

STATE: CALIFORNIA

Date of Report: January 2008

Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative): Final

Key recommendations:

- Build out high-speed broadband infrastructure to all Californians.
- Develop model permitting standards and encourage collaboration among providers.
- Increase the use and adoption of broadband and computer technology
- Engage and reward broadband innovation and research
- Create a statewide e-health network
- Leverage educational opportunities to increase broadband use.
- Continue state level and statewide leadership.

Key programs initiated: None

Recommended appropriation: None

Web link to agency or task force:

http://www.calink.ca.gov/pdf/CBTF_FINAL_Report.pdf

Statement of Values:

“To remove barriers to broadband access, identify opportunities for increased broadband adoption, and enable the creation and deployment of new advanced communication technologies.” The governor also requested that the CBTF “pay particular attention to how broadband can be used to substantially benefit educational institutions, healthcare institutions, community-based organizations, and governmental institutions.”

Where we’ve been: Not addressed

Where we are today:

- 96% of California residences have access to broadband.
- 1.4 million mostly rural Californians lack broadband access at any speed.
- Barely more than half of Californians have adopted broadband at home.
- Only half of Californians have access to broadband at speeds greater than 10 Mbps (including both upstream and downstream speeds).
- Broadband infrastructure is deployed unevenly throughout the state, from state-of-the-art to nonexistent.
- Extensive broadband mapping done to support these findings.

Where we want to be:

- California must ensure ubiquitous and affordable broadband infrastructure, made available through a variety of technologies to all Californians.
- California must drive the creation and use of applications that produce the greatest economic, educational, and social benefits for California's economy and communities.
- California must construct next-generation broadband infrastructure, positioning California as the global economic leader in a knowledge-based economy.

How are we going to get there? See key recommendations listed above.

Broadband functionality (tiers of service)

- "Current Generation" technologies are defined as speeds between 1 and 10 Mbps.
- "Next generation" technologies defined as speeds "around 50 Mbps or higher."
- The Report sets goals for both current and next generation broadband availability and adoption according to a time coordinate graph starting from 2008 through 2015.

The Task Force defined "broadband" as follows:

- Broadband is defined by the ability to perform online applications at a reasonable performance level for the end user.
- Broadband is a range of speeds and will evolve over time as applications and needs change. It is a summation of the downstream data rate (transmission to the user) and upstream data rate (transmission from the user).
- The ratio of the downstream and upstream must be a minimum of 10:1 (the ratio of the downstream and upstream data rates can increase from 10:1 to fully symmetrical 1:1).
- Broadband must have the capability to be always on, and have a sustainable steady state data rate.
- Burstable speeds provide benefit to users, but should not be considered in the same manner as steady data rates.
- The minimum speed required to use the most basic of broadband-enabled applications is 512 kbps, and this minimum data rate is expected to increase over time.
- An increasing scale that continues to differentiate within speed tiers allows stakeholders to measure specific broadband availability over time.