

#1

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment

LATE
DIST

From: Sam Cohen <scohen@santaynezchumash.org>
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: sbcob; Sam Cohen; v.conner@strategicvitalityllc.com
Subject: Item 1 06-01-21 Agenda ARP Funding for Broadband in SB County: Request for partnership with Chumash and the EconAlliance
Attachments: 012021Accelerating Dev of an NSBC Fiber Ring.pdf; EconAlliance May 25 Broadband Forum Flyer.pdf; NTIA grant eligible svc area.docx
Importance: High

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Chumash and EconAlliance seek to partner with the County on Broadband efforts to:

---Develop a Santa Barbara County **BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY GAP ANALYSIS with DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS**, engaging nationally-recognized telecom consultant David Witkowski, Founder/CEO Oku Solutions LLC, executive director of Joint Venture Silicon Valley Civic Technologies Initiatives (subject matter expert recognized by the federal government (USGS, NIST, USNAVY), the telecommunications industry (AT&T, Google) and global industry associations (IEEE, CTIA, etc) with city, county and regional clients), **to support a countywide broadband strategy and technology blueprint building on the past two years of Chumash/EconAlliance ground-laying work on North County broadband with the support of the tri-county Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast** (see rest of this email).

---Ensure a more competitive match for the Chumash/EconAlliance co-application for the USDOC/EDA grant for which two supervisors have supplied letters of support (EDA grants offer reduced match for tribal applicants, but more match = competitiveness (No SBCo Broadband Strategy grant to perform pre-design/engineering strategy, fiber route options to support North County Fiber Ring (Includes a \$300,000+ request for telecom design/engineering services) Chumash/EconAlliance have been engaged with EDA grant contact advocates in application guidance since fall of 2020, with EDA providing final draft comments just last week in anticipation of Chumash/EconAlliance formal grant application submittal in June.

---Apply for this NTIA grant <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2021/commerce-department-s-ntia-announces-288-million-funding-available-states-build>. (Because of priority areas of the NTIA parameters, a grant application focus on North County and/or tribal area for service has most chance of success, but effort could support SoCo broadband strategy development as well. (see NTIA priorities on attached).

---Support Chumash State CPUC tribal assistance broadband proposal (\$150,000) which could ensure build-out of first leg of North County Fiber Ring (Chumash tribal area and SY township) - effort includes once again EconAlliance and BCPC as supporting partners <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/TribalAssistance/>

---Perform the (funded) broadband needs assessments for Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Lompoc, and the Chumash reservation, and support same for other SBC cities/communities

---Build out the Northern Santa Barbara County Fiber Ring and expand it to South County (see attached overview)

Why the Chumash? The Chumash has self-funded the only fiber optic cable network between the Chumash Casino, its Solvang Hotels, its Buellton Employee Resource Center and its Park-and-Ride lots in Santa Maria and Lompoc. The

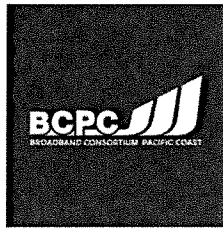
Chumash have just finished its Broadband Feasibility Study and its Economic Development Administration (EDA) Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDs). Finally, the Chumash were just awarded by the FCC the 2.5 GHz (key midband) spectrum over the old Reservation, the new tribal lands for the Museum and Camp 4 and all of the Chumash lands owned in fee in Santa Ynez. [2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Window | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#). The call signs of the new Chumash licenses are WRKZ447, WRKZ448, and WRKZ449. A partnership with the Chumash, who have extensive Federal, State, Regional, and local opportunities and relationships, could leverage countywide broadband funding opportunities for the entire County – it is the probably the only entity in the County having an EDA-approved CEDs, a requirement and/or advantage for any DOC or other federal funding opportunity. The Chumash also now have a set of broadband strategy options for tribal leadership consideration that play well with the North County Fiber Ring, enabling accelerated development of the Ring, which can also leverage South County broadband enhancement development and build-out.

Why EconAlliance of NSBC? The EconAlliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (grant-eligible) already designated by the Broadband Consortium of the Central Coast as Santa Barbara County broadband liaison and has been working for over three years with the Consortium in North County on broadband education outreach and planning. It is arguably the most broadband-informed nonprofit organization north of Ventura, being the first tri-county nonprofit to develop a regional broadband concept (North County Fiber Ring, see attached), offer regional policymakers world-class presentations on 5G, Internet of Things (IOT), etc. (5G Forum May 2021 featuring national Verizon exec, Joint Venture Silicon Valley Civic Technologies Initiative Exec; Dec 2020 Future Forum featuring Fortune 500 British futurist on exponential technologies-5G, IOT, industry-disruptive technologies). EconAlliance and the Consortium were tapped by Vandenberg to identify and orient providers to potentially support upgrading of Base broadband services enabling the commercial space business development critical for Vandenberg to become a “Spaceport of the Future” (three providers now engaged). The North County Fiber Ring concept developed by EconAlliance and its broadband chair Chris Chirgwin, CEO of Lanspeed, supports broadband enhancement countywide, with eventual buildout bringing broadband services to unserved and underserved North County communities, broadband asset accessibility and economic development opportunities benefiting South County also. EconAlliance is a partner in the Chumash Broadband Feasibility/Strategy Grant, performing Chumash needs assessments and developing the grant report. The organization already has been funded to undertake broadband needs assessments in Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Lompoc and is planning assessments for all North County communities (seeking funding). EconAlliance is co-applicant with the Chumash in an EDA broadband strategy development grant to select/oversee a telecom consultant to offer fiber route options and costs, an application already being supported by two County supervisors, North County cities, and Congressman Carbajal. The EconAlliance Board includes CEOs, Sr. VPs and other C-suite executives and business owners from Santa Maria, Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley. www.econalliance.org.

Sincerely,
Sam Cohen

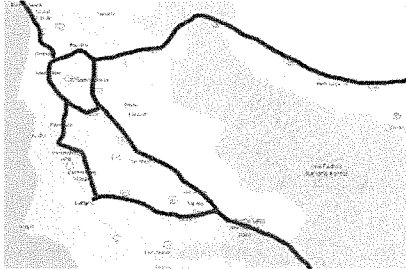


Sam Cohen
Government Affairs and Legal Officer
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Office (805) 688-7997
Mobile (805) 245-9083



Accelerating Development of a Northern Santa Barbara County Fiber Ring

Promoting Regional Connectivity, Reducing Community Costs, Protecting Community Options



Notional image of North County Fiber Ring

The Vision: Key element of this comprehensive broadband vision is a Northern Santa Barbara County fiber ring serving North County communities and bringing broadband services into Southern Santa Barbara County as well. This ring would provide long-haul support and redundancy for both traditional and new 5G broadband services, connecting local communities to global markets at today's speed of social, business, and trade demands.

The Issue: Numerous broadband service delivery or enhancement efforts are underway or have been accomplished in Northern Santa Barbara County (NSBC) by various communities and key economic stakeholder institutions. Yet some NSBC communities and Santa Barbara County have not found solutions to their broadband needs. Nor have South Santa Barbara County communities yet been well served, and as a result, South County, too, would benefit from greater accessibility to broadband through the North County Fiber Ring development.

The Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast (BCPC) is one of several consortia in California chartered to and charged with assisting counties and communities in broadband enhancement. BCPC is a tri-county consortium working on broadband enhancement in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. EconAlliance, a nonprofit organization supporting Northern Santa Barbara County (NSBC) key industries and the economic vitality of NSBC communities, is liaison to BCPC in expanding Santa Barbara County broadband, with the first phase being Northern Santa Barbara County as the most underserved area.

To leverage existing and prospective NSBC broadband infrastructure, EconAlliance, supported by the BCPC, developed a concept to accelerate North County broadband development while allowing community choice and broadband service customization. Already working with Vandenberg Air Force Base to enhance its broadband to support commercial space demands and the Base vision as a "Spaceport of the Future", BCPC and EconAlliance see the opportunity to build on this and other broadband enhancement efforts to create a comprehensive, compelling broadband vision for North County and also South County.

The Development Concept: Because the Consortium charge is to assist in developing *regional* broadband service, the BCPC and EconAlliance have chosen to adopt a Northern Santa Barbara County "fiber accelerator" approach to jumpstart the fiber ring development. With EconAlliance providing support for North County linkage and assets and Santa Barbara County contacts and assets, laying the foundation for community-driven broadband solutions and services and the actual fiber ring eventual development, the BCPC will bring regional linkage, collaboration and assets to the project. BCPC and EconAlliance will seek public and private funding for GIS mapping, route option research, design of the fiber network, and trenching and laying of conduit below ground or connecting above-ground assets to accommodate broadband fiber or find suitable alternatives. The Fiber Ring project will not compete with, but support and leverage any County, City or community broadband effort.



The Rationale: *The fiber accelerator approach described above, which is broadband provider and technology neutral, creates the infrastructure for communities to bring in fiber cost-effectively. It ensures that communities need not compromise their priorities but retain the ability to select the best broadband services and programs for their residents and businesses, all the while supporting high-speed connectivity to the rest of the region and the outer world.*

A conceptual idea of the proposed fiber ring network is provided above. The accelerated developmental process will include several stages which can be described as the following phases:

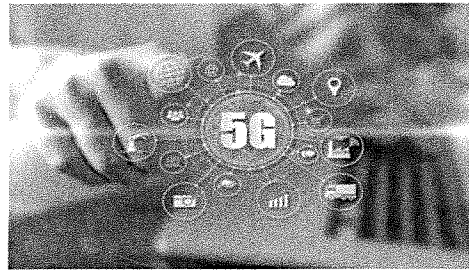
- 1) Feasibility of a Northern Santa Barbara County (NSBC) fiber ring and the “fiber accelerator approach”; making the case to partners/funders that a route design, trench and conduit or above-ground connecting model can accelerate regional broadband development, allowing for maximum community choice and customization; fund development for phases 1,2,3 (phase now in progress)
- 2) GIS mapping (broadband coverage/topographic overview/key user, key asset locations); development of route design options; confirmation of municipal and county partners; final route design selection process
- 3) Start of fiber accelerator effort to offer a foundation to all NSBC communities, saving cost and time in trenching and laying conduit or connecting existing above-ground assets, while providing maximum flexibility for communities in provider choice and customization of final fiber installation

Realization of this vision will require ongoing conversations and commitments, public and private, to develop a collaborative investment, design and build strategy among interested parties. Development will occur as communities focus on developing their own community networks. Principles for conversations include:

- 1) An open trench and/or technology neutral philosophy. Any and all interested parties will participate in order to increase opportunity while decreasing associated investment costs
- 2) Each municipality can choose to operate and maintain its own community network according to its needs
- 3) Governance will be established as technology assets are identified and/or built and will continue through the ongoing oversight and collaboration of participants

New or existing Federal, State, regional and local initiatives may provide unique opportunities for leverage and will be pursued, engaging partners as appropriate for the highest level of competitive success.

A Northern Santa Barbara County Broadband Enhancement Task Force will be comprised as a sub-set of the Northern Consortium Regional Steering Committee to address these opportunities and serve as a platform for these conversations.



Tuesday
May 25, 2021
2:30-4:00 PM
Virtual Event

5G Technology: What Does It Mean to My Business, My Life?

Daniel Feldman, Managing Director

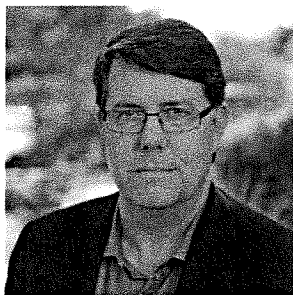
Network Strategy & Partnership Development, Verizon - Global Network and Technology
What Is 5G and What Are Its Applications and Benefits?

Daniel Feldman is a Managing Director of Network Strategy and Partnership Development - in Verizon's Global Network and Technology organization. Daniel's team engages with cities to accelerate Verizon's deployment of the wireless and wireline infrastructure to support the advanced technology communications needs of citizens, businesses and IoT. In his prior role, Daniel had responsibility for product development within Verizon's Smart Cities/IoT portfolio. Daniel has been with Verizon since inception and has held leadership roles in sales, operations, IoT product development, marketing, strategy and business development.



David Witkowski, Executive Director

Civic Technologies Initiatives at Joint Venture Silicon Valley
5G: Frequently Asked Questions



David Witkowski is an author, advisor, and strategist working at the intersection of local government and the telecommunication industry. He is a Fellow in the Radio Club of America, an IEEE Senior Member, Founder & CEO of Oku Solutions LLC, and the Executive Director of Civic Technologies Initiatives at Joint Venture Silicon Valley. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and earning his B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (University of California, Davis), he held leadership roles for companies ranging from Fortune 500 multi-nationals to early-stage startups. He serves as Co-Chair of the Deployment Working Group at IEEE Future Networks, Co-Chair of the GCTC Wireless SuperCluster at NIST, as a member of the Connected Communities Forum at the

Wireless Broadband Alliance, and as an Expert Advisor to the California Emerging Technology Fund. David has presented at or moderated dozens of panels, including that of the IEEE 5G World Forum, IoT World, League of California Cities Conference, GSMA Mobile World Congress, Wireless West, and others.

Questions? Initiatives@EconAlliance.org

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvCuCvTovEtYMTJA_0KJQqeTaygsa3yPg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting



The Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast (BCPC) is a tri-county collaborative funded by the CPUC to provide education, outreach, resources and referrals to enhance broadband and digital literacy. EconAlliance serves as a liaison to BCPC for the Santa Barbara County area.

NTIA grant <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2021/commerce-department-s-ntia-announces-288-million-funding-available-states-build>. (Because of the outlined priority areas of the NTIA parameters, a grant application focus on North County for service has the most chance of success, but that effort could support South County broadband strategy development as well. (NTIA priorities for evaluation: (1st priority) Service to greatest numbers of households in eligible service area (i.e. census block w/o 1 or more households having broadband service of at least 25Mbps downloading/3Mbps uploading) (2nd priority) Provide broadband service to rural area (3rd priority) Be most cost-effective in providing broadband service (4th priority) Provide broadband service with download speed of at least 100 Mbps and upload speed of at least 20 Mbps)