

## BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

### GOAL:

Facilitate the distribution of the best broadband service possible, to as many users within community areas and key transportation corridors as possible, in a timely and cost effective manner that minimizes impacts to visual and natural resources.

**Objective A** : Work with providers to deliver the best service possible.

Policy 1 : New broadband implementations shall exceed standards set by the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) for 'Served' communities.<sup>1</sup>

*Action 1.1 : Monitor current CASF standard for broadband speeds and make providers aware of this standard.*

*Action 1.2 : Require providers to perform and submit speed tests from customer end-points on a regularity basis.*

Policy 2 : Utilize the Best Available Technology for new projects.

*Action 2.1 : Look to high capacity wireline solutions (e.g. Fiber-to-the-Premise) before lower capacity solutions.*

*Action 2.2 : Look to wireless solutions only when wireline is impractical.*

*Action 2.3 : Evaluate technology based on (a) quality of service; (b) deployment timeline; (c) impact on the environment and visual character; and (d) cost. Look to strike a balance between these given the population and area being served.*

Policy 3 : Establish and maintain Customer Service Standards.

*Action 3.1 : Ensure that all providers doing business in Mono County possess a current Business License, and are current on all applicable Franchise Licenses, and Franchise Fee payments.*

*Action 3.2 : Maintain a library of Customer Service Standards for all providers doing business in Mono County.*

*Action 3.3 : Periodically review standards and providers' performance within service areas.*

**Objective B** : Work with providers to deploy broadband to as many community areas and key transportation corridors as possible.

Policy 1 : Work with providers and other entities to develop projects which deliver high quality broadband service to all communities.

*Action 1.1 : Establish and maintain a list of high priority communities that can be referenced by providers when looking to build new projects.*

*Action 1.2 : Coordinate and work with Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESCRBC) to find funding opportunities for providers interested in building projects in 'Unserved' and 'Underserved' communities.*

*Action 1.3 : Recognize Cost-Benefit and Return On Investment economic realities with respect to technology choices and the value of extending broadband service to areas that were previously 'Unserved' or 'Underserved'.*

*Action 1.4: Look for opportunities to establish wireless Internet access in other rural or outlying areas for the purpose of enhancing Health & Safety or other Economic Development purposes where wireline is determined to be impractical.*

**Objective C** : Minimize the impact on the environment and scenic resources while implementing projects.

Policy 1 : Choose distribution methodologies that cause the least environmental and visual impact.

*Action 1.1 : Look for underground opportunities in all project areas before considering overhead options.*

*Action 1.2 : Follow policies and procedures set forth in the Mono County General Plan with respect to overhead distribution lines, including Chapter 11.*

*Action 1.3 : Install tower & antennas for wireless distribution in inconspicuous locations consistent with Mono County design guidelines, General Plan requirements, and CEQA.*

Policy 2 : Co-locate facilities and infrastructure to avoid proliferation and choose sites carefully to encourage best coverage possible.

*Action 2.1 : Utilize existing wireline infrastructure (through fiber swaps, use of existing Digital 395 backbone, etc.) before constructing new wirelines.*

*Action 2.2 : Place new wireline infrastructure in existing underground conduit before installing new conduit.*

*Action 2.3 : Place new telecom facilities and infrastructure on properties or at sites where other facilities exist before looking for new locations.*

*Action 2.4 : Carefully evaluate new telecom sites so as to provide the best possible service and coverage area for the project.*

**Policy 3** : Minimize impacts to visual and natural resources while installing new distribution lines or implementing projects.

*Action 3.1 : Install new wireline infrastructure underground in conformity with Mono County Code and General Plan Guidelines.*

*Action 3.2 : Install new distribution lines underground within scenic highway corridors, unless a variance is granted for overhead installation.*

*Action 3.3 : Install overhead distribution lines in the least conspicuous manner possible consistent with Mono County design guidelines, General Plan requirements, and CEQA.*

*Action 3.4 : Use existing utility corridors and common poles wherever possible, when overhead distribution as been determined to be appropriate.*

*Action 3.5 : Install new poles only to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and in conformity with Mono County Code and General Plan Guidelines.*

*Action 3.6 : Look toward wireless distribution or other route options before installing new poles.*

*Action 3.7 : Recognize Cost-Benefit and Return On Investment economic realities with respect to distribution choices, and the value of getting broadband service to areas that were previously 'Unserved' or 'Underserved'.*

*Action 3.8 : Recognize the impact on project timeframes and implementation schedules of underground vs. overhead distribution to 'Unserved' and 'Underserved' areas.*

<sup>1</sup> California Advanced Services Fund is a division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and is responsible for increasing broadband adoption in hard to reach areas of California. More information at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Information+for+providing+service/CASF/index.htm>.