

**Work Group:** Advanced Communications Services and Technology (ACS)  
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### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

#### **Goal 1: Expedite the provision of advanced communications services access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley.**

**Objective A:** Raise the profile of access to advanced communications services as a fundamental and necessary service for all residents and businesses.

Governor's Broadband Task Force report was issued same day as January meeting of the Advanced Communications services Work Group (ACS). Work group members reviewed report for discussion at April 3 meeting.

**Objective B:** Inform local elected officials about the benefits of ubiquitous access to advanced communications services and provide model policies and other tools to help facilitate deployment.

Research continues on model policies currently in practice in jurisdictions in California and elsewhere that are facilitating ubiquitous broadband deployment.

**Objective C:** Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connection to delivery of advanced communications services.

This has been accomplished with the release of the Governor's Broadband Taskforce Report. An appendix to the report is a list of all of the communities not served by wired broadband.

**Objective D:** Increase availability of affordable advanced communications services in rural and other underserved areas. Mapping work continues with the evaluation of underserved communities by size. This is a joint project of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH).

**Objective E:** Increase deployment of advanced communications services by current and prospective service providers. ACS is identifying champions among elected supervisors, mayors, city council members and school board members to participate in the ACS.

**Objective F:** Increase deployment through wired, fixed wireless, wireless and other available technologies.

With the release of the Broadband Report, ACS has determined that many of the "unserved" communities are currently being served by wireless, satellite and other available technologies. The report issued maps of communities served by wired and wireless technology.

**Objective G:** Eliminate installation barriers that discourage deployment.

Joint meeting of ACS and Transportation work groups held in January to discuss installation of conduit when Caltrans projects open trenches on state highways. Resolution adopted by Partnership board in support.

**Objective H:** Identify and seek all available funding for deployment of advanced communications services. ACS is monitoring four bills relating to Advanced Technology. There is potential funding in several of these.

#### **Goal 2: Promote accessibility and utilization of advanced communications services in targeting underserved communities and populations.**

**Objective A:** Increase utilization of advanced communications services by all residents.

California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) President was a presenter at the January ACS meeting. Presentation also was made regarding Pixley Connect project which will serve as a model to increase accessibility and availability of advanced communications services to underserved communities.

**Objective C:** Implement projects to provide access to advanced communications services and information technology for all residents and businesses to eliminate the digital divide. Same as Objective A.

**Objective D:** Develop and implement a program to ensure all high school students graduate with the basic computer literacy skills. (See K-12 Education Recommendations.)

#### **Goal 3: Expand and replicate successful model programs to increase access to advanced communications services and information technology to bridge the digital divide**

**Objective A:** Develop and implement a plan to expand and replicate the most successful strategies and programs to bridge the digital divide.

Pixley Connect has been identified as a model program which serves disadvantaged communities. It will be a model for future projects funded by CETF.

**Goal 4: Accelerate deployment of advanced communications services infrastructure through telemedicine and eHealth technology. (See Health and Human Services Recommendations.)**

**Objective A:** Develop and implement a telemedicine and eHealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers. Work on eHealth Seed Grant continues.

**Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)**

**Goal 1: Objective A**

Coordinating conversations will continue with CPUC and BTH staff to coordinate Work Group scope of work. ACS meeting scheduled for April 3, 2008.

**Goal 1: Objective C**

During the next quarter, the CPUC and BTH will be working on ranking by size of unserved communities so ACS can evaluate which communities might be high priorities for funding. Consultants have been invited to meeting of California rural communities that do not have ubiquitous service so that best practices might be evaluated.

**Goal 1: Objective D**

At ACS meetings planned for Q2 2008, work group will receive more information which ranks these underserved communities according to population so that we can work with the state agencies and CETF to identify those communities most likely to benefit by bringing broadband there.

**Goal 1: Objective E**

This work will continue in order to broaden the participation and identify champions among Valley elected officials.

**Goal 1: Objective F**

Work on the maps continues as the CPUC and BTH continue to refine the information in the initial report.

**Goal 1: Objective G**

Consultant attended meeting in Sacramento on this issue hosted by CPUC and BTH. Work will continue with industry representatives in fine tuning the effort by state officials to simplify process and better inform industry of future projects.

**Goal 1: Objective H**

Work Group will identify and discuss potential funding sources at the next ACS meeting.

**Goal 2: Objective A**

At next ACS meeting, there will be discussion of funding possibilities and potential communities of interest.

**Goal 2: Objective C**

Same as Objective A.

**Goal 3: Objective A**

Each quarter new families begin classes on computer and internet usage. Families are given a computer and printer upon successful completion of the program.

**Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

**Goal 1: Objective A**

While ACS is foundational to economic progress in the region, there are very few people within the region that have shown a consistent interest in participating in the work group. ACS members have been tasked with identifying individuals who have the interest and expertise to participate.

**Goal 1: Objective B**

Majority of California jurisdictions that have shown leadership in this area are in highly urbanized areas that have little in common with most San Joaquin Valley communities. Most successful rural jurisdictions are working under the leadership of their state government.

**Goal 1: Objective C**

Group is finally able to move forward since the release of the report. ACS will need to prioritize the Strategic Action Proposal items as several have been accomplished with the release of the report.