



County Administrator's Office

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Notes from January 26, 2010 Board of Supervisors agenda item concerning Broadband Technology rollout in Tuolumne County. These notes are taken from the comments of Internet Service Provider representatives and Wireless Providers.

Ben Hulett with Mother Lode Internet: Mother Lode Internet recently acquired Gold Rush Internet in Calaveras County and Hub 3 Internet in Tuolumne County. Mother Lode sees the need for a community network, focusing on local providers. This will provide better service, more local jobs, and more local money. Mother Lode Internet is pursuing both wired and wireless solutions. They received a \$2.8 Million grant and are awaiting response on a \$3 Million grant application which will greatly expand broadband in a five County Mother Lode region including parts of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties. In conclusion, Mother Lode Internet emphasized the need to cooperate among local providers.

Dan Rule with Golden State Cellular: Golden State Cellular has invested \$4 Million in broadband deployment which is in the form of mobile broadband. They are using EVDO CDMA 3G technology which is the same as Verizon Wireless. This will provide a theoretical 3 Mbs on a download and 1 Mbs on an upload. This will provide a practical 800K download, a 400K upload with bursts up to 2 Mbs. The speed depends on the signal strength, terrain, and traffic loading. 15 sites/tower locations have the 3G technology loaded today, waiting for a commercial launch within weeks. 6 of these 3G capable sites reside in Tuolumne County. 31 additional 3G capable sites are to be installed in 2010. Of Golden State's 56 tower sites, 41 of them will be 3G. They are working on a broadband middle mile project and Federal grant with Calaveras County. Golden State spoke to different types of broadband service:

- Fixed access points to homes, small business, and enterprise
- Aircards for laptops to facilitate mobile broadband
- Smartphones for nationwide internet access
- Multimedia phones for internet browsing nationwide

Some of the key benefits of Golden State's plans are mobility and coverage into more remote areas. Some of their future plans include moving to 4G deployment with LTE, the same as Verizon and AT&T with theoretical speeds in excess of 10 Mbs. Another potential improvement would be an all IP network primarily for data traffic with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) supported sometime in the future. (thank you to Dan Rule for providing me a copy of his comments)

...serving the Board of Supervisors, departments, and the community as good stewards of the County's fiscal and human resources through collaborative, professional and ethical leadership.

Philip Arndt with Comcast: He once again let the Board know that Comcast remains committed to upgrading its current video cable system by 2011.

Matt Ashe with Throckwisp: Throckwisp services mostly southern Tuolumne County including La Grange, Coulterville, and Groveland. They are expanding in Lambert Lakes and Phoenix Lake.

Gary Guyer with Sierra Surfin: Sierra Surfin is a direct line of site wireless company. Mark Corpora is the owner. Sierra Surfin has struggled with receiving reasonable prices to locate towers and other broadband apparatus at TUD sites. They find the County's tower permit process cumbersome and inconsistent. No specific problems were mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Richardson
Deputy County Administrator