

**Work Group:** Advanced Communications Services and Technology  
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**Quarter:** 4<sup>th</sup> 2007  
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### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

#### **Goal 1: Objective A. Raise the profile of access to advanced communications services (ACS) as a fundamental and necessary service for all residents and businesses.**

Consultant has maintained contact with BT&H staff regarding the release of Broadband Taskforce report due this quarter. The report has now been delayed to Q1 of 2008. Information in report is foundational to ACS work in Valley.

#### **Goal 1: Objective B. Inform local elected officials about the benefits of ubiquitous access to ACS 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.

#### **Goal 1: Objective C. Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connection to delivery of ACS.**

This activity has been difficult because the providers have been reluctant to share information regarding their service areas. The long awaited Broadband Task Force Report should contain information that will provide the information necessary to move forward in this goal.

#### **Goal 1: Objective E. Increase deployment of ACS by current and prospective service providers.**

As an important first step, a joint meeting of the Transportation and ACS work groups will discuss telecommunications infrastructure's inclusion in State Highway projects in the Valley.

#### **Goal 1: Objective G. Eliminate installation barriers that discourage deployment.**

Consultant has met with representatives of the Communications Workers of America regarding their "Speed Matters" initiative.

#### **Goal 2: Objective A. Increase utilization of ACS by all residents.**

Second phase of Pixley Connect graduated 24 parents that have been trained in computer/internet usage. Community representatives participated in Partnership Summit to report on how this project has enhanced their community.

#### **Goal 2: Objective C. Implement projects to provide access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses to eliminate the digital divide.**

Regular conversations between Sunne McPeak and Carol Whiteside regarding opportunities for CETF and ACS Work Group to partner on this effort are taking place. Ms. McPeak gave a presentation for ACS Work Group at Annual Summit.

#### **Goal 3: Objective A. Develop and implement a plan to expand and replicate the most successful strategies and programs to bridge the digital divide.**

Research continues on the most successful strategies that have been developed for rural and disadvantaged communities and populations.

#### **Goal 4: Objective A. Develop and implement a telemedicine and eHealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers.**

Consultant is coordinating with CETF and UC Merced seed grant recipient in the design of pilot system of telehealth/telemedicine sites in the SJV. Seed Grant Recipient gave presentation of her work at UC Merced at Partnership Summit in October.

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

**Goal 1: Objective A. Raise the profile of access to advanced communications services (ACS) as a fundamental and necessary service for all residents and businesses.**

Broadband report has been delayed until Q1 of 2008. ACS consultant has scheduled a meeting in January 2008 which will include verbal report by BT&H and CPUC staff so we can begin to move forward with this goal.

**Goal 1: Objective B. Inform local elected officials about the benefits of ubiquitous access to ACS and provide model policies and other tools to help facilitate deployment.**

Research to continue in next quarter.

**Goal 1: Objective C. Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connection to delivery of ACS.**

ACS meeting has been scheduled for January 2008. We will receive an update from BT&H and CPUC regarding the mapping effort that is currently in progress as part of the Broadband Report.

**Goal 1: Objective D. Increase availability of affordable ACS in rural and other underserved areas.**

Consultant will work on fleshing out ideas for TOZ at future work group meetings such as how large of an incentive would be needed and what type. This is likely to be included in the Task Force Report.

**Goal 1: Objective E. Increase deployment of ACS by current and prospective service providers.**

Joint meeting will take place in January 2008 to determine state policy and next steps.

**Goal 1: Objective G. Eliminate installation barriers that discourage deployment.**

Presentation will be made regarding this initiative to the entire WG at the January 2008 meeting.

**Goal 1: Objective H. Identify and seek all available funding for deployment of ACS.**

Funds are available through the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF). Work plan will identify other sources as well. January 2008 meeting will discuss prospective legislation to eliminate restrictions.

**Goal 1: Objective J. Incorporate ACS infrastructure into all new residential and commercial construction.**

CBIA and Valley BIA representatives will be invited to January 2008 meeting. Local affordable housing advocates will be included as well.

**Goal 2: Objective A. Increase utilization of ACS by all residents.**

Next phase of Pixley Connect will begin in January 2008.

**Goal 2: Objective C. Implement projects to provide access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses to eliminate the digital divide.**

Conversations will continue in the future.

**Goal 4: Objective A. Develop and implement a telemedicine and eHealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers.**

Work Group will continue to monitor progress and work with implementers of seed grant.

