

## Endorsement of Mendocino County's Broadband GOALS and STRATEGIES

**Westport Municipal Advisory Council** endorses these Broadband Goals and Strategies for Mendocino County. The Westport MAC serves the coastal area from Ten Mile River north to Rockport, an underserved area as related to Telecommunications in general and Internet based digital service specifically. There are two economic realities facing our area. First, broadband service is necessary to both attract and keep residents. Lack of service restricts residents ability to interact with the private sector, services, and government agencies. Second, our area is economically unattractive to larger established providers of broadband service. The Goals are good. To have any chance of reaching them for areas like the Westport vicinity, the strategies and tactics will have to remove barriers and add incentives, especially to smaller more entrepreneurial providers of true broadband service. The future of communities like Westport will be positively impacted by availability of quality broadband service as described in the Mendocino County Broadband GOALS and STRATEGIES document. Lack of quality broadband services will have a chilling effect on the communities future.

**Bill Knapp**

**WMAC Secretary**

**April 22, 2017**

**GOAL #1:** Essential telecommunication services for all residents, businesses, Anchor Institutions, and local government agencies (especially Public Safety and Emergency Services) are reliable and redundant/diverse.

**GOAL #2:** All County residents have affordable high-speed broadband access in their homes.

**GOAL #3:** Competitively-priced high-speed broadband infrastructure throughout the county is developed to attract, retain, and develop Internet-reliant businesses.

**GOAL #4:** County and Cities takes leadership in broadband issues---adopts policies to facilitate broadband deployment, and finds ways to leverage existing assets.

**GOAL #5:** Mendocino County develops a county-wide comprehensive Broadband Plan by 2019.