

**PLACER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Clark Moots, Director of Administrative Services 
DATE: October 23, 2007
SUBJECT: Status Report on High-Speed Internet (Broadband) Services in Lake Tahoe

ACTION REQUESTED

Review staff presentation on the availability of Broadband Services in Lake Tahoe and provide further guidance as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2007, at the request of District 5 Supervisor Bruce Kranz and the County Executive Office, the Administrative Services Department was directed to assist with a "grassroots" community effort to lobby local service providers to expand their Broadband services in the communities of Homewood, Tahoe City, Dollar Point, Agate Bay, Carnelian Bay and Kings Beach. These service providers included AT&T, Cebridge Communications, Charter Communications and eXwire Communications.

In addition, the Department was given direction to seek any available grant-funding opportunities to assist rural communities with the deployment of Broadband services. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines Broadband as data transmission speeds exceeding 200 kilobits per second (Kbps).

Today's presentation is to provide your Board with the accomplishments to date including new service areas being served, grant efforts and to publicly recognize the local community leaders who were instrumental in our efforts to demonstrate the need for Broadband services in these communities.

Broadband services, including DSL, cable modems and wireless access, are now available in the communities of Homewood, Tahoe City, Agate Bay, Carnelian Bay and Kings Beach. Local businesses, schools and homes now have high-speed Internet access to World Wide Web services including access to homework assignment resources for school age children and medical service providers for our senior community.

On June 29, 2007, the Administrative Services and Economic Development Department submitted a grant application to the California Emerging Technology Fund Grant Program to provide funding to conduct a study of underserved communities in Placer County that would identify the need for Broadband Services. The findings of the study would include

Return of Investments (ROI) profiles and provide local service providers with the necessary demographic information to assist with their decisions to invest in upgrades to the existing infrastructure serving our communities.

On September 19, 2007 Placer County was notified by the California Emerging Technology Fund Grant Program of a \$10,000 award being approved to support this study and efforts to accept this grant are currently being finalized.

Community leaders instrumental in organizing the grassroots efforts included District 5 Supervisor Bruce Kranz, Bret Williams from Agate Bay Realty, John Baker, Tom Trimble, Tom Turner with Gar Woods Restaurant, and Julie Brown with the Sierra Sun Newspaper.

REQUESTED ACTION

It is requested that your Board review the Administrative Services Department's progress towards expanding Broadband services for the communities of Homewood, Tahoe City, Dollar Point, Agate Bay, Carnelian Bay and Kings Beach and provide further guidance as appropriate.

cc: Tom Miller, County Executive Officer
Rich Colwell, Chief Assistant County Executive Officer
Holly Heinzen, Assistant County Executive Officer
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer
David C. Snyder, Director of Economic Development
Jennifer Merchant, Principal Management Analyst
Candi McCord, Deputy Director of Administrative Services
Ron Baker, Senior Administrative Services Officer