Connecting California:
From Community Perspectives to Funded Projects
Part 1: 
Perspectives from the Community

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Matthew Rantanen, Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association
Kevin G. Harbour, Sr., BizFed Institute
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Executive Director of Initiatives, Cal Poly Humboldt
Matthew Rantanen
Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association
Kevin G. Harbour, Sr.
President, BizFed Institute
Closing The Digital Divide =>
Accelerating the Process

Kevin Harbour, President – BizFed Institute & Chair – Executive Committee, Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Broadband Collaborative
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► Coverage Mapping
► Middle Mile vs. Last Mile => Who’s responsible
► Collaboration is Key For Acceleration
► Infrastructure, ACP, Adoption, Literacy, Devices
► Making Funding More Easily Accessible
Part 2:
CA Public Policy and Funding

Kim Lewis, CENIC and GoldenStateNet
Barbara Hayes, Rural County Representatives of California
Kim Lewis
Vice President of Government Relations, CENIC
CENIC is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation with the mission to advance education and research statewide by providing a world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration, and economic growth.

Charter Associates:
- California K-12 System
- California Community Colleges
- California State University System
- Stanford, Caltech, USC
- University of California System
- California Public Libraries
- Naval Postgraduate School

Other Members Include:
- Scientific and Cultural Institutions
- Private Colleges and Universities
- Hospitals and Specialized Medical Institutions
- Biomedical, Science, Space, & Environmental Research Organizations
- Tribal Nations
The California Research and Education Network (CalREN) 27 years of connecting California

- **8,000+** miles of optical fiber
- **Members in all 58 counties** connect via fiber-optic cable or leased circuits from telecom carriers
- **Over 12,000 sites** connect to CENIC
- Operated by a **501(c)(3) organization** chartered and governed by its members
- Collaborates with over **800 private sector partners and contributes > $100,000,000** to the CA economy

20,000,000+ Californians use CENIC
CENIC Benefits for California Institutions:
More than just a network.

CENIC’s California Research and Education Network (CalREN) is a multi-tiered, high-performance network serving the majority of research and education (R&E) institutions in the state.

CalREN broadband offers CENIC member institutions supremely reliable, efficient, and cost-effective access as well as these benefits:

- Access to a state-of-the-art network
- 24/7/365 Network Operation Center
- Lower costs on circuits and equipment
- Unlimited broadband use
- Network design expertise
- Circuit procurement, activation, and support
- Fiber procurement, lighting, and support
- Federal and state subsidy assistance
- Cloud connectivity and content services
- All Internet services, including settlement-free peering & exchange
- Security services
- Scaling services to the need
- Entry into an active membership organization
- A global community of hundreds of thousands of R&E institutions
K-12 Student Testing - end-to-end support and monitoring from CENIC staff resulting in smooth testing experiences for students and teachers. California set a record when 570,745 students simultaneously took the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test.

COVID Vaccine Research - CENIC supports researchers at our R1 institutions in California and throughout the world to be able to access and share big datasets for the development of the initial COVID-19 vaccines and for ongoing research on variants and new vaccines.

Wildfire Prevention - WIFIRE is an innovative application developed by UCSD for predicting the path and spread of wildfires. The tool collects and analyzes big datasets in real-time to create predictive analytic models and support first responders in the field.

Bridging the Divide for Sovereign Nations - supported Tribal Digital Village in obtaining broadband connectivity to enhance intra-tribal connectivity and connection to the global Internet for 20 tribal communities in Southern California.
Given the increased importance of broadband and shifts in how the network was being used, a heightened focus on public policy at all levels of government.

- Meetings, technology and policy documents, state and federal Plans, roundtables, and op-eds
- Western States Pact Alliance
- Broadband Infrastructure Grants (BIG/BIIG) connecting 488 individual schools
- High-Speed Broadband for Libraries Project connecting 927 library sites
- Reaching out to new communities, including healthcare, cultural institutions, museums, and tribal nations
Barbara Hayes
Chief Economic Development Officer, Rural County Representatives of California
RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA

- Represent 40 of California’s 58 Counties
- Larger Than 28 States in Population
- Larger Than 40 States in Land Area
- Home to 15 of California’s 18 National Forests
- Home to 7 of California’s 9 National Parks
- Includes Main N/S and W/E Interstate Highway Systems in Western U.S.
- Advocacy, Business Development, and Economic Development Divisions
- Governed by Elected Supervisors from each County
GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

- Formed Joint Powers Authority
  - 40 Member Counties
- Program of Work Includes:
  - Broadband Strategic Planning
  - Capacity Building
  - Open-Access, Last Mile, Municipal Broadband Deployment
- Identified Financial and Operational Partners
- Key Priorities: Fiber First, Capacity, Broadband for All, Leverage Partnerships
HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

SB 156 – UNANIMOUS APPROVAL – SIGNED BY GOVERNOR JULY 2021

HISTORIC $6 BILLION INVESTMENT

- $3.2 Billion - Middle Mile State-Owned Open Access Network
- $2 Billion – Last Mile
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PROGRESS UPDATE – TWO YEARS LATER

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- Funded and Awarded – 39 of 40 Golden State Connect Authority Counties Received Awards
Part 3:
The California Middle Mile Initiative as a Key Equity Strategy

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