NORTH BAY/NORTH COAST BROADBAND CONSORTIUM

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2026|3:30 - 5:00pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

   Chair Rodoni called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

2. **ROLL CALL / INTRODUCTIONS**

   Members present (in person at primary location): Marin County: (Chair) Supervisor Dennis Rodoni; Napa County: Supervisor Anne Cottrell; Sonoma County: Supervisor Chris Coursey.

   Members not present: Mendocino County: Supervisor Ted Williams. (Note: Supervisor Williams was unable to join the meeting from a public location. However, he did attend the meeting remotely in a non-voting capacity.)

   Staff present (in-person): Napa County: Mark Revis (Consortium Manager); Sonoma County: Ethan Brown, Jack Kampmann, Aleena Decker

   Staff present (remote): Marin County: Iarvin Winzer; Napa County: Anthony Halstead

3. **PUBLIC INTRODUCTIONS**

   No members of the public were present.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

   a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 4, 2026

   Supervisor Coursey moved, and Supervisor Cottrell seconded approval of the Consent Calendar.
   Rodoni: Aye
   Cottrell: Aye
   Coursey: Aye

   The motion passed and the consent calendar was approved.

5. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

   a. CPUC CASF Consortia Account Funding ($600,000)
      - Year 1 Spend: $155,368
      - Year 2 Spend: $155,725
      - Year 3 Spend to date: $89,899 (grant period ends 12/31/2026)
      - $38,626 remaining on the Etheric Networks contract (consultant for Fixed Wireless Study).
      - Have spent very little on activities to promote CASF infrastructure grants; very little demand because of FFA and BEAD.

   b. CETF Leadership Grant ($125,000)
      - Awarded: $125,000
      - Remaining: $21,065 allocated for Affordable Internet Outreach Project

(transit ads), Sonoma Roseland Library computers, and Napa County digital equity allocation.

- Roseland library is still under construction.

c. CETF Local Government Best Practices Grant ($50,000)
   - Remaining: $24,781
   - Allocated for the remainder of the Studio B contract for website and newsletter, affordable internet outreach project and the Sonoma County Roseland Library computers.

d. Possible upcoming grant funding:
   - CETF will receive $40,000,000 for digital adoption from Verizon as a condition of the public benefit agreements that were executed as part of the approval of the Verizon-Frontier merger. Staff are meeting with CETF on Thursday, August 6 to discuss our grant applications.
   - A judge ruled that the federal Digital Equity Competitive Grant program was not unconstitutional provided that "racial and ethnic minorities were removed from the list of Covered Populations. The list still includes low-income, low English proficiency, seniors, individuals with disabilities and veterans. The NTIA agreed to re-start the program, with a brand-new NOFO expected no sooner than December. This may also be a funding opportunity for NBNCBC.

6. CASF CONSORTIA GRANT LEGISLATION UPDATE (AB2279)

a. AB2279 would expand the approved scope of work to include "affordability, adoption, and community-level connectivity strategies and infrastructure-related activities," permit the use of "performance milestones" and "activities, deliverables or implementation benchmarks" as payment milestones instead of requiring payroll records for reimbursement, and eliminate the requirement for a separate audit just for the consortium financials each year.

b. The Senate Appropriations Committee put the bill into suspense at their meeting on Monday, August 3. We have an opportunity to persuade the Committee to remove it from the suspense list on August 10, but we will need to send emails or letters of support to the committee members.

c. Supervisor Cottrell moved and Supervisor Rodoni seconded a motion to send a letter of support for AB2279 from the consortium, and that the individual members would send support emails or letters from their individual counties.
   Rodoni: Aye
   Coursey: Aye
   Cottrell: Aye
   The motion passed.

d. At the last Oversight Committee meeting in February, the Management Committee recommended, and the Oversight Committee approved, a plan to shift the Consortium's priorities and to forgo the application for the next round of CASF Consortia Grant funding, because there were restrictions on the scope of work the Consortium could perform and there was a high administrative burden. AB 2279, if

passed will fix those problems. Supervisor Cottrell moved, and Supervisor Coursey seconded, a motion to give the Management Committee authority to submit an application for the next round of CASF Consortia Grant funding if AB 2279 becomes law.
Rodoni: Aye
Coursey: Aye
Cottrell: Aye
The motion passed.

7. PROJECT UPDATE

a. Broadband Fixed Wireless Study Project: Next deliverable is the 100% Low-Level Design and Final Report for four study areas in three counties (Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma), which will cover a total of almost 8,000 unserved or underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)

- Etheric is recommending a fiber/wireless hybrid solution. Fixed wireless will be primarily used, with fiber being used to cost-effectively connect clusters of BSLs.
- From 6.2% to 16.5% of BSLs do not have a terrestrial solution. Satellite may reduce this significantly, but there are some BSLs that satellite may not be able to serve because of tree cover or geography. Etheric is looking into identifying these BSLs in a separate database.
- The 100% Low-Level Design will consist of a complete engineering design, complete with bills of material and budgets. When the study is complete, NBNCBC plans to solicit interest from internet service providers to actually build the networks, and assist them to obtain grant funding.

b. **Affordable Internet Outreach Project (Transit Ads):** NBNCBC placed ads promoting the CETF affordable internet call center on 48 Sonoma Transit buses, 50 Napa Valley Transit buses, 4 Mendocino Transit buses, 9 SMART trains, and 5 Golden Gate Transit bus shelters.

- The call center received 199 calls in the two months (June and July) following the start of the campaign. Extrapolated out to a whole year, that would result in 1,194 total calls. That is a significant improvement over the last fiscal year, where 275 calls were received the entire year. Approximately 14% of the calls to the call center resulted in the enrollment in a low-cost internet service plan.
- Staff will be discussing continuation of this program with CETF when we meet with them tomorrow.

8. BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT GRANT UPDATE

a. BEAD: The NTIA approved California's proposal late last month. The NTIA requested some changes but those have not been announced yet.

- Will require a CPUC resolution to accept the changes; the changes will be published for public comment prior to the CPUC action. The CPUC expects to vote on it in September.

- Next steps: CPUC will negotiate final contracts with awardees, that will likely take 90 days. The awarded ISPs will likely start submitting permit applications at the end of 2026 or early 2027.
- The preliminary awards (subject to change) went to AT&T for fiber projects in all four counties, Wi-Fiber for a joint fiber project in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, Comcast for fiber projects in Sonoma and Napa counties, Valley Internet for a fixed wireless project in Napa County, and Trellis Communications for fixed wireless projects in Sonoma and Napa counties. Satellite providers Starlink and Amazon LEO were awarded several million dollars each for territories in all four counties (the satellite territories overlap the fiber and fixed wireless projects).
- There may be concerns about some ISPs declining to participate in BEAD despite being awarded a grant. Several ISPs in other areas of the country have declined to sign contracts because costs have increased and the amount being awarded is no longer sufficient for the projects to be profitable. One of the NBNCBC region preliminary awardees, Trellis Communications has a very low cost per served location. In addition, Starlink has objected to the NTIA's requirement for performance testing of the networks and payment terms. It is not known whether they will ultimately sign a grant award contract.
- The Oversight Committee requested a written update on BEAD. Mark Revis will provide.

b. **CASF Infrastructure Grant awards:**

- Wi-Conduit and Gigabit Now have been jointly awarded $32,398,849 for three fiber optic projects in Sonoma County. The Forestville Connect Extension, the Graton Connect, and the Sonoma Coast Connect Extension projects will connect 341 unserved BSLs at an average cost of $95,011 per location.
- Hankins Information Technology (formerly Horizon Cable) has been awarded $8,500,000 for the West Marin project in the communities of Point Reyes Station, Stinson, Bolinas and Nicasio. It will connect 154 unserved BSLs at an average cost of $55,195 per location.

9. CARRIER OF LAST RESORT UPDATE

a. AT&T has received authorization from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to de-commission copper landlines in California without much in the way of protection for users that may have no alternatives.

b. CPUC has opposed this and has been negotiating for years with AT&T for a plan that does have safeguards. CPUC's bottom line is that AT&T is welcome to replace its copper with fiber, but AT&T has proposed removing fiber in less profitable areas (aka rural areas) and constructing new fiber in areas that are more profitable. The CPUC announced earlier this year that they had reached an agreement with AT&T.

c. AT&T recently sued the CPUC, claiming that the FCC's authorization preempts the CPUC's authority, apparently reneging on the CPUC agreement. The CPUC seems

confident that AT&T's lawsuit will fail, but it's difficult to predict in the current political environment.

d. Mark Revis reported that he had been informed that AT&T has reached out to the Napa County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Cottrell could not confirm this. If true, it probably means that AT&T is asking Napa County to drop its support for the CPUC's position.

e. Napa County is looking for opportunities to intervene in the proceeding. Mark Revis will investigate the status of the lawsuit and report back to the Oversight Committee.

10. MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATES

Sonoma County (Jack Kampmann):

Affordable Internet Program: Sonoma County has enrolled 335 residents at 42 low-income housing sites in affordable internet programs and provided laptops. The goal is to enroll 556 households by December 31, 2026 and they are on track to reach that goal.

Napa County (Mark Revis):

Napa County recently completed a joint project with Napa Valley Adult Education to provide 16 digital literacy classes to low-income residents. Chromebook laptops were provided to people that completed at least 8 hours of training. 136 people met the criteria to receive of a laptop. The project was funded by a CASF Broadband Adoption Account grant in the amount of $82,900.

Also, Napa County has nearly completed its project to bring high-speed wi-fi access to the Calistoga Farmworker Center, which will serve the 60 residents of the center. It is funded by a $28,000 grant from the CASF Public Housing Account fund. We are planning another project to bring high-speed wi-fi access to the two remaining farmworker centers in Napa County.

Mendocino County:

An emergency had just occurred in Mendocino County, so staff did not report.

Marin County (Iarvin Winzer):

Marin County has completed and submitted their application to the Coastal Commission for their broadband fiber initiative and they are at about 90% completed with their Marin Housing Authority digital literacy/take-home device program. They had a setback when they lost their project manager but they are now hiring for that position. The County is also looking to extend the length of the internet service plans from 2 to 3 years.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM. Next meeting is November 4, 2026 at 3:30 PM. The meeting will be held via Zoom.