



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 1, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer *NA*

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
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SUBJECT: Agreement with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for preparation of Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Management: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign a Subrecipient Agreement with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for preparing a regional broadband strategic plan;
- B. Authorize the distribution of Tranche 1 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$200,000 to SBCAG for the County’s portion of the project funding in accordance with the Subrecipient Agreement; and
- C. Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organization, administrative, or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC) in coordination with REACH, the Northern Santa Barbara County Econ Alliance, local jurisdictions, and other key stakeholders have partnered to bring together

stakeholder groups, higher education institutions and telecom providers to develop a long-term strategic plan for broadband deployment throughout Santa Barbara County. The County's approved contribution toward the strategic planning effort is \$200,000, set aside from ARPA allocations. This is identified as an eligible expense under ARPA guidance to assess the broadband needs of the area, especially those that are disproportionately served. The proposed subrecipient agreement directly distributes the funding to SBCAG to administer the broadband strategic planning effort with BCPC, participating jurisdictions and local stakeholders.

Background:

On September 21, 2021, staff brought forth a proposal for a Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan discussion in partnership with REACH, BCPC, and the Econ Alliance. County staff have received a proposal to participate in the development of a countywide broadband for a long-term strategic plan for broadband throughout the county and ultimately, the tri-county region. The broadband strategy proposal, spearheaded by the BCPC is a qualifying project for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. During the October 19, 2021 board meeting on ARPA fund allocations, the Board approved \$200,000 from Tranche 1 to be used toward a countywide broadband strategic plan.

Discussion:

On October 21, 2021 the SBCAG Board of Directors directed staff to coordinate with the eight cities in the county to request participation in a regional broadband strategic planning process and seek financial contribution to that effort. The SBCAG Board of Directors proposed dividing the remaining cost among the eight cities based on the 2021 Department of Finance (DOF) Population Estimate to the cities' population of 307,821 (*see Table 1 of proposed jurisdiction contributions based on population*).

The total cost for this effort is \$400,000, which includes \$300,000 of direct costs with the Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast to develop the strategic plan, \$200,000 of which will be the County's contribution. The strategic plan is anticipated to be completed in six to nine months with work on the project beginning in January. Of the \$400,000 total cost, \$100,000 of the costs contributed by the cities will be used for SBCAG's administration costs. These costs will be used to offset costs for staff time to administer the project.

Table 1: Proposed Jurisdiction Broadband Strategic Plan Financial Contribution

Jurisdiction	2021 DOF Population Estimate	%	Contribution
Buellton	5,435	1.77%	\$3,531.27
Carpinteria	13,196	4.29%	\$8,573.81
Goleta	32,339	10.51%	\$21,011.56
Guadalupe	8,346	2.71%	\$5,422.63
Lompoc	42,493	13.80%	\$27,608.90
Santa Barbara	93,055	30.23%	\$60,460.46
Santa Maria	107,445	34.91%	\$69,810.05

Solvang	5,512	1.79%	\$3,581.30
County	441,172	N/A	\$200,000.00
Total City Contribution			\$200,000.00
Total County Contribution			\$200,000.00
Total	748,993		\$400,000.00

The County in coordination with the SBCAG Board of Directors, Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast, and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians have been working to help prepare Santa Barbara County for potential funding opportunities. Over the past couple of months, potential funding opportunities have been announced from both the federal and state governments to provide better access to those who depend on broadband services. With available funding forthcoming, SBCAG would like to ensure that our region is prepared at a regional level to secure and implement funding to stakeholders in an effective and efficient manner.

SBCAG has received commitment to financially contribute to a countywide broadband strategic plan from the City of Santa Maria, City of Carpinteria, City of Goleta, City of Guadalupe, City of Santa Barbara, and the City of Solvang. The dollar amounts committed are listed in the chart above. The City of Buellton and the City of Lompoc are still considering participation in the plan.

The attached subrecipient agreement was approved and signed by the SBCAG Board on January 20, 2022.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The Board allocated ARPA funding for this project in the amount of \$200,000 on October 19, 2021. This item requests that the funds be directed to SBCAG for coordination of the project. No additional funding is requested.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00
Fees			
Total	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00

Special Instructions:

Please return one electronic copy of executed subrecipient agreement to Jasmine McGinty at jmcginty@countyofsb.org, 805-568-3108.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Broadband Strategic Plan Subrecipient Agreement

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Authored by: Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst