



**Broadband Infrastructure Report
County of Mendocino
Board of Supervisors
Update March 24, 2020
Prepared by Jeff Tyrrell/Tom West**

Background

Partnering with West Business Development Center, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County, North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC), and in cooperation with the Sonoma-Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD), plans are coming together for resilient broadband backbone for Mendocino County which is predicated on successful funding acquisition, through the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF.)

Mendocino County is a member of the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) whose mission is to facilitate the deployment of broadband infrastructure and services throughout the NBNCBC region of Mendocino, Marin, Napa and Sonoma Counties, and meet the needs of Unserved and Non-Served communities. Mendocino County has the 8th lowest percentage (86.7%) broadband access of the 58 counties at the current California speed standards of 6 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. The State's goal is 98% by region.

Below is a brief description of the Consortia's aspiring objective of installing more than 200 miles of fiber network, encircling our County. As seen in Map 1, the first phase runs from Hopland to Laytonville and connects to Covelo. Provided the good fortune of the well-deserved infrastructure funds, the additional buildout will complete a loop, as depicted in Map 2.

Citing a study published by Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Science entitled Broadband's Contribution to Economic Health in Rural Areas: "Policies dealing with rural broadband may need to have a more explicit focus on actually adopting (and effectively using) the technology." However, nothing is more important to Mendocino County's technological advance than the infrastructure plan described herein. Broadband not only provides increased business opportunities, but the enhanced communication during community disasters is aptly described as life-saving.

Scope of the Three-Year Plan

As part of a previous CASF Regional Consortia planning grant the Mendocino Team of NBNCBC developed the **Mendocino County Digital Infrastructure Plan: 2019:2025**. The goal of the plan is to: "develop the digital infrastructure needed to have available and affordable high-speed internet access for 98% of households by 2025. High-speed Internet, for the purposes of this plan is defined as 100 megabits per second (mbps) download speed and 20 mbps upload speed. This is an ambitious goal, but critical for the economic future of Mendocino County and through advancements in technology it is possible."

With a new CASF Regional Consortia planning grant NBNBCB's Mendocino team has a three-year work plan focused on implementing the Digital Infrastructure Plan with three annual projects to be funded by grants from the CASF Infrastructure Program. These projects are being developed to deploy broadband infrastructure and service to meet the needs of Unserved and Non-Served communities throughout Mendocino. They include:

Project #1-Grant Application 2020 —Round Valley/Covelo, Laytonville, Willits and Hopland

Scope of Project #1

The second attached map conceptually represents our planned build-out to Round Valley/Covelo, Laytonville, Willits and Hopland to reach the Unserved and Non-Served households (HHs) in eligible census blocks, as defined by the CPUC. The elements of the "Project 1 Broadband Network" are still in final engineering and costing. Hunter hopes to serve nearly all of the approximately 3,525 Unserved and Non-Served households and 8,621 residents in these four communities and surrounding areas.

We believe the best optical fiber cable construction solution for all three projects will be underground, in compliance with the local building codes for underground utilities. This will be supplemented with wireless infrastructure to facilitate access to more difficult and/ or more distant user sites.

Project #2-Grant Application 2021--- Leggett, unserved areas around Fort Bragg, and unserved areas around Caspar, Mendocino, Little River, Comptche, Albion, Manchester and Point Arena

Project #3-Grant Application 2022--- Brooktrails, Redwood Valley, unserved areas in Potter Valley, Boonville, Philo, Anchor Bay and unserved areas around Ukiah

When all three projects are implemented completed not only will thousands of Unserved and Non-Served Households have broadband access there will also be a robust and divers middle-mile backbone around the county.

The Provider Named

The NBNBCB Team, working on behalf of the county and its residents, has successfully identified a very capable and eager provider to undertake the implementation of the Mendocino Broadband Plan assuming we can be successful securing CASF grant funding for three projects over the next three years.

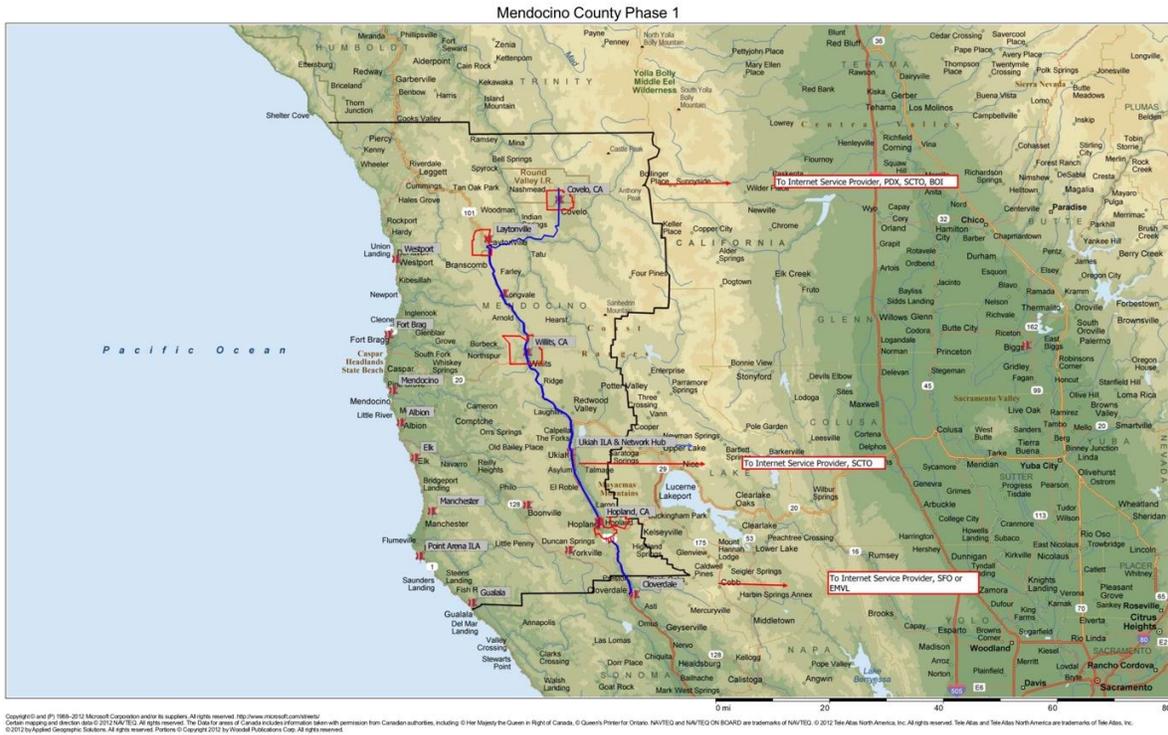
Hunter Communications

Hunter Communications is a Southern Oregon based Telecommunications Company, CLEC, and ISP with offices and facilities located throughout the State of Oregon and Northern California. Since 1994, Hunter Communications has been involved in a variety of cabling and installation services to customers in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

From 1999-2000, Hunter built Southern Oregon's only local fiber optic Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), which currently satisfies high bandwidth and voice service needs throughout Lane, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, (N. CAL) Siskiyou, Humboldt and Shasta County. Hunter also maintains peering relationships with multiple national and international service providers, allowing Hunter to offer Ethernet transport services virtually anywhere in the world.

Hunter Communications' has abundant experience in telecommunications and now serves the largest, privately held fiber optic network in the State of Oregon, connecting Southern Oregon's Educational

Systems, Healthcare Facilities, Financial Institutions, City and County Governments, and businesses of all sizes to a dependable, commercial grade communications network and residential phone and Internet services.



Map 1

Mendocino County Core Fiber Network Vision



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