

# Entities and Organizations Involved in California Broadband

December 2021

## STATEWIDE

### California Public Utilities Commission

- Develops broadband implementation policy
- Provides funding opportunities for broadband deployment, technical assistance, and Regional Broadband Consortia
- Together with other state agencies and departments, implements California Middle Mile Project.

### California Middle Mile Project

- Established in July 2021 with enactment of SB 156
- State will identify project areas, construct, own, operate, and maintain open-access middle mile network to enable delivery of last mile service to unserved and under-served areas of California
  - California Public Utility Commission – via public process, identifies those areas, as prescribed in SB 156, that have highest unserved and under-served populations and are without Middle Mile connectivity, ultimately determining California Middle Mile project areas
  - California Department of Transportation – will construct California Middle Mile network
  - CENIC – will serve as Third Party Administrator of California Middle Mile infrastructure via GoldenStateNet.
  - California Department of Technology
    - will admit and manage providers on the California Middle Mile Network
    - staff to and member of the California Broadband Council
    - staff to and member of the California Middle Mile Advisory Committee

### California Broadband Council

Twelve-member Advisory Council to the Governor comprised of Agency Secretaries, Department Directors, CPUC President, Assembly and Senate representatives, and the California Emerging Technology Fund President. The Council identifies state resources, encourages public and private partnerships, and recommends policy to provide high speed internet access throughout California.

### California Middle Mile Advisory Committee

As called for in SB 156, the Middle Mile Advisory Committee will monitor the development and construction of the State's middle mile projects. Nine-member committee comprised of five Administration representatives, and two representatives each from the Senate and Assembly.

### California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Non-profit corporation established in 2005 pursuant to CPUC orders in approving mergers of SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI. Received funds as part of merger for mission of "achieving ubiquitous access to broadband and advanced services in California, particularly in underserved communities, through use of emerging technologies". Over years, has been a voice in policy development and provider of seed funding for projects that advance digital literacy and broadband deployment and adoption.

## **California State Association of Counties**

Robust lobbying and advocacy effort around broadband on behalf of county members statewide

## **RURAL CALIFORNIA**

### **Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)**

Robust lobbying and advocacy effort around broadband on behalf of 38-member rural counties

### **Golden State Connect Authority**

Joint Powers Authority established by Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) to accelerate the deployment of broadband to rural California

- provides tools that educate and inform local government involvement in planning and directing broadband deployment and adoption
- will deploy open-access, public benefit last mile broadband infrastructure
- provides links to innovative approaches, possible partners, and efficient utilization of public resources at scale

## **REGIONAL**

### **California Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia**

Established in 2010 and re-authorized in 2017, the CPUC Regional Broadband Consortia Account funds regional broadband consortiums whose purpose is “to facilitate the deployment of broadband services by assisting infrastructure grant applicants in the project development or grant application process”.

There are currently 13 Regional Broadband Consortiums.

## **COUNTY**

Many counties have established a Broadband Task Force comprised of stakeholders from across public and private sectors – government, education, first responders, business, economic development, healthcare, Incumbent Service Providers (ISPs) – to inform development of broadband strategic plans, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, and countywide broadband policies.