

Introductions

Adriana Surfas: Good morning. We're just gonna give folks about a minute or so is as you all filter in and then we will get our session underway. Looks like folks, are we've folks made it in, so I would like to go ahead and get started. Good morning. I would like to welcome you to the Middle Mile broadband. Initiative, regional tribal engagement session as a session gets away gets under way. I would like to let you know that we will be recording today's event. The recording, along with the presentation will be shared, following the session. And while this is the third of the 3 engagement sessions, the project, level engagement and communication will be continuing. And we just we really appreciate you joining us this morning over and next slide over the course of today's session. We're gonna be providing information about the middle Mile broadband initiative, which is being led by the California Department of Transportation including and today will include an overview of broadband For all. We will have an overview of the middle mile broadband of the project. We will discuss the project delivery. the environmental and cultural focus as well as a last mile connections overview on the agenda. You'll note that it does have Q. A. At the bottom. However, I will say, we have also built in Q. A. Throughout the session after each of the presentations. So please don't feel that you will need to wait until the end. One quick housekeeping and logistics. I just would like to remind panelists or presenters and our participants to please. Be sure you're muted. If you're not speaking. If you have questions we ask that you, if you are able. I know some folks are able to see the Q. A. Box at the bottom of your screen. So, folks some folks have not been able to see that. So if you're able to see it. You're welcome to post your questions in that. Q. A. And use that feature. Otherwise please raise your hand, and we will be happy to call on you and so that you can ask your question. With that we will go ahead and join a start with our opening remarks. We're pleased to be joined by the secretary of the of the Governor's office of tribal affairs, the Director of the California Department of Technology. the Chief Deputy, excuse me, the chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Technology, the Director of the California Department of Transportation, or Cal. Trans. And the Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission to begin this morning session. I would like to introduce Secretary Christina Snyder with the Governor's office of Tribal Affairs Secretary Snyder.

Christina Snider: Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining us today to learn more about the State's Middle Mile broadband initiative, and how tribes can effectively engage in these processes. Again, my name is Christina Snyder, and I'm. A member of the dry Creek Rancheria, a band of Pomo Indians in Sonoma County, and the Tribal Affairs Secretary for Governor Gavin Newsom, where I lead the Governor's office of tribal affairs. I'm joining you here today from the ancestral homeland of the patch. When people's the Governor's office of tribal affairs informs the work of the administration by coordinating and facilitating government to government communication and consultation with the 109 tribal governments in California, each of which have diverse needs and priorities, and many of which are situated in historically underserved areas for broadband and

infrastructure because of the unique challenges California tribal nations and citizens face and accessing sufficient broadband to meet the growing demands the more Internet based society economy and community care network. The office is also a member of the California Broadband Council on the States broadband for all efforts to help inform the work as they pursue digital equity across California. The Newsom administration in the States broadband for all program is committed to collaborating with tribal nations to address connectivity and digital equity, needs and tribal lands and Indian country across California. This has been a foundation of broadband for all. Our offices worked closely with the broadband council to establish the States California tribal broadband, connectivity partnership summit and the tribal broadband for all roundtable in May 2,022, working closely with CDT, CPUC and other State agencies over this next year and beyond, to ensure that the states broadband for all program and the state's digital Equity Plan are closely aligned, sensitive to and developed in collaboration and partnership with, tribal nations to address digital equity needs with that in mind. I encourage you to engage freely with the State folks present, and follow up as needed to better understand not only how your nation or community might benefit from the Middle Mile bills out but also to inform the state of how to properly, respectfully and equitably engage with their tribal government to ensure. We're fully living up to our commitment to work in a mutually collaborative manner with every tribe in the State. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing more about your needs and priorities in this process as we move through today's agenda, and I will hand it off to Chief Deputy Director Johnson.

Jared Johnson: Thank you, Secretary Snyder. And Good morning. My name is Jared Johnson, chief deputy director of the California Department of Technology. I'm honored to participate in today's middle mile broadband tribal engagement event. 28 of tribal lands do not have modern broadband services of 100 megabits per second and millions lack connectivity, devices and skills necessary to access essential services and realize other social and economic benefits. Broadband for all is Governor Newsom's commitment to closing the digital divide and bringing Internet services to unserved and underserved homes, businesses, and community institutions in our tribal communities, and across the State in June, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 156 into law to construct the open access middle mile broadband network. This infrastructure is needed by Internet service providers to run connection to homes and businesses. CDT and our partners have worked at breakneck speed to deliver a list of firsts on a short timeline. The committee first met in August, the twentieth 21. Our first 18 middle mile locations were announced in November 2021 and a full statewide network map was released in June, 2022. This past October we installed the first middle mile fiber in Poway, California the pace has not slowed. We have the entire system out to bid for proposals from industry, for different methods of implementation. And this January we expect to make decisions on construction and lease implementations beside updates on our middle mile. Today you'll receive more information on our statewide digital equity planning process that will help our State determine the best use of Federal dollars to expand access affordability, adoption and digital equity and inclusion. We extend our partnership and look forward to collaborating with tribal nations to ensure that the state's digital

equity plan aligns with the needs of the tribal communities. Representatives of CPUC. And Caltrans will discuss these last mile and middle mile efforts. And now I'd like to welcome Director Tony Tavares of Caltrans.

Tony Tavares: Well, thank you very much. I do appreciate the comments from Secretary Snyder, and thank you, Chief Deputy Johnson, for your comments as well. Good morning, everyone. I'm Tony Tavares I'm. The director of the California Department of Transportation. We're also known as Caltrans, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you this morning to the middle Mile broadband. Initiative, regional tribal engagement session. I know your time is extremely valuable, and we are extremely grateful for your participation. The digital divide and the resulting inequities have been a focus for decades and a challenge. We have long work to close. This effort became even more critical as the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced our reliance on high speed Internet, while also further highlighting the lack of equity and access to broadband throughout our entire state through the middle Mile Broadband initiative we are prioritizing bringing reliable high-speed Internet service to disadvantaged and underserved communities. We're proud to support the California and Department of Technology's efforts to create the physical infrastructure needed to enable Internet connectivity for homes, businesses, and community institutions throughout the State of California, such as schools, libraries, hospitals, and medical facilities once fully constructed, the middle mile broadband network will serve as the backbone infrastructure to bring high-speed Internet to as many Californians as possible. This initiative is a significant and ambitious statewide undertaking. As we have a very short amount of time to fully construct the entire network. Caltrans has been tasked to deliver this middle mile broadband network along key corridors of the State highway system under the direction and oversight of the California Department of technology. This means that Cal Trans. Is responsible for completion of all project level. Environmental studies, compliance, documentation, design, and construction of this broadband network in all 12 of our Caltrans districts and for these projects our districts will continue outreach to culturally affiliated tribal governments for project level consultations and I would like to say some tribal governments have already been in communication with our districts. We continue to appreciate your engagement with us and your continued dialogue with us with respect to broadband Many tribal areas and households do not reliably have download Internet speeds of at least 25 megabits per second and upload Internet speeds of at least 3 MB percent per second. According to the California Public Utilities Commission, 25% of Californians who are unserved are within 10 miles of federally recognized tribal lands. Caltrans look forward to our continued collaboration with our tribal cultural leaders through early coordination, engagement, and consultation, to promote the protection of the tribal heritage and meaningful historic preservation outcomes. We recognize the best project. Solutions only happen when strong tribal, regional and local government relationships are maintained to allow us to leverage everyone's input ideas and resources. Our goal is that meetings like this and regular communication and coordination with our Cal Trans Tribal Relations Staff will allow us to work collaboratively to best consider and address the needs of tribal nations. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to share

more with you about the broadband, middle Mile initiative, and how we can engage each other on this important endeavor. We know there may be number of questions and potential challenges, but we see the vital role broadband plays in our lives and the value in what we are doing with school work and healthcare, increasingly or completely available online, the ability for people to access and use. Broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage in life or being cut off while Caltrans is typically about roads and highways. We are about people, and ultimately about connecting people and that is what the broadband middle. My initial is all about connecting communities, connecting people, bringing opportunities for economic prosperity to all Californians. We look forward to enhancing our partnership with each of you and engaging in the collaboration with all of our tribal governments. I want to thank you all again for being with us this morning, and the opportunity to speak with you. And now I would like to turn this over to the Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission, Miss Rachel Peterson.

Rachel Peterson: Good morning. Thank you. Secretary Snyder, first Chief Deputy Director Johnson and Director Tavares for the invitation to join you, and Hello to all of the tribal representatives who have also joined us today. I'm very pleased to be here in support of the partnership between the Statewide Middle Mile project and our last mile programs. We are working to bring this once in a generation funding to California to build Internet infrastructure. I'm Rachel Peterson, Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission. Our Agency's mission is to regulate utilities so that people across California have access to clean affordable reliable utility services. The CPUC has a broad portfolio in energy, policy and regulation, in safety water transportation, and importantly, in communications. The last mile and other programs that directly impact your lives in Indian country are some of the programs I'll talk about later on in the program. Thank you for coming today to hear about the initiatives. The pandemic truly ended the debate about whether broadband is a necessity, and nowhere has that been more clear than where you are. The State Legislature and the Governor enacted Senate Bill 156 in 2,021 which alongside the 3.2 billion for middle mile, also invested over 2.75 billion for last mile programs. These new programs have an emphasis on empowering tribes and local governments to solve the digital divide. We think that helping your initiatives and supporting your partnerships is critical to getting people connected in areas of the State where traditional Internet service providers won't go, and where mobile coverage is not so good. Our programs are designed to help you get there, and I hope you'll be able to tune in through with the program for the last mile discussion at the end. Thank you for your time for being with us here today, and we look forward to our continued: work with you. Thank you, and back to you, Adriana.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you. Executive Director Peterson. Next slide, please. We are also joined today by the district directors for the central portion of the State and we they have some opening remarks as well. We will be hearing from Richard Rosales, who's the district? 5 director, Diana Gomez, the District 6 director, Ryan, Germany, the District mine director, Dennis Agar, the District 10 director, and with that I will hand it over to Richard.

Richard Rosales: Thank you. I'm Richard Rosales. I'm the Caltrans Interim District 5 Director headquarters out of San Francisco. Just so, you know my other job when I'm not gonna be. The interim director is the Deputy District director for program project management. So I will be directly involved with this middle Mile broadband initiative throughout the whole process district 5 covers 5 County, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. I'm happy to be here today for this discussion on the middle Mile broadband initiative tasks with bringing broadband services to those areas which either do not have the services or have unreliable services and your participation and collaboration is needed. To ensure the success of this implementation. Our goal is to is to is for avoidance when we're in our process for our design process and we have already have outreach some of the tribes, and have corresponded with those. And we're looking forward to that continued collaboration with Caltrans. And we have about 680 miles in our district of the 10,000 miles Statewide, and we're looking forward to engaging 100 eighty-and being successful in that implementation. Thank you.

Adriana Surfas: thank you. And District Director Gomez.

Diana Gomez: Yeah, good morning and thank you. Everyone for being here today. So I'm Diana Gomez District 6 Director District 6 is in Madera County and Fresno Count and, so, as you know, as the previous speakers talked about. What is the project, and ensuring that we have broadband service, and throughout the State so currently in District 6, there's 996 miles, that is being proposed within the 5 counties within district 6 there are 18 federally recognized tribes since July of last year we have reached out to 42 tribal representatives that are are listed in our contact list and we have been notifying them of the broadband projects. The initial outreach we I did was an invitation to consult and share cultural resources information. We also have. We have a map that we provided for each project and have been mailing that to the tribal representatives. So we're in in the projects in District 6. We do have a minimal impact to the, to the tribal government land, one small area which is State route 41. Here the Chicago Casino and then a second one, which is along State route 190 and that's operated by the River tribe. So we will continue to reach out and partner with our partners within the respective tribes. We will be doing some cultural studies, you know, as part of it's part of the project. And again we will continue to consult as we continue to move forward with these projects. Thank you.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you. And District Director Germany.

Ryan Dermody: Hi, thanks. Good morning, everyone. I'm Ryan Dermody, the Trans District Director for District 9. We cover Eastern Kern in you and Mono counties. I'm joined today on the call as well with Kirsten Hilton, the District 9 deputy district director for planning an environmental Christina McDonald, our district native American coordinator and Emily Mullen district, Native American liaison, and I know a lot of you have worked closely with those team members on a lot of the projects we work on regularly. So I'm in District 9 we have over 700 miles within current in yon mono counties, for the broadband project. Nearly half of those miles fall within the Bureau of Land, Management, National Park Service,

or Forest service or other Federal lands. So we're working closely, not only with our tribal partners, but also our Federal land management partners. A small percentage of those projects do fall within tribal lands and we've already begun outreach and consultation with ton, 20 tribes with potential interest within our district boundaries. We've already sent out the introductory letters, and I know some of those conversations are occurring as we speak. I also want to mention that you know we're actively consulting with 2 tribes right now on some of our current projects, and as we get into Annual and Mono, we will continue that process. We're hoping for good communication, as we feel we've done on other transportation projects, and we will do on this broadband project. And as coming phases and future phases occur, we're looking forward to that collaboration and consultation with all of you. We have good relationships with the resource land management agencies. And we're hoping to really minimize impacts to all environmental resources. We know that broadband has a small footprint. It's going to go along existing corridors, so avoid first and minimize and mitigate as our third option. So thank you all for being here today. We appreciate that, and that's all I have for now. Thank you.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you. Director Dennis Agar?

Dennis T. Agar: Thank you, Adriana. Yes, Dennis Agar, the Caltrans District 10 director based in Stockton. We're located along the Central California, and we have 8 counties that we represent and that includes Alpine, Amador, Calveres, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties. Our district is a task to deliver over 800 miles on broadband network in our different counties, and we do also appreciate our tribal partners being here today, and in coordination with our effort, we do recognize that our broadband minimal projects that do lie on ancestral native American territories and we do our. We are also committed to working with all of our partners to ensure that our construction and design of these broadband. Meanwhile projects really is minimized and avoids any impacts to cultural and natural resources. We have also continued and started our outreach to at least 19 tribal representatives throughout our district. And again, I really do want to work with our team here to work with all of you in regards to meaningful engagement and collaboration to really strengthen our partnerships and our communication. As we go through this very important effort, and this initiative also join me Today is Christine Hallucy. Kristen is my deputy district director for environmental and right away. And of course, her and her team really look forward to again working with all our tribal partners in our 8 counties. Thank you and back to you, Adriana.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you. Appreciate everybody. All of the executive leadership across our districts across the State. We're able to join us this morning, and I think we will move forward with the agenda and jump into the presentations. With that I would like to hand it off to the deputy director for broadband and digital literacy with the California Department of Technology. Scott Adams, who will provide an overview of broadband for all.

Broadband for All Overview

Scott Adams: Thank you so much, Adriana, and want to extend my thanks to Secretary Snyder, Chief Deputy Director Johnson and Executive Director Peterson, and that Cal trans directors also want to welcome our or travel nation partners, and just extend our thanks, our gratitude, and our commitment to working in partnership with you on broadband for all, and connectivity and digital equity needs in your communities and on tribal lands. It's, Adriana said. My name is Scott Adams, I'm. The deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy within the Department of Technology, and our office works to coordinate the implementation of the various broadband for all initiatives with the California Broadband Council and a number of State agencies charged with leading those efforts and then ensuring coordination and collaboration with our tribal partners and local and regional entities. Could you change the next slide, please? So, in terms of broadband, for all the why that executives before had really called it out that in today's technology and Internet centric world the ability to access and use broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage on life and being cut off. Next slide, please. And so, as stated before, broadband. For all is the news from administration, and the State of California is overarching commitment to close the digital divide and really focus on 4 main components access making sure that there is robust and reliable infrastructure both on the middle mile and then on the last mile network side to provide connectivity and service affordability, making sure that, doing what we can to make service affordable adoption that we take measures and develop programs and partnerships to increase adoption of technology, both home Internet. Service. But the computer is required to maximize and optimize what is on the Internet. And then lastly, digital literacy training which leads to inclusion, so creating pathways, so that our residents in California and on tribal lands have the skills. They need to access the central service and other social and economic benefits. Next slide, this slide here. The previous speakers have talked about the evolution of broadband for all. But we wanted to give you a visualization here. California has been committed to closing the digital divide since 2,010. When we establish the California Broadband Council, which is a 12 entity body, consisting of 9 State agencies, another entity, and representatives from the State Senate and Assembly, and please to note that the office of Tribal Affairs, CalTrans. Or the California Transportation Agency in the Public Utilities Commission, as well as CDT or members of that body, their work was really charged with coordinating the statewide efforts to promote broadband, adoption and deployment, and on a serve communities as determined by the California public utilities Commission as the previous speakers had noted that really, in response to that, the Covid pandemic Governor News, some issued a broadband executive order and 2020, which directed the California Broadband Council to refocus its efforts and really doubled down. On closing the State's digital divide that led to the development of the Statewide broadband action plan, and just 4 months during the pandemic that was developed in partnership with over 700 entities. And you know, the next significant development was the historic Senate Bill, 156 which previous speakers had mentioned. It's historic legislation that allocated 6 billion dollars.

Both of which went to the Department of Technology to oversee the development of the statewide open access, middle Mile network, and then the 2.7 5 billion dollars to the Public Utilities commission to administer last mile grant programs that were talked about before last year with the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill. There were additional funds over 65 billion in funds allocated at the Federal Government level to state some localities to continue their digital equity work. And this visualization just shows the 6 primary buckets that the State has been focusing on leveraging next slide. When we look at the goals of broadband for all, they're really 3 primary goals, and that's that all you know. Residents on tribal land in California have access to high performance, broadband available at home schools, libraries, and businesses that they have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices and access to training support to enable digital inclusion. Next slide. Okay. And the message that I wanted to deliver you all about. You know, new investments that the State is leveraging the infrastructure and investment Jobs act programs that were visualized, and in 2 slides before these coming years is going to include significant amount of planning on 2 programs the broadband equity, access and deployment program or bead which the Public Utilities Commission is leading. And then the Digital Equity Act programs. There's 2.7 5 billion available to States. And why these 2 programs are important here is that these come with state allocation, so California will receive its fair share of these dollars, and I'll if we go to the next slide. I'll kind of explain how that the process works so on that on the be plan the Public Utilities Commission has to establish a 5 Year Action plan on the digital equity dollars. The California public or the Department of Technology has to establish a State by digital equity plan. Both of those plans are related and coordinated. So the Department of technology and public Utilities Commission over the next year are going to be engaging in a number of coordinated and aligned activities to see public feedback. And so the planning process on the digital equity studies that we've established the Statewide planning group to bring in umbrella entities. It's open to the public to really advise the Department of Technology and some of the key components that you know of the digital equity plan. We are developing out from area working groups that will explore State you know, outcomes in State policy priorities. So education, health, workforce, development, digital inclusion. We do have a travel collaboration working group. We would encourage our travel nation partners to participate in. You know each of both the planning group and the primary working groups that are relevant, and really, you know, share with us your subject matter, expertise your lived experiences and work with us. Is we align the digital equity plan to really be sensitive to and responsive to the needs of you as our partners. A couple of other things I want to mention. We are going to be doing a number of surveys, a a statewide digital equity survey to identify needs of some specific covered populations that are outlined by the Federal Government that we consider there'll be a a traditional phone survey, an online survey that we would hope that to the extent it's possible in your communities. You would help us promote to really assess the needs of your of your residents. And then, in addition to that, we know that there's a need to engage the Department of Technology and public Utilities Commission are going to be conducting, you know, up to 20 local events across the State, where we can meet with community members and partners and stakeholders to engage in by

directional feedback on what should be included in the digital equity and be plans. And so we would encourage you all to and invite you all to participate in those meetings. We intend to do much like this session, but in person, can meetings that are specific to travel nations, one in the North, one in the central and one in the south of the State. And then we're committed to ongoing public engagement, which is the fifth component of our planning. Next slide, please, I the call to action that we have is really to demonstrate our commitment to partnership and collaboration and alignment and learning. We've provided a link here on this presentation that you will receive after this meeting up on the broadband for all portal. There's a participation forum, please, if you can fill it out and let us know how and where you would like to partner with the State on these really ambitious efforts. I am gonna close now, but with my close I want to say that, you know, while today's session is really to enhance understanding at the Middle Mile we want to make sure that we place the middle mile under the context of broadband for all and all of the interdependent and complementary pieces. They're going to help us get to the stated goals. We know this is a lot of information, and we're committed to continue to understand. You know, how the state can you know, partner with you all, and provide additional assistance and guidance, or council, on how to understand these programs, how to leverage them and provide whatever support we can, and that is needed. So with that I just say thank you very much. It's an honor to be here, and we very much look forward to continuing and expanding our partnership with your nations and communities. That's it for me and drama. Thank you, Scott, and thank you for flipping over to the next slide. I will be handing it over to the deputy Director for the Middle Mile broadband initiative with the California Department of technology. Mark Monroe.

MMBI Summary

Mark Monroe: Yes, thank you. Scott and Adriana and good morning to all of our participants. I'm Mark Monroe, the deputy director for the middle Mile broadband initiative a program here at CDT. You go to the next slide here, as it's been noted, the 2021 and 22 budget packages. I provided a total of 3.8 billion dollars in in primarily Federal American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds for CDT to develop a statewide mail mile network along the State highway system to connect the States unserved and underserved communities under that broader broadband for all effort that that Scott talked about. This is, in addition to the 2.7, 5 billion dollars that the package provided to support Lot. These last mile connectivity efforts. As has been noted success of the of MMBI depends heavily on Caltrans doing the pre-construction work, such as permitting and design, as well as construction, contracting and project oversight during work during construction based on a robust public input process. CDT worked with the Public Utilities Commission and a third-party Administrator Golden State Net to develop the map we see here which reflects an MMBI network development along 10,000 miles of Caltrans overall, 15,000 miles. So two-thirds of the total statewide network there few challenges that we had to address, or in the process of addressing first of all costs based on estimates, the 3.8 billion dollars provided, and it's now available for the project, while significant, is not expected to be now funding for the for the State to construct the entire network. Federal, and Similarly, in terms of the schedule, the Federal timeframes relative to arc of funds

are not consistent with the way at Caltrans would normally approach its transportation projects. For these Federal funds. They have to be under contract by 2,024, with all of the work completed by the end of December, 2026. So to mitigate these challenges, we anticipate our new leases. Our existing infrastructure will be needed, and CDT is currently assessing the availability and affordability of existing infrastructure for these since it remains our goal to reach all 10,000 miles identified Federal timeframes, it was important, following completion of the map to have Cal Trans. Again, it's permitting and design work as early as possible on all of the potential miles which is why we to release the full 10,000 mile ma this past May and we have also been working with Caltrans to find ways to expedite its State and Federal permitting efforts to move this along. The MMBI project is intended to connect unserved and underserved communities throughout the State and we're happy to have the opportunity to meet today to discuss the potential benefits of the MMBI and broadband for all efforts to California's, travel communities and to talk through the approaches to system development in particular, as it relates to the tribal lands we can move on to the next slide. Here, as a chief deputy director Johnson noted system, construction has already begun in San Diego County and Poway this last October. This is this is an example of a an early dig. Smart opportunities that Cal Trans. Has been exploring where fiber can fiber infrastructure can be added to existing transportation projects. But more broadly, we wanted to talk through the primary construction approaches, job order contracting, and CMGC. Here, so relative to how Caltrans would normally do a construction project, they would do the first design it, and then they would go out to bid and then and then following that up with construction that doesn't fit within the Federal timeframes and so 2 approaches that SB 156 namely, legislation allowed. We're, CMGC, a construction manager, general contractor and job order contracting, and so for CMGC. That is where Cal. Trans. Brings on as part of the initial construction contract construction manager to help design the project to make sure that it designed in a way that's going to meet the schedule and address any specific challenges that are expected along the way. And so Caltrans is using this for areas in particular where we expect construction to be more challenging or permitted to be more of a challenge. And then there's job border contracting. This is where the State goes out to bid for a given segment. When we look at the broader network it's the 10,000 more network it's divided up into 5 major regions, and so we did a job order contract for each region. So did a bit solicitation. And you're in the process of returning, of reviewing the bids that were submitted. The he idea is to have to be able to identify where all the possible construction locations are and then we will based on the bids we'll. We'll select contractors and then issue work authorizations as the permitting and design work are completed so really it extends the amount of time we have to be able to build, and allows us to move segments to construction as they are ready and jump to the next slide. Here CDT and Caltrans are currently reviewing bids from several major contract solicitations that I've noted that we're all released at towards the end of 2022 we talk first about the RFI squared. This is really, you know, when we look at building the network, we're developing a network. You know there's this general model that Cal Trans is going to build as much as possible. But given that, we we're going to need to find these other alternatives. We went out for an open solicitation to look for work and

release, where there are opportunities to partner with existing, but with industry on existing and planning projects to do join construction or to purchase existing infrastructure, as well as to identify areas where we can co-locate our the electronics and the servers that we need for the network. So we're in the process. We've we received the 2022 different bids on those that we're in the process of going through those that I can. Currently, similarly, as I mentioned, we have gone out for more than 5,100 miles of the job order contracts we've received bids on. Those are also evaluating those. And then, thirdly, we'll note that regarding the CMGC Contract, that CalTrans has done. There's more than 1,700 miles of those that are also that have been received and are currently being evaluated. So we're definitely moving on, moving the project along and trying to drive to get to the point where we can start construction, because, you know, we have these type Federal timelines that we're working around. You go to the next slide. So you can see what Cal Trans. Is identified in terms of where the system is expected to be located. Well, it is intended to connect communities, it doesn't necessarily go through all of the communities or we want. We want all of the States tribal communities to know where the network will be, and how it can benefit these travel communities. Next, Cal Trans is going to be talking us through its process and working with the tribes and developing the project. But before we move on if you can jump to the next slide here here, you can see that the schedule that we use at the middle mile Advisory Committee. This is a meeting is now being held quarterly, so the next one will be the third week in April and we really encourage everyone to attend these quarterly MMAC meetings. They're helped virtually, and that's a good way to really track the progress on this project. And I talk through when I talk through the he bids that we just, you know, discuss it's all going to be evaluated as part of as an optimization process. This timeline here, we will be working with CalTrans and Golden State Net to take those bids and optimize the network and make key decisions based on based on those bids that we've received to use the available funding as effectively as possible to bring Middle Mile connection to the state's unserved, and with that, and before we turn it over to Caltrans we'll open this up to any questions.

Questions/Comments

Adriana Surfás: Thanks, Mark. And again, if folks have questions. You're more than welcome, and you see the chat, the Q. A. Feature down the bottom. Please feel free to post those questions or raise your hand, and we will call on you. So I am not seeing any hands raised or questions posted. So with that, if we can go to the next slide. Perfect. Thank you. We are going to hand this over to the Assistant Deputy Director for the Middle Mile Broadband initiative. Janice Benton and the Middle Mile Robin. Initiative program Director Hardeep Takhar. Janice.

MMBI Project Delivery

Janice Benton: All right. Good morning. Thank you, Adriana. Like I said, My name is Janice Benton. I'm. The assistant Deputy director for the Middle Mile Broadband initiative at Caltrans and excuse me, and I'll be joining with me as hardy to car the program director here at Caltrans for the middle mile broadband initiative. So next slide. So it's a pleasure

to be here to talk about the minimal broadband initiative and the ambitious effort to promote the digital equity and inclusion today is about sharing the information about this opportunity and making sure you have all the background on the middle mile broadband initiative and sharing items, such as what is the project? What is the type of work? And how can you engage this? This initiative is a significant undertaking, and as many as the speakers I've already mentioned. We'll need the partnerships of all the State Court stakeholders and parties to meet this substantial challenge. So next slide and, as has been shared the full system, design map for the broadband middle mile network includes 10,000 miles of proposed build that spans the entire state and to put this in perspective. Caltrans owns and operates about 15,000 miles. And so we're this initiative is really adding broadband to almost two-thirds of the State highway system. And through this initiative we're taking a comprehensive and long term approach to tackling the broadband infrastructure deficiencies connecting California and meeting the broadband. Infrastructure needs, next slide. And as Mr. Monroe mentioned the broadband middle, my initiative has a very aggressive timeline to meet the 10,000 mile network goal and ensure. We're maximizing the use of the Federal dollars. So the program is funded through the Federal American rescue plan with the Treasury Department that funds that requires and with these funds requires the dollars to be encumbered by December 2024 and all projects closed out with all funds used by December 2,026. So we're working closely with the California Department of Technology, the lead agency and project owner to ensure. We're prepared to navigate any of these challenges or potential issues. Now I will hand it over to our deep to car our program director to share more details on how we plan to deliver the projects.

Hardeep Takhar: Thank you, Jonas. Good morning, everyone. I will be covering the details on the Project Development process again. Janice mentioned, I think, to our serving as the program director. The program level, my initiative is an example of accounts is not doing business as well. We have been given the flexibility to accomplish the 10,000 miles, the standard project process, which is the name here with each phase being allocated and then completed prior to the next phase. Next slide, please. As you can see here, instead of the linear process, we are streamlining the delivery process to create efficiencies in design, permitting contracting, which allows these 3 construction processes, including environmental final design and rid of for us to be our goal is to avoid and minimize impacts, to not our resources and staying effectively the exercise of running and also consider mitigation, for a lot of them. This will involve using construction remains and methods an excuse to it's like this. So we do. Cal Trans has developed plans, details, and specifications to install and the I was following construction that some loading, flowing, trenching, and trenchless instruments and typically for 2 inch or 3 to inch conduct configuration will be installed and assure 6 to 12 inches and the details have been developed for working. And this work we will include building 21,000 walls every 2,500 feet of the State highway system right of way. It's something to look at it every 15,000 feet along the network to service connection points to. We will also be building more than 200 concrete in the network option but 5, the applicable signal regeneration which we should do to we position every 50 miles along the same. I system right

away. 35 for this transfer we're on to connect with to boost enhance data. Next slide, please. In the next few slides we will be covering the description. Typical applications and operations for the instructions. In this case prowling involves using a laboratory for our create a narrow slip and soil cloud most quickly, resulting in minimal soil. Disturbance in the operation. Applications will typically in your areas where installation is required in a soil surface that includes an uneven that dry terrain. Tight schedule a long haul and the require restoration, following completion of the traditional touching is common for cross-country installations, and it may affect traffic movement and the slower than a tension frame, and it will be allowed, an it's on the shoulder and payment to overcome with and depth limitations and locations where we need to avoid impacts your environmental resources and overcome right away. And on the case next slide this slide it restrains micro attention. It's also a type of trench and payment micro pension, and as well concrete them and shoulders and travel, they will be explored and approved under limit circumstances on to award. I'm really sensitive area. We're off them and construction determined, and this will involve cutting an arrow trench typically 3 inches to see essentially into as far as our concrete payment and Caltrans steps. Typically, you know, the ask for the operation really well using. You know it's simultaneously this method is primarily used to install fiber. For example, a growing application. This may include long hauls over most terrains, including rocky ground conditions. The operations will need to consider entrance and exhibits pilot or remaining, and so that passes. And so I miss out some curtain for noise, mitigation and site restoration. It will also be replied when the work is done, next slide, please. We would also be considering so stitch boring a type of on the drilling operation, which may also be utilized. This uses thematic, piercing close. They should, from one small fit to the over short distances. This means the typical equipment and materials used in the horizontal directional billing operations for changeless installation, are using jack and boring. It's difficult location that you have and railroad crossings. When a casing is required. These are locations where it is not feasible but similar to horizontal during operations you will need to consider it's pilot whole rooming, and so that this is like casing specifically in this case and site restoration. Then we appreciate the opportunity to share information with you middle mile initiative. So will there be any questions?

Adriana Surfas: Thank you, Hardeep, and thank you, Janice.

Comments & Questions

Adriana Surfas: So if anybody has any questions, please raise your hand, or if you would like to post in the chat. So I do see that there was a question posted in the chat regarding Mark, and I don't know if you want to comment on this one. There was a presentation slide that indicated 0 miles for District 6 and what does that mean? And so Mark, I will hand that over to you, but I think I do want to make ensure that the Middle Mount will be coming to District 6, and I believe you know, and, as I understand it, the while the middle miles not going through tribal lands, there are ancestral lands, and there will continue to be project, level consultation and partnership as we deliver the Middle Mile projects in District 6 Mark.

Mark Monroe: Yes, thank you. I'm trying to, as we speak here, trying to pull up our or map. I don't believe this goes through all the districts, and so I'm not certain what was being looked at there. But all the districts are covered with our network. So trying to...

Robert Gomez: Mark. This is Robert Gomez. I posed that question. You had on there all the districts that were being affected by the middle mile, trenching, and so on, so forth. But on District 6 you did not have any miles included in there, and I was curious, but I think Adriana has answered my question in the sense. There are some miles slated for District 6, even though it's not on tribal land, and maybe that was a distinction that you were referring to tribal land versus cultural

Mark Monroe: And exactly. Yes, no, I appreciate the question. And it's a really good clarification. The map that I was showing you there was what Caltrans identified as the route miles that we're going specifically crossing the tribal reservation land. And so yeah, so for District 6 did not have any miles. We're actually crossing the land. This kind of goes to where we're trying to connect everybody, but we don't necessarily cross all of the he tribal communities.

Robert Gomez: Okay, we have 3. We have 3 tribal allotments right off the highway 178, the furthest distance being maybe 3 miles from 178 do you take the broadband to the tribal land? Or do you stop there at 178.

Mark Monroe: Yeah. So in terms of so, yeah, it's an important clarification on the MMBI we have to hold to the State highway system. That's why we were. That's where we have the authority to build is along the State. How we route so anywhere where that route crosses our gets close to the tribes. That's really our goal is to be able to build to all those areas. And then, when we talk about the last mile funding that's being discussed, or that Scott and others have talked about. That's the finding that would be used to build back to the middle mile.

Robert Gomez: All right, thank you.

Adriana Surfás: And, Robert thank you as well for coming off mute to for clarify your question. I really appreciate that, and let's see I'm not seeing any other questions posted in the Q. A. I don't see hands raised. So I am going to - we can advance the slides. I'm going to hand this over to Kathryn Rose, the Office chief for Headquarters Cultural Studies Office and Sarah Allred, the statewide native American coordinator who are going to talk about our environmental and cultural focus as we work to build the network as we've as I think, CPUC and CDT. Develop that map for us, Katherine. Sarah.

Environmental & Cultural Focus

Kathryn Rose: Thanks. Good morning and welcome. We know your time is valuable, and we really appreciate all of you joining us today. So, as Adriana said, my name is Kathryn Rose. I'm. The Acting Office Chief for the Cultural Studies Office in Caltrans Headquarters Division of Environmental Analysis and the control Studies office is responsible for

developing, implementing and monitoring cultural resource management for the Department and I'm gonna let Sarah introduce herself. Sarah.

Sarah Allred: I'm Sarah Allred I'm. With the native American Cultural Studies Branch at Caltrans Headquarters Division of Environmental Analysis and Cultural Studies Office. I work on programs and policies related to Caltrans consultation with tribal governments, and I also administer the Cultural Studies Subcommittee to the Native American Advisory Committee. It's great to be here today and thanks everyone for taking the time to join us. Catherine and I are going to be sharing this presentation today to talk about cultural and environmental studies for the Middle mile projects and the districts, and so I will turn it back over to Catherine and I will chime in a little bit later. Thank you.

Kathryn Rose: Okay. But next slide, please. Okay. So the previous presentations provided an overview of broadband for all in California, and what the Middle Mile broadband initiative is, and Caltrans's role in the project delivery process. And in this presentation we're going to focus on the environmental and cultural resource studies, process and Caltrans consultation with tribes. In that context in this map that you see here provides an overview of the 12 Cal Trans districts relative to the statewide Middle Mile network. Obviously, tribal ancestral areas not necessarily coincide with district for political boundaries. So tribes may be working with one or more districts depending on your individual areas of concern and each district is responsible for the design, environmental review and compliance, permitting and construction of the middle mile broadband projects in their respective areas. And each district has its own unique middle mile, broadband delivery challenges depending on factors such as topography, the urban or rural nature of the setting and types of environmental sensitivities. Next slide, please. So also, as mentioned earlier in the in the earlier presentations, the delivery of the middle mile broadband network is being accelerated, and design will be environmentally driven to promote avoidance of resources. This means that the early identification of sensitive, cultural and environmental areas is a key objective in the design and delivery of the middle Mile program projects and even though the delivery process is being accelerated, Caltrans. Is still responsible for complying with all State and Federal environmental laws and procedures including outreach and consultation with the culturally affiliated California native American tribes. The begin environmental milestone marks the point at which Caltrans formally initiates environmental studies for an individual project, including the initiation of outreach to culturally affiliated tribes and communities, will conduct outreach to both fairly recognized and non-federally recognized tribes initial outreach efforts in the district will be directed to tribal leadership, and the tribes designated cultural environmental experts and depending on ancestral territories. Tribes should be receiving and or will receive communications from one or more districts seeking consultation regarding any cultural and environmental concerns related to specific middle mile. Broadband project areas and tribes may be receiving communication in the form of emails, letters, phone calls, and meetings. And because when a while broadband projects are being accelerated and prioritized at Caltrans, there is the potential that districts might be asking for faster turnarounds on consultation requests. This will help to inform design on avoidance

measures for cultural and environmental resources. Next slide please. Each of the middle mile projects in the district will be assessed regarding their potential to affect the environment as is typical for Caltrans projects, cultural resources, studies will follow a general sequence that involves the identification of sensitive resources and an evaluation of their significance in close consultation with culturally affiliated tribes. Significant travel, cultural resources and or sensitive areas are identified within a project area couch and environmental and design staff will work with the consulting tribes to avoid those areas to the fullest extent possible.

The various design options that her deep presented earlier, such as ploughing trench chain in the pavement or shoulders, micro trenching trenches, installation and horizontal directional drilling provide some insight into potential engineering solutions, to avoiding and minimizing impacts to resources. If there are circumstances in which the avoidance of a resource is not feasible. Cal Trans. Consult with the tribes to minimize impacts and develop a suitable and appropriate mitigation plan that is reflective of the nature and scope of the impacts. Minimization efforts may also include micro trenching, horizontal directional, boring trenches, installation and plowing and each project and circumstance are different so the nature of mitigation for an individual resource is based on consultation with the effective tribes just mentioned. Earlier, since the design of the middle mile broadband is environmentally led and early identification of sensitive, cultural and environmental areas is a key objective. This could be facilitated by good communication and coordination between tribes and cow trans environmental staff next slide.

Sarah Allred: I want to thank you, Kathryn. So all right. So given that the design of the Middle Mile projects is being heavily guided by the environmental, the identification and avoidance of cultural and environmental resources. We just wanted to call attention to some of the information that may be useful for early coordination and communication among tribes, and Caltrans Staff. First is the native American Culture Studies Branch Web page, which is sort of provides a hub of information for tribal governments, including links to the departments, statewide tribal relations, orb Chart and the statewide contact list for district native American coordinators. Next slide, please. So this statewide contact list here is for the district native American coordinators otherwise known in DNAC. These are the points of contact for tribes regarding cultural and environmental concerns or issues in each of the 12 districts. We have had a lot of staff changes in movement lately, so be sure to check the list on the website regularly for updates. I know that many of the tribal, cultural and environmental experts out there already have well established relationships with their district native American coordinators, but for those who are not familiar, the district native American coordinators are available to assist and or guide tribes or other partners to proper sources of information within the organization depending on the nature of their concern. And as always, another point of contact for environmental and cultural resource concerns includes those of us in the headquarters. Cultural Studies, Office and Native American Culture Studies Branch, next slide, please. And the tribal Relations Org chart here provides a broader view of all designated Tribal Relations Staff in the Department, as well as Caltrans executive leadership, both at headquarters and in the districts. For those who are not familiar.

There are 2 functional divisions of the Tribal Relations Program within the department, and that's the transportation planning division and the environmental analysis division. We all communicate and coordinate, and any of these staff can assist with tribal government in queries and if there are broad issues that cannot be addressed at the staff or district level, tribal governments are encouraged to work through their districts and or headquarters, tribal relations, staff to seek diplomatic discussions and resolutions with Caltrans executive leadership and managers as needed, next slide, please. Another important resource is the Caltrans Environmental GIS viewer. This is a straightforward, interactive map tool that allows users to compare a variety of environmental, political and infrastructure layers for the entire State, including the State highway system and the planned 10,000 mile middle mile network. These layers can be accessed via the tab and sub tabs on the right there, and users can easily zoom in to examine their own unique areas of the state or areas of concern relative to the middle mile network and other aspects of the environment. So this this GIS viewer can really be a valuable communication tool for tribal, cultural and environmental experts who are consulting with Caltrans on the middle now projects, particularly as it relates to identifying resources and strategizing avoidance of those sensitive resources. So the value of this viewer is that it doesn't require a project specific notification. Anyone can access the viewer at any time to inspect their areas of concern relative to the Middle Mile Network map and if needed, you can work with your DNAC, Native American coordinator, or other district cultural and environmental staff to flag these areas of avoidance and sensitivity ahead of time. I don't mean physically flag them, but alert people of areas of sensitivity in earlier sessions. There were some questions about tribal monitoring for middle mile projects in the district and so this viewer provides opportunities for tribes to identify those areas for which tribal cultural monitoring may be necessary to help with planning those monitoring needs. So if you Haven't had an opportunity to visit the GIS view, or we encourage you to explore that for your specific areas of concern relative to the middle Mile projects, and Don't hesitate to reach out. If you have any questions or need assistance, using the GIS viewer, next slide, please. So, lastly, as mentioned earlier, even though the middle mile projects are being expedited, Caltrans will comply, as always with all State and Federal, environmental and historic preservation laws, policy procedures and volume 2 of Cal Trans. Standard environment Environmental reference focuses on how Caltrans conducts its cultural resource studies, including procedures and expectations for consultation with native American tribes. As you can see, there are 6 chapters, as well as a number of exhibits that a company and complement each chapter. This is an excellent go-to resource for gaining more familiarity with the overall cultural studies process what to expect. And of course, we're here to help. If you have any questions about the process. Next slide, please. And then on that note we would just like to leave you with some of the key contacts who can assist with any inquiries related to environmental or cultural resource concerns for the middle mile broadband network projects. They will be able to assist you and or connect you with those within the department or the district who can assist.

And so with that I would just like to thank you all again for taking the time to be here with us and listen to this presentation. We hope this

information is helpful and we're happy to take any questions or comments that you may have regarding Caltrans Environmental Review Process for the delivery of the Middle Mile projects. All right, Thank you again. Everyone.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you, Sarah.

Comments & Questions

Adriana Surfas: and thank you, Kathryn. If there are any questions please feel free to raise your hand or post in the Q.&A. And I'll pause for just a moment. Perfect, and thank you for the applause for Robert. I do see a hand from David Fein.

David Fein: I thank you, David Fine from the Chumash tribe as Santa Barbara County we have a quick question. There's a lot of contacts out there who's our best contact to discuss asset sharing and connection to the network? Is there someone we can go to Those are the 2 things we're interested in.

Adriana Surfas: So I think, Kathryn, Sarah, I think you have more of a Better, would have a better clarification and response on that.

Sarah Allred: I guess I would say that Segways into the next presentation, perhaps. But sorry, Kathryn go ahead

Kathryn Rose: I was just going to ask for some clarification. If you're looking you're thinking about like how the tribe can have kind of tie into the middle mile or are you looking for funds for? Maybe you can clarify.

David Fein: Yeah. So we have some assets that are probably very useful for the Middle Mile network. For a class 3 data center we have fiber running between some fire operations. But there are other areas where we don't have fiber. You don't get the fiber to the home for residents, for instance, that would be a a great plan. And then how do we connect to the middle Mile network? It goes right by us.

Kathryn Rose: Yeah. As I mentioned the next -

Matthew Rantanen: Sorry, Katherine, let me just jump in for a second. I just wanted to say, this is Matt Rantanen, with a GSN, a third party adviser to CDT, and that would be the best thing to do. There would just be get on a call with myself and Eric Hunsinger, and we can walk through the specifics on the map with you and you can identify your needs in that region related to the Middle Mile opportunity, and we can record those and work with Caltrans on that afterwards. So let's schedule a meeting. My information will be coming up in the next section. And please just email me, and we'll get that going

David Fein: Perfect. Thank you.

Adriana Surfas: Thank you and Robert. I see a hand from you.

Robert Gomez: Yeah, I didn't want to cloud. But I I wanted to really to raise my hand. But anyway my question is, if, in fact, on your mapping cultural mapping you have an area or the area that of concern to us is not on the map. We have the ability to add that to the mapping and ensure that there is a cultural monitor at that area.

Sarah Allred: Yeah, I will. My response would be to work with your district Native American Coordinator, I believe. Did you say you were part of the Chumash tribe?

Robert Gomez: No [unintelligible] river tribe.

Sarah Allred: Yeah. So I believe that would be Christina McDonald to coordinate with.

Robert Gomez: All right. Thank you.

Kathryn Rose: Yeah, Robert. We can provide the list of DNAC again. Maybe send that to you directly, if that's helpful.

Robert Gomez: Okay, Thank you.

Sarah Allred: Yeah, Absolutely

Adriana Surfás: Thank you. Seeing no more hands or questions. If we can go to the next slide, we're going to take about a 5 min break and then move on to a discussion about last mile. So it is 11:22 right now. So if folks want to be back about 11:27, we will resume the engagement session. Thank you.

Adriana Surfás: Welcome back! Hope Everybody got a few moments to stretch and stand up a little bit, and we will continue to move forward with our presentations. And we are going to shift from discussion and conversation about the middle mile broadband network which is handling the construction to discussion about last mile, which is under the purview of the California Public Utilities Commission. So I'm going to hand this over to Rachel Peterson, executive director of the CPUC and Matt Rantanen, who is a senior advisor for Golden State Network, which is the third party administrator of the network. Rachel.

Last Mile Connection Overview

Rachel Peterson: Thank you, Adriana. Hello, again. Everyone. I'll be starting off with the presentation this morning on last mile programs. And then, as Adriana said, I will hand it to Matt Rantanen, and with golden State network for his comments and for our Q&A, next slide, please. Our overview, for today is on this slide. I am very pleased to be here with the CPU C's Tribal Advisor, Ken Holbrook. He's going to speak first about a range of tribal work that's going on at the CPUC and then I'll take the mic back and talk about 5 CPUC programs that are each key pieces for connecting last mile broadband projects with tribes and for resources and contacts. We have our email address on every slide here. You can always reach out to Ken Holbrook with questions

and Karen Eckersly our staff Subject matter expert is also here with me for questions. Our staff email for all broadband questions is statewide broadband@cpuc.ca.gov. And next slide, please. And can I invite Ken to present? Thank you.

Kenneth Holbrook: Thank you, Rachel. Hi, everyone. I'm Kenneth Holbrook. I serve as California public Utilities Commission's tribal advisor. My contact information is here on this slide and I'm very pleased to be with all of you today. This resource slide gives you the link to our office of tribal advisor and to the tribal liaison. Our tribal consultation policy has been in place since 2,018. It provides a framework for all of our divisions to establish and maintain effective relationships with tribes while respecting sovereignty. The CPUC's office of Tribal advisor works to provide tribes with information about our programs. We consult with tribes on the development of policies and work to improve relations among tribal governments, the CPUC and its regulated entities. The tribal land transfer policy promotes the transfer of land from investor-owned utilities to native American tribes with a historical interest in the land. When a utility begins the process of selling or donating land. The policy creates an expectation that the utility will work with the California Native American Heritage Commission to identify any tribes whose ancestral territory. The land is on or adjacent to the property for sale. Once the utility identifies those interested tribe or tribes, the company is expected to negotiate a transfer to the tribe before putting the land on the open market. This policy, which the CPUC Developed after a comment from utilities furthers the CPUC's goals of recognizing and respecting tribal sovereignty and to returning tribal lands to their rightful owners. We have an open proceeding to further improve these guidelines and many of you are participating in that proceeding. We encourage all of you to do so. Please reach out to TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov. I'll say that one more time TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov. For further information about participating in that proceeding, and the many proceedings that we have open at the CPUC. Or in general, any questions that you have regarding travel affairs at CPUC, I'm always available to you. So enjoy the rest of the meeting and back over to you, Rachel.

Rachel Peterson: Thank you, Ken. We go to the next slide, please. And I just want to note that here we have listed the programs and policies that Ken spoke about and we've linked them. So if you have a copy of the slides, there should be links. Those links should be active and go to our website. All right Next slide, please. Now here we just wanted to show you an overview of all of the different grant and funding programs that are related to improving communications, access and infrastructure. I'm going to talk in detail about the 5 that are highlighted but just wanted to show a larger picture of everything that's available. Next slide, please. The first program I'll talk about is our Tribal Technical assistance. What the CPUC see heard in countless public hearings, workshops, and consultation. So was the problem of capacity within a tribal organization to work on communications issues. We heard that sometimes or often there just aren't enough people or time to perform the research or study work that you need for such projects. And so we designed our Grant program for you to hire consultants to help you answer questions about your next steps for improving communications on

tribal lands. The program has assisted 40 tribes with over 60 projects to date. We have broad eligibility for this fund, so it's inclusive of California tribes with or without Federal recognition. The grants are up to a 150,000 per year per tribe. We've listed our 4 application windows on the slide, and a link to the page on our website with more information about it. Next slide, please. We have another local technical assistance program as well. The broadband package tasked the CPU with awarding 50 million in technical assistance grants to entities to help them prepare to provide broadband service in their communities. Public entities are broadly eligible. This means tribes, cities, and counties. Individuals are to be no more than individual grants. Pardon me to be no more than 1 million per applicant. and if the request is 500,000 or less, there's an expedited process tribes have a set aside of 5 million within this fund, and there's about 3 million left in that set aside. These funds are for a range of pre- we began receiving applications in August 2022. They are currently being accepted on a rolling basis, and we encourage you to think about your pre-construction broadband work needs, and how much of those needs could be supported by a technical assistance. Grant just as examples. We have Grant recently granted a euro tribe. Local technical assistance, application, and 3 additional ones are being from tribes are being evaluated by our staff right now. There's a county by county dashboard that we've linked in the deck as well, so that folks can see all of the Grant activity to date. All right, Next slide, please. The Federal funding account is the large, important account. It's our biggest infrastructure funding account and under the statute that set up the broadband for all program the Commission is directed to implement a program to expeditiously connect unserved and underserved areas. The law also directs the CPU to split the 2 billion in grants for last mile broadband infrastructure projects between urban and rural areas evenly with 1 billion to each. We're directed to allocate 5 million to each county first. And above that we're directed to allocate the Federal funding account funds based on the proportion of households without access to broadband Internet access service, with at least 100 megabits per second download speeds the data we're presently using on broadband Internet access service is data that was identified and validated by the Commission during our most recent broadband data collection in July, the twentieth 21. We have recently published a map that includes unserved and underserved locations which are the areas eligible for funding from the Federal funding account. The map does include a layer labeled as priority areas. These areas depict examples of areas that could be used as project areas in applications for funding and I'd like to note that, despite the label of these areas as priority, they do not reflect, and we fully recognize, they do not reflect the full universe of areas that we anticipate will be funded. In addition, the priority areas are a preliminary draft, and we anticipate that they'll be revised as we continue to receive public comments. Next slide, please. The California Advanced Services Fund has been in in existence for over a decade, and the Broadband Grants made under this program have support, supported a range of investments. Since 2,008 the program has awarded 327 million dollars in grants for 102 projects. The suite of programs, which was also updated and reinvigorated by legislation are shown here on this slide. Adoption and digital equity grants are funds for public entities and community based organizations to help people connect to understand and use the Internet public housing and low-income communities. Grants

provide free connections to low-income households. The Consortia account funds are for regional broadband consortia who are experts, who help service providers and communities access grants and then finally infrastructure Grants pay for infrastructure in areas without access. This fund has different eligibility criteria from the Federal funding account that I was speaking about on the earlier slide. And next slide, please. The last program I'll talk about today is the loan Loss Reserve program. The program assist local governments and nonprofits in securing financing so that they may build out their own last month last mile broadband infrastructure. The fund essentially provides collateral to better enable borrowing rates better improved borrowing rates and terms for bonds that are issued to deploy broadband it's envisioned to support broadband anywhere in the state regardless of served or unserved status. This is a program that is still Mid- we are writing the program rules now, and our next step will be to issue that proposed set of rules for public comment and review, alright next slide, please. And that concludes my formal remarks. We wanted to close with this slide of a photograph of one of our California advanced Services fund grantees with their service provider partners. These are representatives from the Hoopa Valley public utilities, district and hunter fiber communications. I do love this photo because it shows folks where the infrastructure exists in deep in the belly of a building, managing that broadband infrastructure that is essential to modern life our key emails are on the slide. One more time. Kenneth Holbrook is TribalAdvisor@CPCU.ca.gov . And for any and all questions about our broadband programs, Statewidebroadband@cpuc.ca.gov. And now I'll turn it over to Matt Rantanen with Golden State network. Thank you very much.

Matthew Rantanen: Thank you. Hello, everyone. So, I'm kind of nestled into this spot in the in the lineup, because a lot of the conversations that I have individually with tribes are specific about how to connect to the Middle Mile, which was asked previously, which is very important, and I'm glad that question was asked, you know, doing outreach as the third party adviser to the California Department of Technology, and this whole process of building the middle mile, engaging with the 109 tribes and assessing their needs, based on what is presented in in one on one consultation meetings about connectivity. I have a lot of information about the last mile, and I, you know, have a lot of information about the Federal grant process, as well as some of the other funding opportunities. So the discussion often leads into last mile, or the integration of last mile to this minimum mile network. So that's why I kind of get nestled in this process during this timeline in the program. So you know, my information is here. If we haven't spoken yet, please reach out. I'm. Looking forward to meeting with you and understanding your tribes needs, and aligning you with the Middle Mile opportunity and talking about that connector piece. If you're not exactly on the route, and what those solutions might look like for your Ne the unique situation. You know, the goal is to have a conversation with each of the tribes, so that we understand specifically where the where the opportunity lies. And so please email, and we'll get a conversation going as soon as you are available to sort that out. So thank you for your time.

Adriana Surfas: And next slide perfect, thank you. Thank you for the presentation on last mile.

Q&A and Final Discussion

Adriana Surfas: Let's go ahead and open up. Open it up for questions, and again please feel free to raise your hand, or if you see the Q. A. And you would like to post a question in there, you are welcome to do so. Okay? Well, I am not seeing any hands or Q&A. Is posted, but know that there was a lot of contact information shared this morning. So there are definitely folks who you could reach out to. Whether it is connecting with one of Caltrans is one of the folks with Caltrans on the Middle Mile project, or connecting with Kenneth Holbrook with CPUC or Matt Rantanen with a Golden State Net. I think there's a lot of folks to help you get the information that that you need.

Closing Remarks

Adriana Surfas: So with that I want to take a moment and really express appreciation to everyone for joining us this afternoon or this morning. It's not quite, not quite afternoon yet but joining us this morning, and, as previously mentioned, we will be sharing the presentation and a recording of today's session. But please, if questions come up following the session, or later this afternoon, please feel free to reach out to us, but we look forward to partnering with you as we build this critical infrastructure across the State. So thank you very much, and I will wish you all an early, happy Friday, and I hope everybody has good. We get so. Thank you.