regional data and tools; to help guide conservation investments; and to communicate

the multiple benefits of natural resources, agricultural lands, and urban greening to people and communities.

The SoCal Greenprint will serve an important role in meeting regional conservation goals as articulated in Connect SoCal, where the project is identified as a next step in developing a regional conservation strategy. Additionally, full development and deployment of the SoCal Greenprint is included in Connect SoCal's PEIR as a tool to support the mitigation of impacts to threatened and endangered species and habitats (SMM BIO-2). Finally, development of the SoCal Greenprint is included in SCAG's recently adopted Climate Change Resolution (Resolution 21-628-1), which will emphasize regional conservation planning's role in fulfilling the State's Executive Order N-82-20 to preserve 30 percent of habitat land and coastal water by the year 2030.

The Nature Conservancy, along with their subconsultant GreenInfo Network, were selected to develop the SoCal Greenprint based on their extensive experience with similar regional efforts and their engagement with stakeholders across the private, public, and non-profit sectors. The project's first year entailed extensive, targeted outreach to stakeholders to gain insight on the tool's key users, uses, main themes, and the best datasets to include. While the SoCal Greenprint will be freely available to anyone, key users have been defined as infrastructure agencies, conservation practitioners, community-based organizations, developers and planners. With this stakeholder input, six final themes were developed to organize the data: agriculture, conservation/biodiversity/habitat, community and equity, infrastructure/built environment, risks and resilience, and water.

Synergies have also been established between work on the SoCal Greenprint and SCAG's housing efforts. The Nature Conservancy provided guidance on how to process and incorporate data in Connect SoCal's variable constraints layers and provided a prioritized list of environmental data that was incorporated into SCAG's Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) tool. This data is useful for planners in identifying areas to prioritize housing growth based on a number of environmental factors.

While stakeholder outreach and data vetting continue, this upcoming year will focus on developing and testing the tool, and a launch campaign. For their final project deliverable, the Nature Conservancy will use the Greenprint to create a white paper advising SCAG on challenges and opportunities for developing a Regional Advanced Mitigation Program, which is envisioned by Connect SoCal as establishing and/or supplementing regional conservation and mitigation banks. The SoCal Greenprint is on schedule for completion in late 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This project is funded in SCAG's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Overall Work Program under 290-4862.01

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect SoCal Greenprint (EEC)
2. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect SoCal Greenprint (CEHD)

SoCal Greenprint

SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee

India Brookover, SCAG

February 4th, 2021

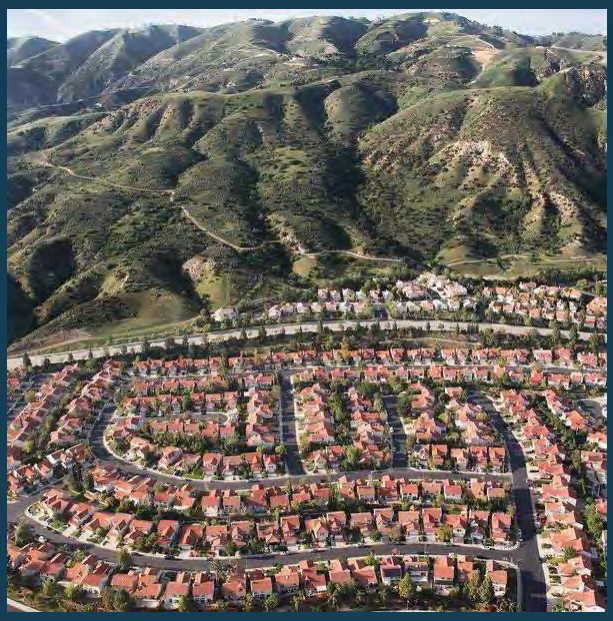
in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy

www.scag.ca.gov

What is a Greenprint?

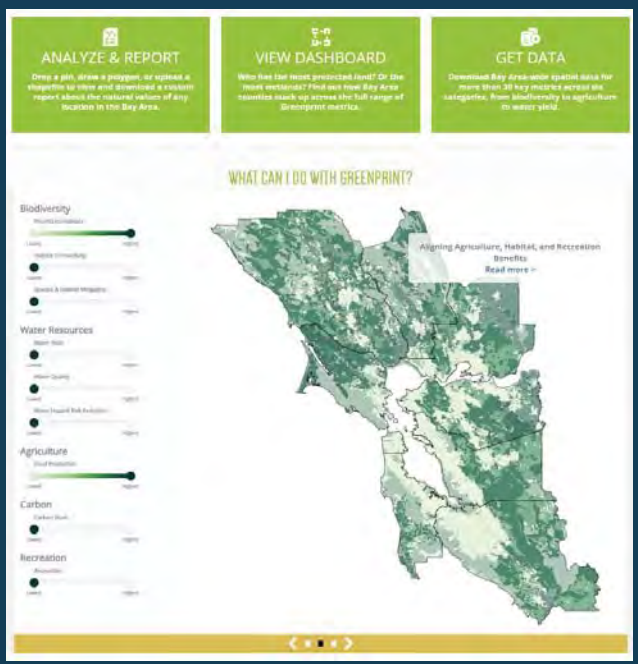
A tool to help users make better land use and transportation infrastructure decisions and support conservation investments based on the best available scientific data.

Why do we need a Regional Greenprint?



- Balance growth with conservation
- Accommodate infrastructure while protecting natural resources
- Address the lack of consistent, regional data and tools
- Better prioritize lands for mitigation
- Resource for our member agencies and stakeholders

What will it look like?



Custom, web-based interactive map tool

Compilation of regional data about conservation and growth

Themes that organize information and map data layers

Specific to local values and needs, like location of natural hazards like fire, flood, and seismic zones

Goals of the SoCal Greenprint

- To protect, restore, and enhance natural lands, public greenspace, working lands, and water resources and the benefits they provide to people and nature throughout the SCAG region.

Goals of the SoCal Greenprint

- Implement Connect SoCal
- Balance growth with conservation
- Accommodate infrastructure while protecting natural resources
- Address the lack of consistent, regional data and tools
- Better prioritize lands for mitigation investments
- Resource for our member agencies and stakeholders

SoCal Greenprint Alignment with other Strategies & Initiatives

Connect SoCal Conservation Strategies and PEIR Mitigation Measure

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION

ACTION AFFIRMS CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SCAG Resolution on Climate Change

Governor's Executive Order to conserve 30 % of California's lands and waters by 2030

SoCal Greenprint Stakeholders

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

East Yard Communities For Environmental Justice

UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability

NAIC

Tataviam Land Conservancy
HERITAGE • PRESERVATION • EDUCATION

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

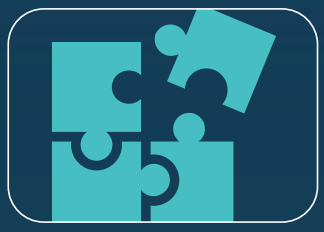
Audubon California

NATURE FOR ALL
PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

Proposed SoCal Greenprint Themes

Agriculture

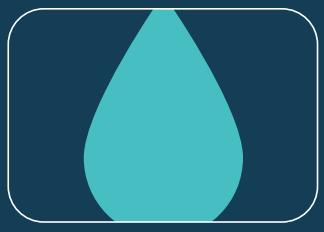
Biodiversity & Habitat



Community & Equity

Infrastructure & Built Environment

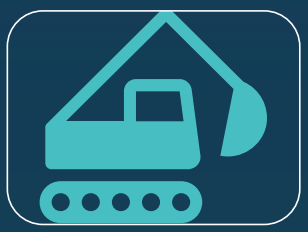
Risk & Resilience



Water

Climate Change, urban greening, and equity are cross-cutting and will be represented within all themes

Key Users of the SoCal Greenprint



Infrastructure Agencies

Conservation Practitioners

Community-Based Orgs

Developers

Planners

The SoCal Greenprint is being developed with these users in mind but will be freely available to anyone.

How can the Greenprint be used or implemented?

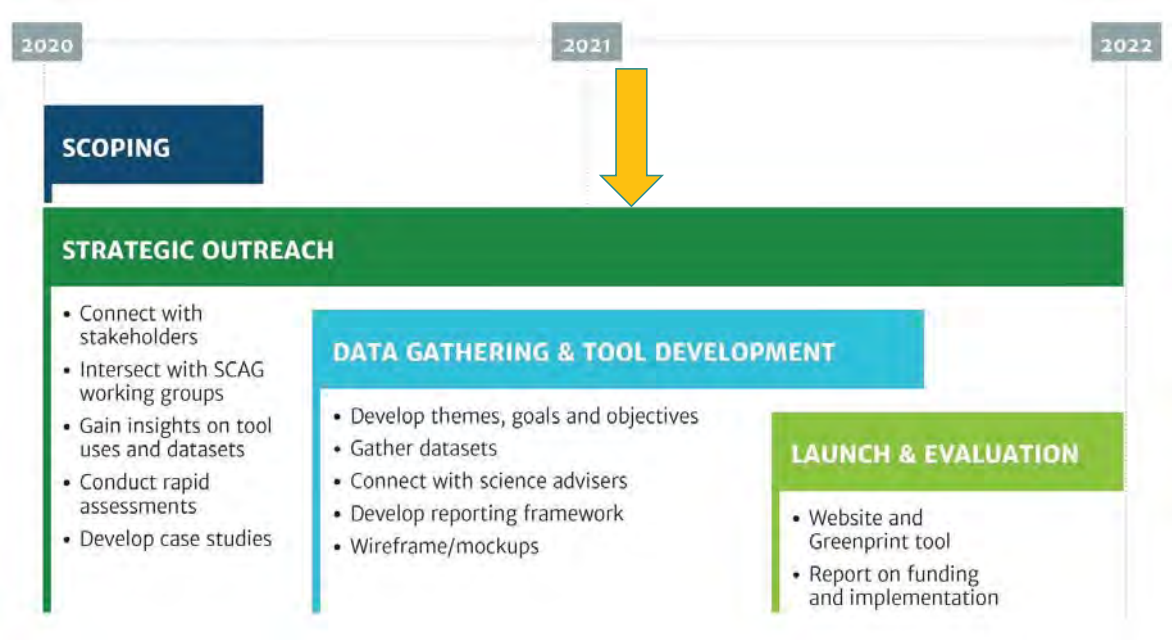
Support better land use planning and decision making

- Grow communities while avoiding agriculture and habitat
- Siting mitigation for freeway and rail alignments
- Identifying places that need green infrastructure or access to open space
- Establish ordinances like Ventura Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance
- General plan updates and zoning changes
- Support regional advance mitigation planning (RAMP)

Synergy with SCAG Housing Efforts

- Data for Greenprint is already used in SCAG's Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool
- maps.scag.ca.gov/helpr

Project Timeline



Project Accomplishments in 2020

- Developed draft themes & metrics
- Conducted two Advisory Committee meetings
- Gathered data from around the region
- Launched rapid assessments with key audiences
- Helped develop SCAG Housing Tool (HELPR)
- Connected with supporters and skeptics

Next Steps for 2021

- Finalize data, themes, metrics
- User testing and interviews
- Online outreach campaign
- Website launch & webinars to spread the word
- Recommendations for Regional Advance Mitigation Program

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Questions?
Feedback?
Thank you!

www.scag.ca.gov

in collaboration with
The Nature Conservancy