



# BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION

Sonoma County

# OVERVIEW

- Background
- Recommended Actions
- Golden State Connect Authority
- Uncodified Ordinance
- Proposed Priority Areas
- Funding Opportunities
- Next Steps



# RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A)** Approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Sonoma and Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA), to allow permanent use of County right of way and certain other County properties in conjunction with GSCA's proposed Open Access Broadband Network in Sonoma County.
  
- B)** Adopt a resolution introducing, reading the title of, and waiving further reading of an uncodified ordinance to authorize the Director of Public Infrastructure to grant licenses and permits to the state, or to any county, city, district, or public agency or corporation, or to any public utility corporation, for use of any County real property for purposes of any broadband infrastructure network or project, in accordance with Govern Code section 25526.6
  
- C)** Receive recommendations from the Board of Supervisors on proposed Priority Areas and select at least one area to focus preliminary low-level design

# RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

**D)** Approve allocation of \$1.5 million from existing Broadband American Rescue Plan Act funding allocation to expand low-level network design. (4/5<sup>th</sup> vote required)

**E)** Adopt a resolution delegating authority to the County Administrator and the Director of the Economic Development Department, to apply for and to negotiate and execute grant agreements and related grant documents necessary for obtaining funding from any public agencies or public non-profits for broadband infrastructure project design, implementation, and program support, in form approved by County Counsel.

**F)** Delegate authority to the Director of the Economic Development Department to negotiate and execute an agreement between the County of Sonoma and Golden State Connect Authority, in form approved by County Counsel, in amount not to exceed existing funding allocations and any other amounts obtained via eligible broadband-related grant funding, to expand existing design work and add additional low-level network design services.

## RECOMMENDATION:

# GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY (GSCA)

**A)** Approve the proposed MOU between County of Sonoma and GSCA, to allow permanent use of County right of way and certain other County properties in conjunction with GSCA's proposed Open Access Broadband Network in Sonoma County.



# GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

## About

- A joint powers authority comprised of 39 rural California counties.
- Primary goal is to increase access to quality internet in rural California.
- GSCA would finance, own, build, maintain and operate an open access network with the assistance of contractors.
- Finance projects with bonds and prioritize funding any remaining project costs with grants.



## Pros

- GSCA becomes the primary entity responsible for delivering rural broadband in Sonoma County.
- Due to an economy of scale and streamlined logistics, potential to move faster than the County could to leverage early grant funds and build projects.
- Cities are eligible to participate.
- Minimal initial time investment and no financial commitment.
- GSCA assumes risk for bond payments and grant administration.

## Cons

- The County would not own the infrastructure.
- Cities would not have a seat on GSCA's board if they choose to participate.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## Golden State Connect Authority



Funding

Maximizes all funding streams with the ability to exercise the respective power of member organizations.



Local Control

Local control limited to willing collaboration from GSCA. Can impact project location, prioritization and access programs.



Regional Collaboration

Designed for regional collaboration and projects, including local cities and fellow rural counties.



Risk Mitigation

GSCA assumes risk



Implementation

Simple: Memorandum of Understanding between GSCA and the County

# MOU

## **Memorandum of Understanding in Support of the Network**

Like other utilities, infrastructure will need to be deployed throughout the targeted areas using existing streets, roadways, and other County-controlled rights-of-way to property.

### **The MOU provides, among other things, for the following:**

- A master, irrevocable license to GSCA, in general, to install and maintain broadband infrastructure in County right-of-way, at no cost;
- County duty to provide irrevocable licenses or other allowances to GSCA to use other County property as needed for the infrastructure project, subject to County approval of any particular site and on condition of no interference with County use of the subject property;
- GSCA to obtain permits from County for all particular installations and work. Standard permitting costs to be paid by GSCA;
- All infrastructure and activity in the right-of-way to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and County standards; and
- County duty to support the GSCA infrastructure project in general, including providing as-needed technical assistance, site information, consultation on location and design feasibility



# RECOMMENDATION:

# UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE

**B)** Adopt a resolution introducing, reading the title of, and waiving further reading of an uncodified ordinance to authorize the Director of Public Infrastructure to grant licenses and permits to the state, or to any county, city, district, or public agency or corporation, or to any public utility corporation, for use of any County real property for purposes of any broadband infrastructure network or project, in accordance with Government Code section 25526.6

# PROPOSED ORDINANCE

## **Government Code section 25526.6**

As part of the proposed open access network, GSCA requires rights to install and maintain broadband infrastructure in County-owned or –controlled properties.

Like other utilities, infrastructure will need to be deployed throughout the targeted areas using existing streets, roadways and other County-controlled rights-of-way and property.

In order to streamline the process for approved priority projects and because the proposed MOU includes a requirement that the County later provide licenses or other needed rights subject to the restrictions of Government Code section 25526.6, it is proposed that the MOU be executed after the effective date of the proposed Ordinance to grant the necessary authority.

”...to authorize the Director of Public Infrastructure to grant licenses and permits to the state, or to any county, city, district, or public agency or corporation, or to any public utility corporation, for use of any County real property for purposes of any broadband infrastructure network or project, in accordance with Government Code section 25526.6”.

If approved today, a consent item to adopt the Ordinance will be brought before the Board, after which the MOU may be executed.

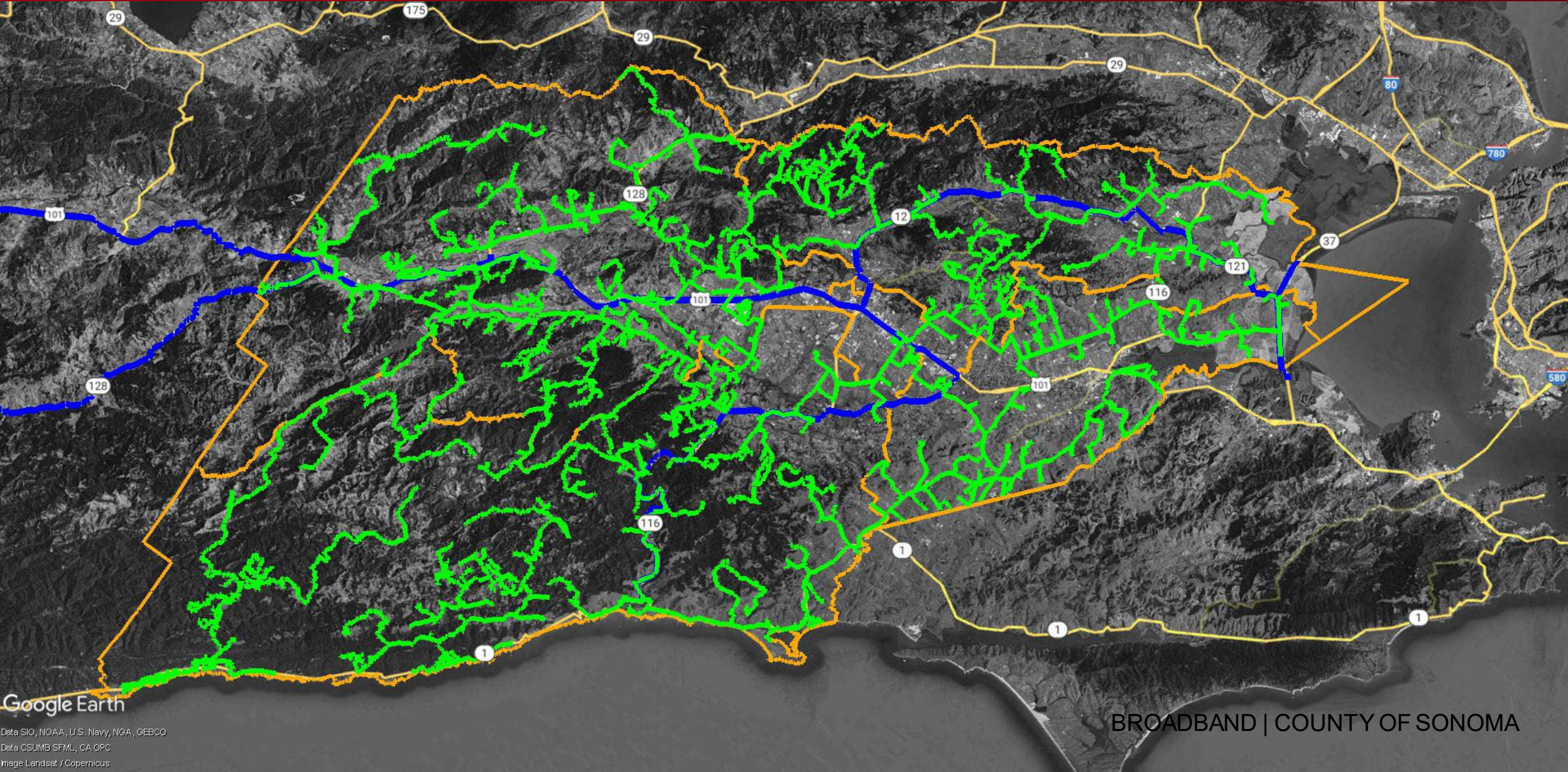
**RECOMMENDATION:**

**PROPOSED  
PRIORITY AREAS**

**C)** Receive recommendations from the Board of Supervisors on proposed Priority Areas and select at least one area to focus on preliminary low-level design



# FIBER FOR UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED





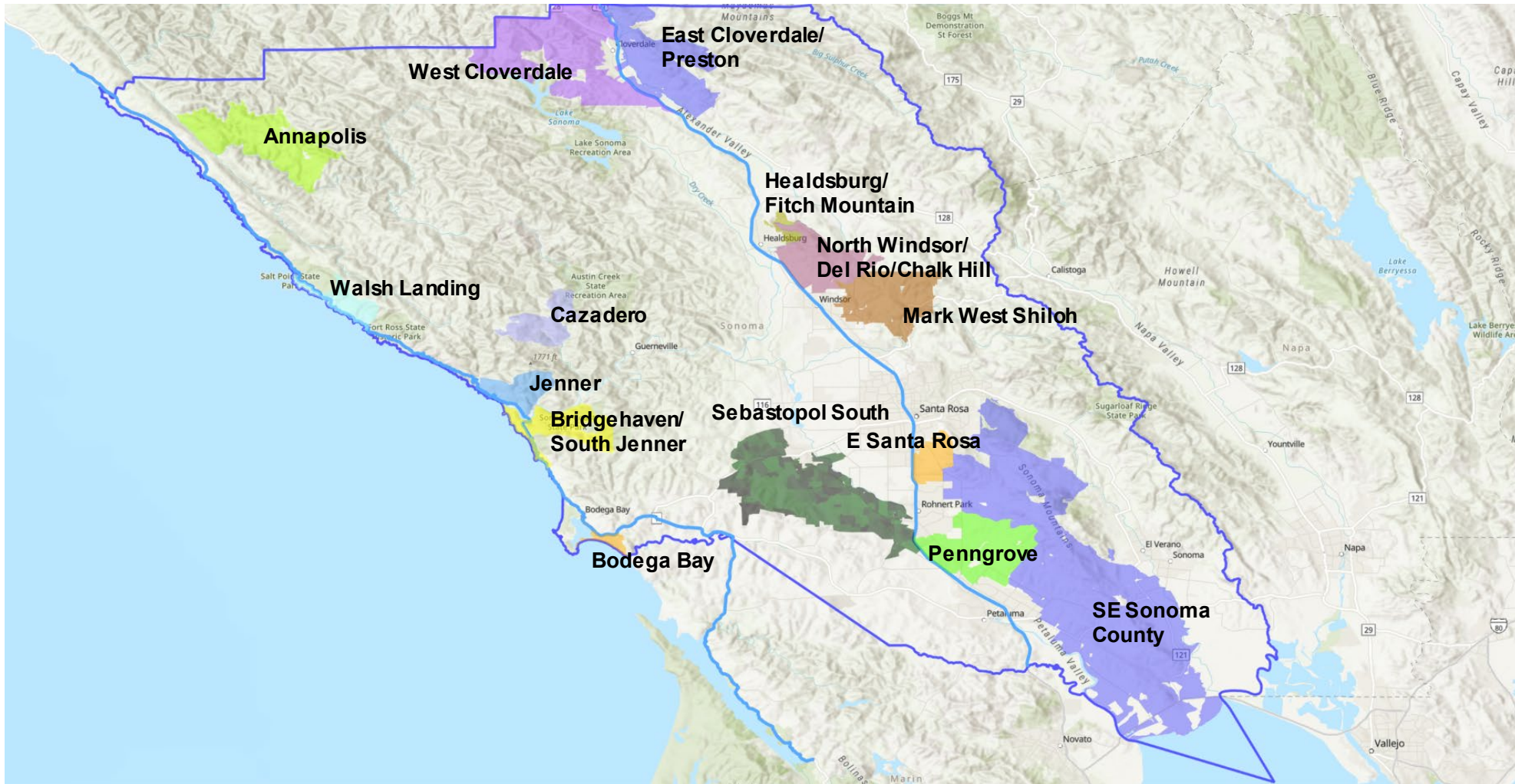
# PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS

**The proposed areas were ranked by feasibility based upon the following criteria to best serve communities in need and to better position Sonoma County for future funding opportunities such as the Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA) and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.**

- Access to (planned) Middle Mile Infrastructure
- Median Household Income
- Cost per Subscriber
- Density of Unserved location

*CPUC-defined Unserved: Lacking access to reliable broadband speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 3Mbps upstream including areas with access to only legacy technology.*

# PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS



CA Middle Mile 

County Perimeter 



# PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS

	Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
1	Jenner	4.87	17.66	\$60,750	\$18,868.57	82
2	Bodega Bay	10.75	2.05	\$88,250	\$8,497.83	67
3	E Santa Rosa	24.96	11.14	\$67,642	\$25,135.26	64
4	Walsh Landing	12.18	15.02	\$79,583	\$32,560.53	63
5	Penngrove	72.6	5.30	\$80,179	\$19,609.97	57
6	East Cloverdale/Preston	44.42	6.71	\$66,714	\$40,901.09	51
7	Sebastopol South	206.47	2.14	\$104,806	\$18,001.37	50
8	Healdsburg/Fitch Mountain	12.7	1.18	\$91,852	\$16,921.14	46
9	Bridgehaven/South Jenner	12.86	3.81	\$93,636	\$41,011.79	36
10	SE Sonoma County	271.18	5.34	\$97,188	\$47,272.75	35
11	Cazadero	23.33	2.14	\$60,750	\$48,649.23	32
12	North Windsor/Del Rio/Chalk Hill	41.53	4.36	\$88,250	\$59,151.49	32
13	West Cloverdale	41.75	3.52	\$82,813	\$99,105.52	26
14	Mark West Shiloh	49.24	4.10	\$79,143	\$69,897.87	22
15	Annapolis	36.18	3.34	\$64,342	\$144,146.85	21

## RECOMMENDATION:

# BROADBAND ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATION

**D)** Approve allocation of \$1.5 million from existing Broadband American Rescue Plan Act funding allocation to expand low-level network design. (4/5<sup>th</sup> vote required)

**F)** Delegate authority to the Director of the Economic Development Department to negotiate and execute an agreement between the County of Sonoma and Golden State Connect Authority, in form approved by County Counsel, in amount not to exceed existing funding allocations and any other amounts obtained via eligible broadband-related grant funding, to expand existing design work and add additional low-level network design services.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**BROADBAND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**E)** Adopt a resolution delegating authority to the County Administrator and the Director of the Economic Development Department, to apply for and to negotiate and execute grant agreements and related grant documents necessary for obtaining funding from any public agencies or public non-profits for broadband infrastructure project design, implementation, and program support, in form approved by County Counsel.

# ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## **Broadband ARPA Allocation**

- The Local Agency Technical Assistance grant award is limited to 45.92 miles of low-level design to be complete as part of the scope of work within the existing grant funds.
- To further expand low-level network design, staff is proposing an allocation of \$1.5 million from the existing Broadband ARPA allocation (12/14/21) to allow for an additional 158.7 miles of low-level network design, bringing the total to 204.6 miles of low-level design for shovel ready projects.

## **Delegate Authority for Broadband Infrastructure**

- Many funding opportunities are extremely competitive and require applications on abbreviated timeframes in order to best position the County to receive limited funds.
- A delegation of authority is being requested in order to allow CAO and EDB leadership to apply for current and future funding and financing opportunities that typically align with identified broadband goals and projects.

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TIMELINES

Grant Program	Award Amount	Status	Grant Implementation Period
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$3 million	Current	July 2022 – December 2026
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)	\$1.86 billion for CA	Future	TBD
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)	\$600k	Current	January 2023 – January 2026
California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)	\$100k	Current	February 2023 – February 2024
Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA)	\$19.2 million	Applications due 9/30/23	TBD – Approximately two years from award date
Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA)	\$499k	Current	November 2022 – November 2023

# NEXT STEPS

## Golden State Connect Authority

- The Board would consider a memorandum of understanding (A) with Golden State Connect Authority, which would include:
  - A point person for permitting
  - Assistance during the design process to identify environmentally sensitive areas
  - The ability to use the County right-of-way to lay fiber
- Provide input to GSCA on project selection and prioritization.
- Partner with GSCA for Federal Funding Account grant application (infrastructure funding) and support subsequent funding opportunities in cohesion with direction from the Board of Supervisors (E)
- Adopt a Resolution for Uncodified Ordinance to streamline process for proposed projects (B)

## Priority Areas

- Authorize EDB to utilize \$1.5 million dollars from the Broadband ARPA allocation to expand low-level design from 45 to 204 miles (C, F)
- EDB and County Counsel will work with GSCA to create a new agreement with existing sub-contractors to expand scope of work as outlined in LATA grant application
- EDB to work with GSCA to refine criteria for equitable RFP process for ISPs



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**APPENDIX:**


**PROPOSED  
PRIORITY AREAS  
MAPS**

# JENNER

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
1	4.87	17.66	\$60,750	\$18,868.57	82

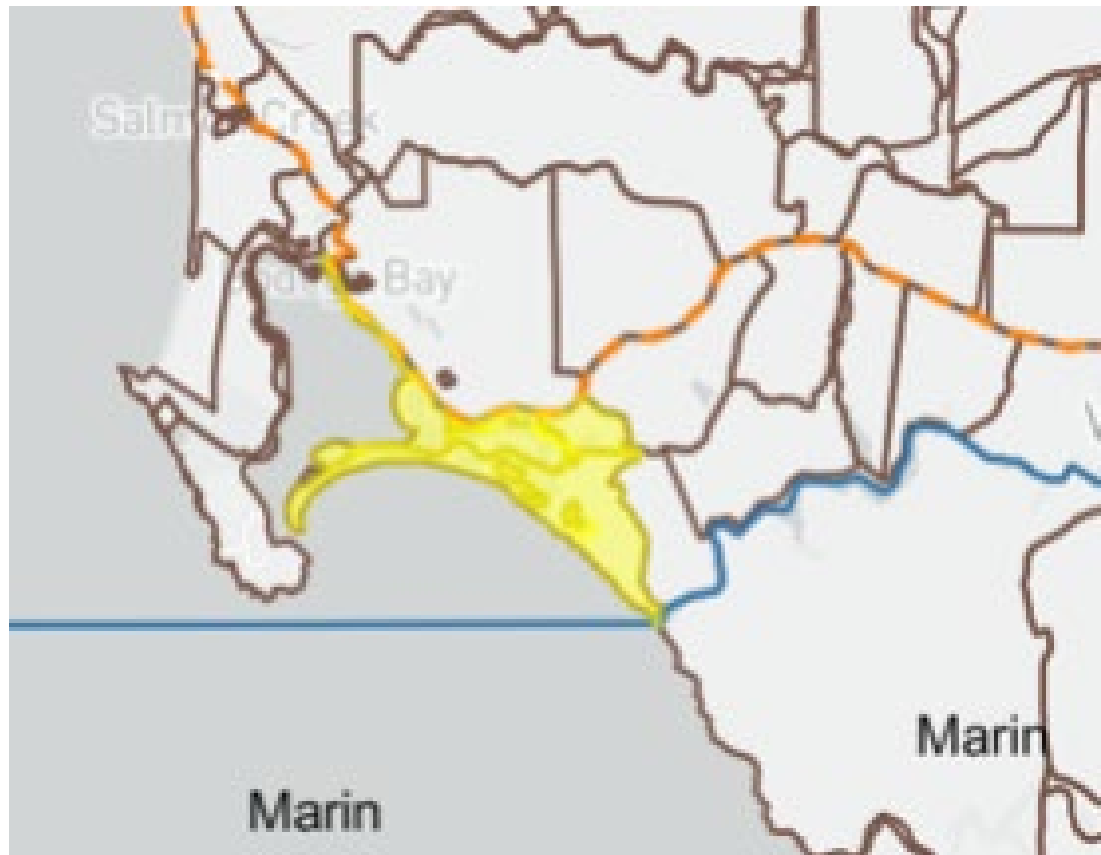


CA Middle Mile 


Census Tract Perimeter 

# BODEGA BAY

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
2	10.75	2.05	\$88,250	\$8,497.83	67

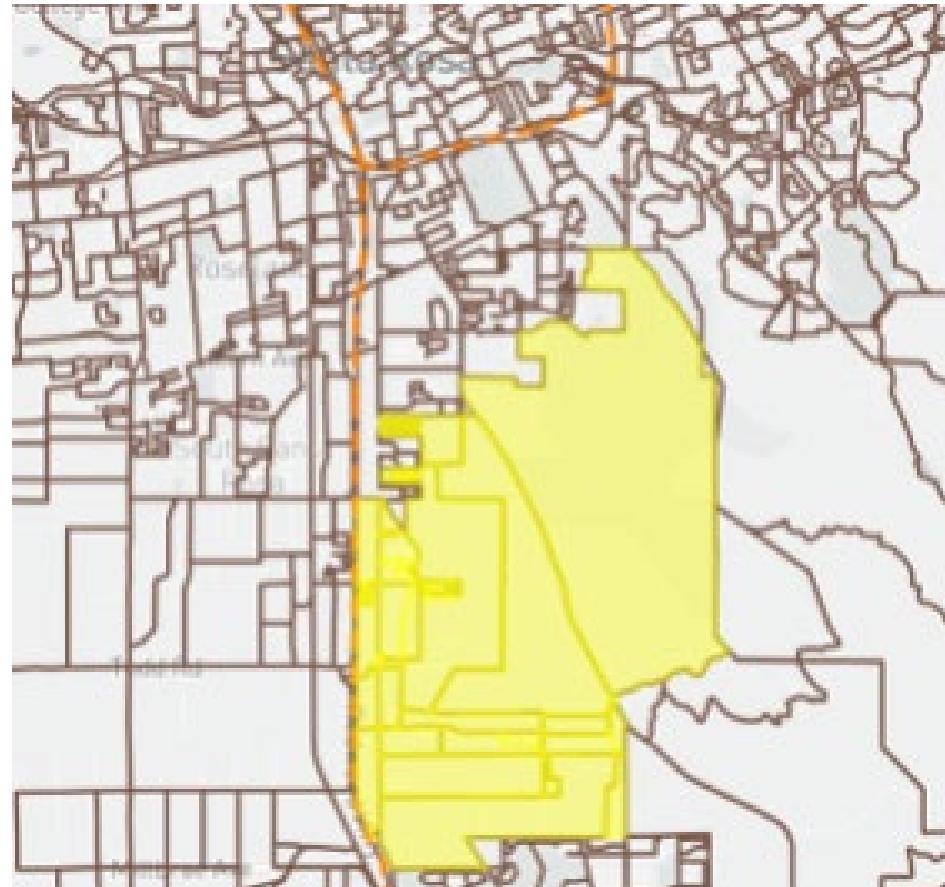


CA Middle Mile 


Census Tract Perimeter 

# E SANTA ROSA

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
3	24.96	11.14	\$67,642	\$25,135.26	64



CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 



# WALSH LANDING

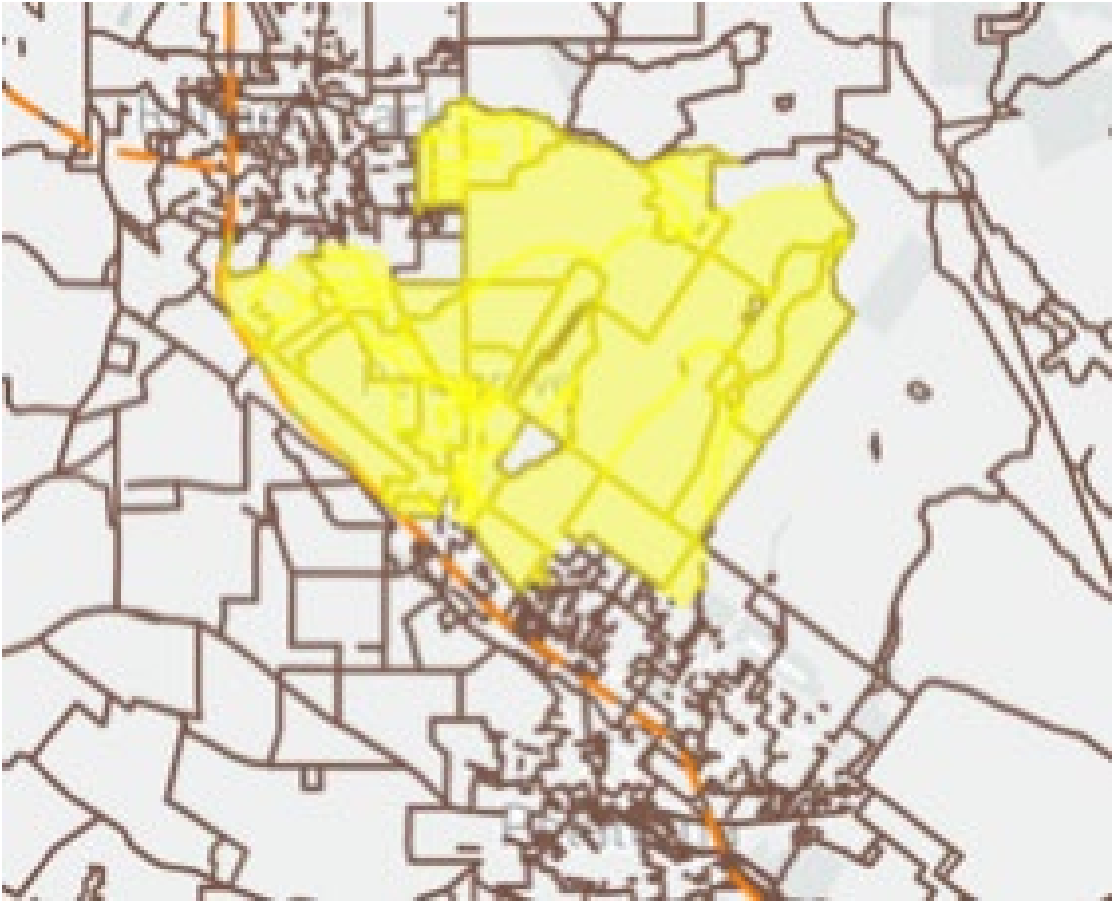
Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
4	12.18	15.02	\$79,583	\$32,560.53	63



CA Middle Mile   
Census Tract Perimeter 

# PENNGROVE

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
5	72.6	5.30	\$80,179	\$19,609.97	57

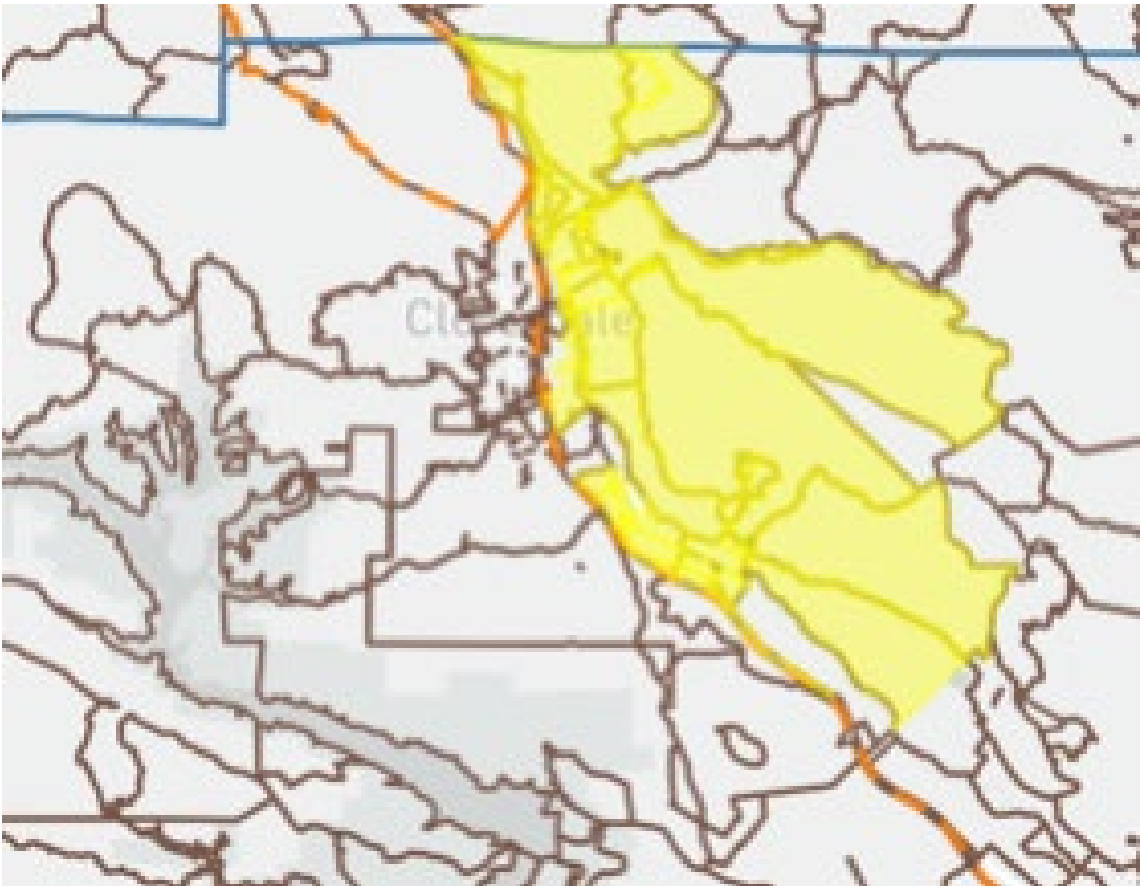


CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 

# EAST CLOVERDALE/PRESTON

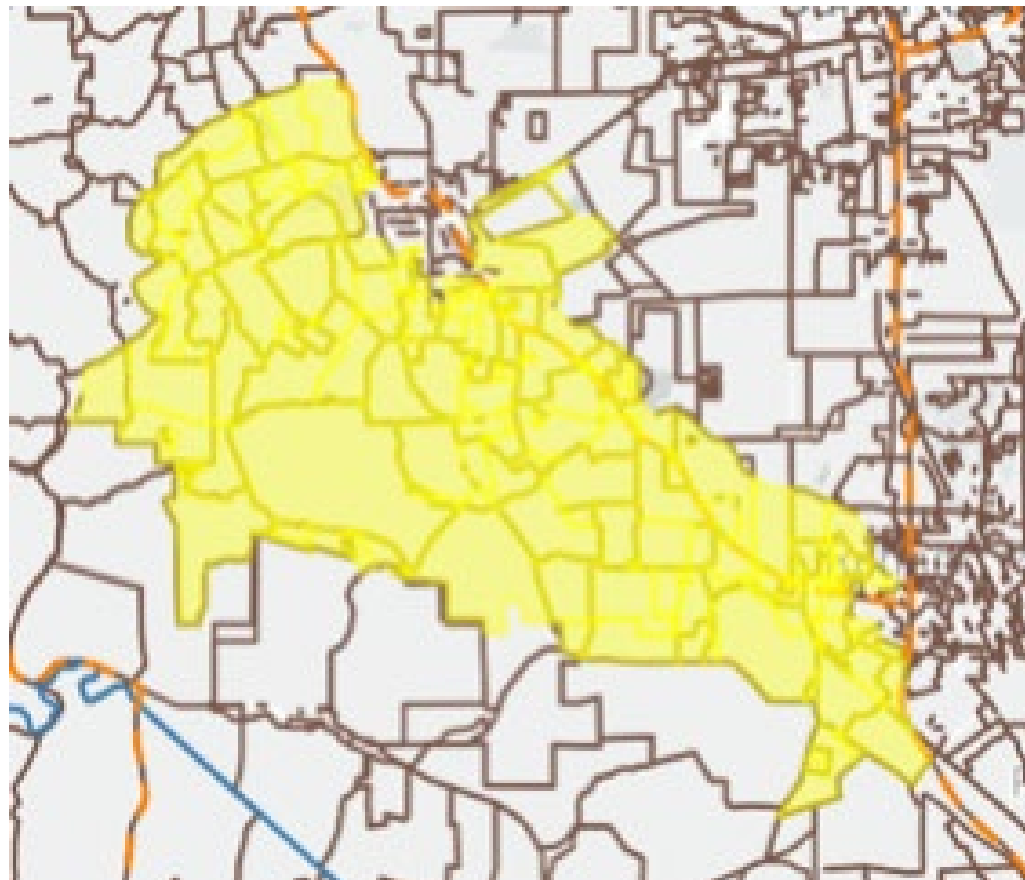
Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
6	44.42	6.71	\$66,714	\$40,901.09	51



CA Middle Mile   
Census Tract Perimeter 

# SEBASTOPOL SOUTH

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
7	206.47	2.14	\$104,806	\$18,001.37	50



CA Middle Mile

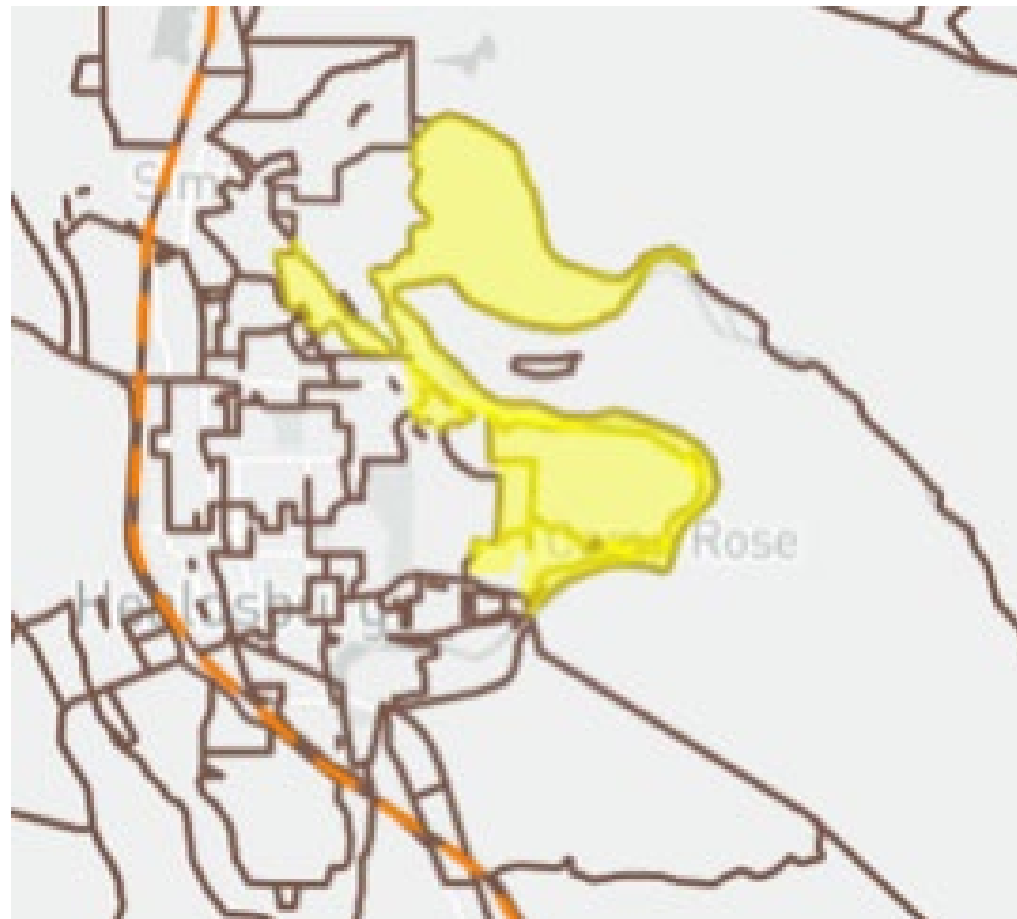


Census Tract  
Perimeter




# HEALDSBURG/FITCH MOUNTAIN

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
8	12.7	1.18	\$91,852	\$16,921.14	46

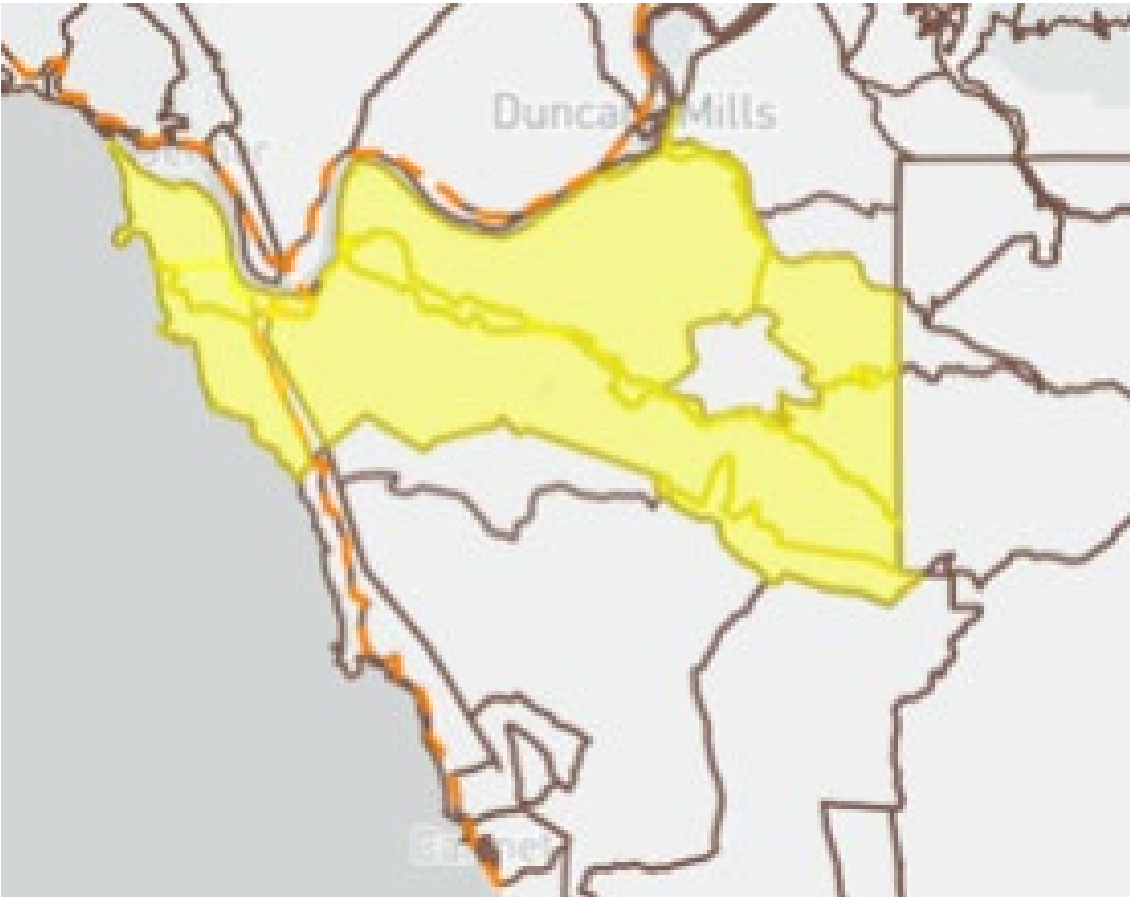


CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 

# BRIDGEHAVEN/SOUTH JENNER

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
9	12.86	3.81	\$93,636	\$41,011.79	36



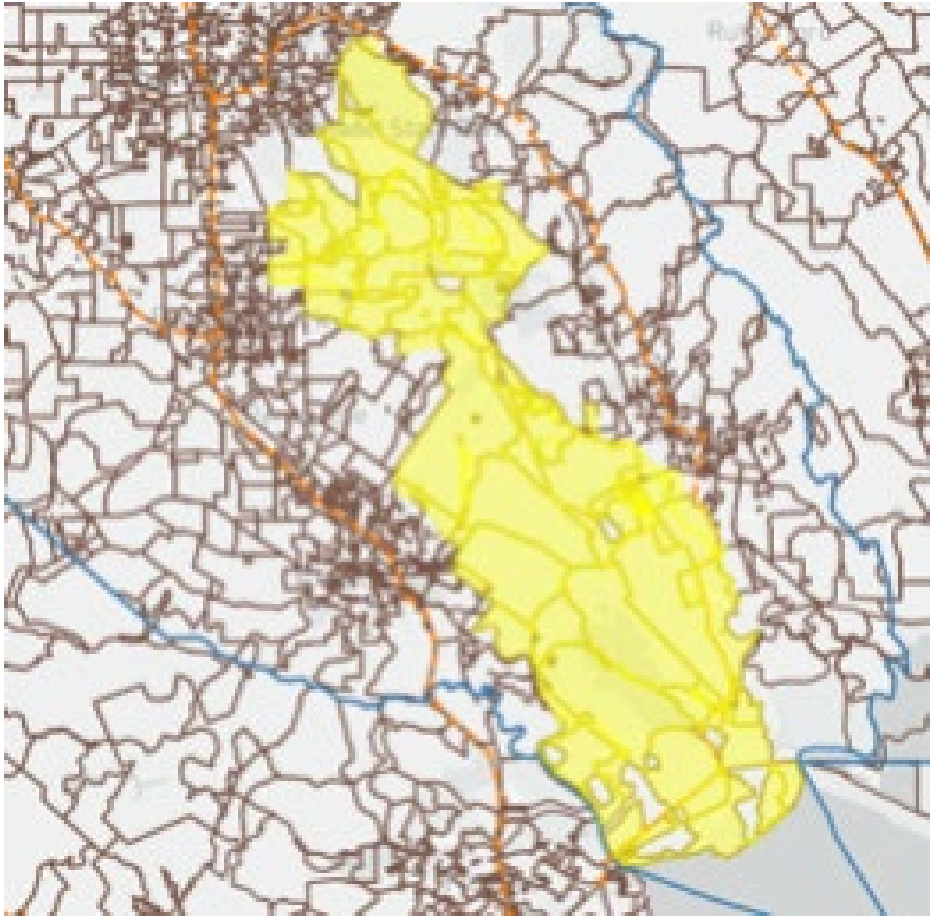
CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 



# SE SONOMA COUNTY

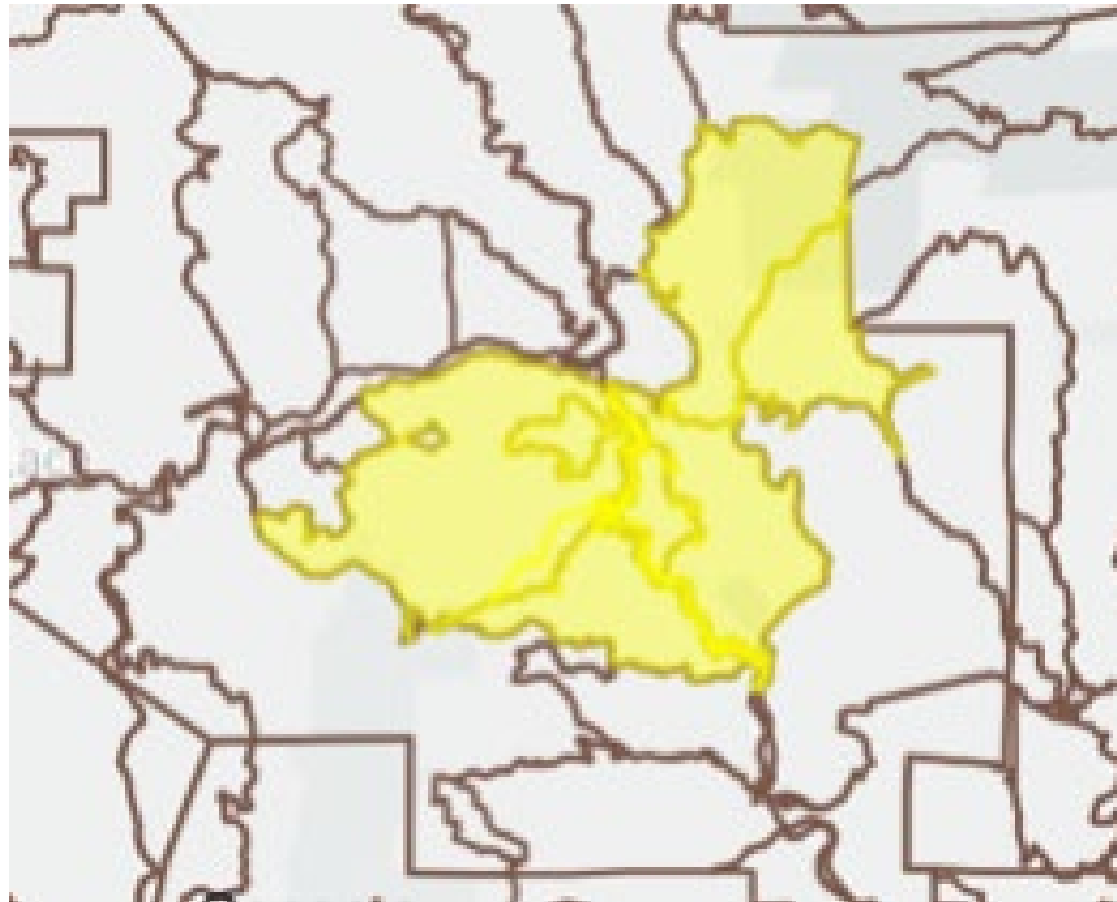
Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
10	271.18	5.34	\$97,188	\$47,272.75	35



CA Middle Mile   
Census Tract Perimeter 

# CAZADERO

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
11	23.33	2.14	\$60,750	\$48,649.23	32



CA Middle Mile

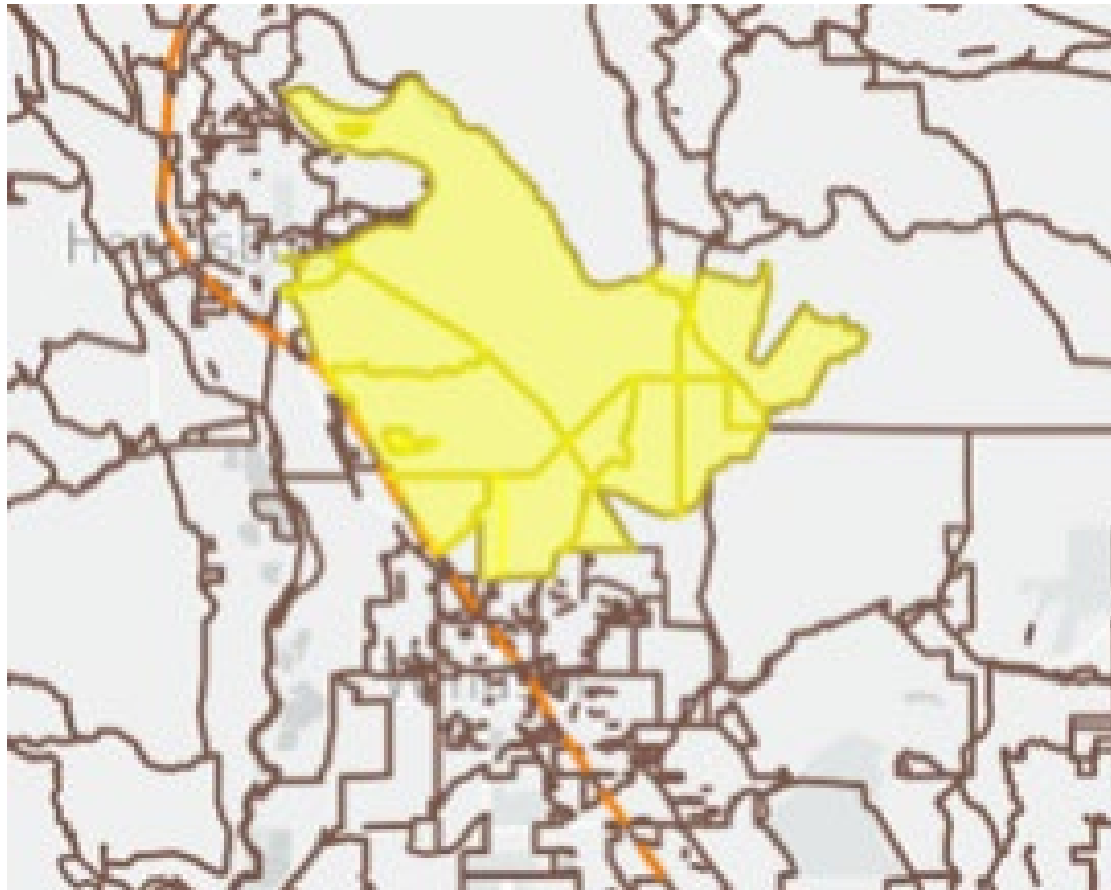



Census Tract  
Perimeter




# NORTH WINDSOR/DEL RIO/CHALK HILL

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
12	41.53	4.36	\$88,250	\$59,151.49	32

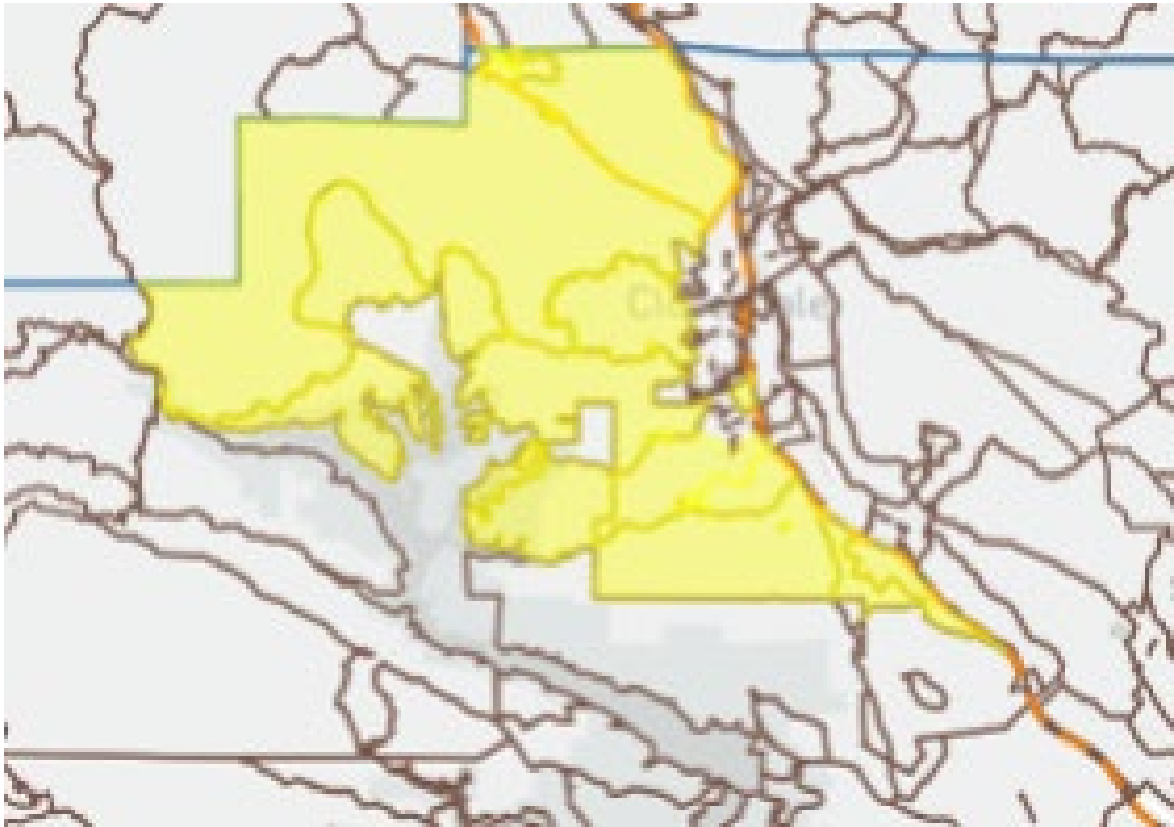


CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 

# WEST CLOVERDALE

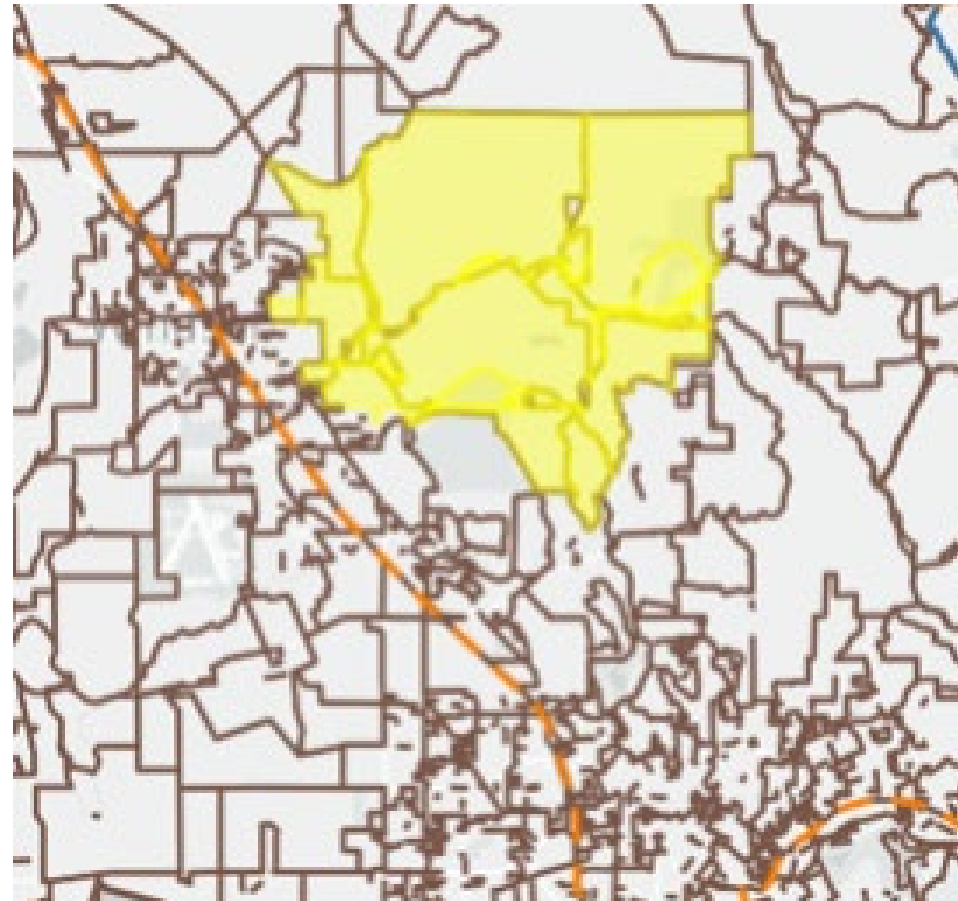
Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
13	41.75	3.52	\$82,813	\$99,105.52	26




CA Middle Mile   
Census Tract Perimeter 

# MARK WEST SHILOH

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
14	49.24	4.10	\$79,143	\$69,897.87	22



CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 

# ANNAPOLIS

Priority Area	Approx. Miles	Unserved Density (HH per mile)	Median Household Income	Cost per Subscriber	Total Points (out of 100)
15	36.18	3.34	\$64,342	\$144,146.85	21



CA Middle Mile 

Census Tract Perimeter 