



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** March 1, 2022

**TO:** Dean Albro, City Manager

**FROM:** Rich Gracyk, Broadband Administrator  
r\_gracyk@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution No. 6480(22) Authorizing Participation in an Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, County of Santa Barbara, and the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Goleta, Carpinteria, Guadalupe, Solvang, and Buellton to Prepare a Regional Broadband Strategic Plan

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6480(22) (Attachment 1) approving, and directing the Mayor to sign, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), County of Santa Barbara (County), and the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Goleta, Carpinteria, Guadalupe, Solvang, and Buellton to prepare a regional broadband strategic plan, which includes a financial contribution from the City of \$27,608.90 (Attachment 2).

### **Background:**

Broadband and the lack of quality internet access has been an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic as more residents relied on their internet service to continue to work, go to school and/or shop. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide in unserved and underserved communities, including communities of color, rural communities, and seniors, more apparent as work, commerce, health, and other economic services have moved online.

SBCAG Board of Directors is requesting participation in a regional broadband strategic planning process with the County and the eight incorporated cities in the County, and to seek financial contributions to that effort (see Attachment 2). The County has committed \$200,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding. The SBCAG Board of Directors proposed dividing the remaining costs among the eight cities in the County based on the 2021 Department of Finance Population Estimate. Lompoc's population is 42,493, which is 13.8 percent of the County's total population of 307,821.

**Discussion:**

Lompoc is requested to support the regional broadband strategic plan with a financial contribution of \$27,608.90 in partnership with SBCAG, the County of Santa Barbara and participating incorporated cities in the region. The total estimated cost for this effort is \$400,000, which includes \$300,000 of direct costs with the Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast to develop the strategic plan. The strategic plan is anticipated to be completed in six to nine months and is estimated to begin early in 2022.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The City's financial contribution of \$27,608.90 would come from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Funds as supplemental appropriations account code 424CIP-533900.

**Conclusion:**

By adopting Resolution No. 6480(22), this would allow the City to provide better access to broadband contributing to creating more sustainable communities with lasting economic, education, and health benefits.

Respectfully submitted:

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Rich Gracyk, Broadband Administrator

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:**

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Charles J. Berry, Utility Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6480(22)  
2) SBCAG Staff Report of December 16, 2021