Tribal Collaboration Outcome Area Working Group Meeting Transcript

March 21, 2023

Alright, let's begin. Good afternoon, again. Welcome to the second outcome area working meeting for tribal collaboration. My name is Anh Nguyen, the Engagement and Operations Manager of the California Department of Technology Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy. A few housekeeping items before we begin. Next slide, please. Next slide. Just so you know, we have ASL interpreters here today. They will be spotlight along with our speakers. Please make sure to view in the side-by-side speaker view, if you look, like, at the top of your screen. And later on, when we get to the interactive engagement community discussion portion, you can switch to gallery view, where we will drop the screen for you to see each other as well. And we have closed captioning, so please use the toolbar at the bottom of your screen. You may find it with the dot dot dot, "more" button. It will be available should you need it. In the chat, we invite you to introduce yourselves, share your names, pronouns, organization, title, if you are a member of a tribe, please introduce which tribe you're representing, and then where you're joining us from. Lastly, we will prompt you to participation and the ability to raise your hand feature, so it's the smiley face with the plus sign, will elevate you on top of our screen, so that we can call you when you're ready. So with that, can we go back one slide to the agenda? So for today we will open with the quick key takeaway from February outcome area working group meetings and a few contextual slides for folks who are joining us for the first time. We don't want to assume that you've been here with us since last November, December, so just a quick 2 slides for context. And then we will head to the opening panel which will open up to a community discussion and a few next steps, including the digital equity ecosystem mapping tool and the public surveys. And with that, next slide, please. And so we're here as part of 5 planning components of the State Digital Equity Planning process. The statewide planning group is one that's happening on a quarterly basis. We're with the tribal collaboration outcome area working groups. We'll hear more later in the California surveys as the way for us to better understand the needs of our communities. And we also plan regional local outreach workshops which are in-person physical meetings, where we will engage more on the SDEP and BEAD planning process. As well as ongoing statewide public engagement. Next slide, please. So for those who are new, the working group objectives are as follows, and this is specifically for our tribal collaboration outcome area working group, just to quickly say: develop a statewide stakeholder map committed to tribal digital equity, conduct an asset inventory of programs, plans, and services that are supporting tribal digital equity, promote and encourage tribal residents participation in the digital equity public survey, conduct gap analysis, and lastly, developed recommendations to the California Department of Technology on how to align State Digital Equity Plan in consideration of tribal needs in alignment with tribal digital equity plans. So with that next slide, please. I would like to hand the mic over to one of our graduate students that's Zach, he will introduce himself as well as do a quick recap of what we discussed in February. Thank you, Anh. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Zach Ferguson, a graduate student assistant for Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy supporting our tribal collaboration outcome area working group. Thank you, first of all, to everyone who is here with us today. We're really looking forward to this conversation and discussion. First of all, we want to recap a little bit of what we learned in our last outcome area working group meeting in February. In that meeting we discussed digital equity and its importance. In doing so we identified key factors that must be addressed when working towards digital equity in tribal communities. First, there are larger issues of access and infrastructure that we can't ignore. Many tribal lands are still without electricity, proper roads, and other infrastructure that's needed to attain, not just

broadband access, but to participate in other vital processes and services. Next, when thinking about and communicating about broadband access, the outcomes enabled by connectivity and digital equity are really significant and should be emphasized. For example, what broadband access can mean for healthcare and telemedicine, education, and economic participation should be communicated and made clear throughout the process. Furthermore, broadband can come to your house, but if you can't afford it or use it on a non-mobile device, we understand that adoption will still be limited, and so thinking about access and affordability throughout is also really key. Once we think about adoption, we also know that the fear and shame around the lack of digital literacy are significant, and are really present as well. Training that introduces, instructs, and empowers in a comfortable and welcoming setting is key to reducing fear and ensuring productive adoption. Once you get past that initial fear, people are really eager to learn and then develop their skills. Other barriers to digital equity include the need for trusted partnerships between those leading these types of digital equity initiatives and those seeking access. The overall persistent poverty that many tribal communities face is also a key barrier that will be relevant, throughout. And finally, we understand that capacity, administrative and otherwise, it can be limited and overburdened, as tribal governments often are, as well as tribal serving organizations, which really emphasizes the need for programs and resources that introduce technical and other assistance available. I'll turn it back over to Anh. Thank you so much, Zach. And with that next slide, please. And I'm really happy to introduce to you our panelists that will kick off our conversation regarding the needs of our digital equity. But would like first to introduce Secretary Christina Snider from the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs. What would have been for all, for everyone in the room, but each time, please hand back the mic to me so that I can spotlight the next speaker so that you will see them. But first, Secretary, Snider, please start us off. Sure, hi everybody, and great to see you all again. I was asked to answer a couple of questions, but I'll just talk a little bit about, from our perspective at the state and the administration, why this is so important, knowing that I think everybody in this room has something different that they think is important, and that it's best for it to be driven by tribal communities. But again, my name is Christina Snider. I'm the governor's tribal affairs secretary, and I am a member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians up in Sonoma County. Why is digital equity so important for tribes from the state's perspective? I think from where we sit at the State we are prioritizing programs. We're prioritizing telework. We're prioritizing all sorts of economic development, educational opportunities. And all of these things are getting multi million, sometimes billion dollar investments. As we try to move forward as the state, we're really mindful that if there are infrastructure inequities, which we all know that there are, that this is going to be much more challenging for tribes to be able to engage with in a way that's on par with local governments and other communities that are taking advantage of these opportunities. So from our perspective, digital equity isn't just you know literacy, and engaging in the way that we do business nowadays. It's also engaging in all of these new and innovative opportunities that the state and the federal government in partnership are providing for citizens as a whole. We know that if kids aren't able to access, or aren't digitally literate, that our programs, like pushing out Chromebooks for all kids in California, are not going to hit California Indian Country as well. They're going to be left behind in some of our educational opportunities. And as we have more Internet based job opportunities, as we have more expectations from the community as a whole, that all areas will be covered by some sort of broadband digital access component, we know that it's incredibly important that tribes don't get left behind, not only for educational and community development opportunities, but also for economic development opportunities as well. So I think, from our perspective, it's kind of a whole of government, whole of industry approach, and it's why it's so

important that tribes don't get left behind, because we know that will just be compounded in the years to come as other industries rely so heavily on digital literacy, on broadband, and on these types of ways of doing business. So I was also asked to talk a little about how the state is partnering with tribes. And this is part of it, is that we're facilitating a lot of these kinds of discussions to better understand the different needs and priorities of tribes throughout the state. We know that you know a tribe that's located just adjacent to an urban area will have different access and different issues and different needs from a tribe that's located in in a rural area with different types of infrastructure. We also know that membership needs are different. Some tribes have larger land bases. Some have smaller land bases, and that's gonna impact how their needs and their community needs are interplaying. So part of what we're doing are these kinds of meetings to understand better what your needs, your priorities are in order to make sure the programs that we're intending to be equitable, which means we give some people more and some people less to get all to kind of the common baseline, that we're being successful and thoughtful of the different needs of your communities. So our office, the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs, we support the work of the administration by coordinating government to government consultation. So, in addition to these kinds of meetings, if you ever need to engage with the Governor's office, the administration on a one on one basis, because potentially you have proprietary information. For example, you want to implement a new business model, a new community development model that you don't want to be kind of out in the public and posted on the Internet we can engage with you in that way. But we also serve as a member of the California Broadband Council on the state, the state's Broadband for All efforts. And that way we're helping inform that Council with your needs, and then also making sure that where we need to translate a little bit about the different needs and challenges, and also legal frameworks, that we are able to do that as well. My deputy is on as well, Loretta Miranda, and both of us are attorneys, and we can kind of help people just understand a bit better about the unique challenges and the unique legal frameworks that different places might have. In this space, we've heard a bit about those areas where there are existing rights of way, and part of our Middle Mile development is utilizing some of those existing rights of way. And so how do we make sure that we're engaging with your communities in a way that's respectful of your sovereignty, but also is mindful that history has not been kind, and that we have not been kind and the federal government has not been kind in kind of crossing over those places in a way that has not always accounted for cultural resources, accounted for fair market values, and just making sure that everybody who's growing in the direction of digital equity is informed that there's those kinds of elements as we move forward with infrastructure development. In addition, we are working closely with the California Department of Technology, California Public Utilities Commission, and other State agencies to make sure that everybody's efforts at the state are aligned, and are not kind of stepping on each other, and are really trying to make sure that we're leveraging all of those different agencies, different efforts in a way that is usually beneficial to your communities. How we do that is providing technical assistance where needed, and then also developing grant opportunities that we hope are also addressing the different needs, priorities, and challenges of your communities. So I probably talk too fast, or maybe I said too much, but I'm going to go ahead and hand it back for our next panelist, and will be around if anyone has questions. And thank you so much, Secretary Snider, for your long time advocacy for tribal connectivity and digital equity as a member of the California Broadband Council, and for being our champion for Broadband for All, and thank you. And with that, thanks for having this slide up again, I would like to in to introduce Mr. Adam Geisler, Division Chief, Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination, from the NTIA. Thank you so much for joining us. Hi, can you hear me okay? Okay, I'm getting a, I'm getting a "yes" and "okay" from ASL. Thank you. So I gotta

improve on using my hands to speak, but I understood that pretty clearly. So thank you, Angela. Well, (Luiseño Language) Miiyuyum Adam Geisler. Hello, everybody, my name is Adam Geisler. I'm the Division Chief for Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination Division at NTIA. I oversee and run the 3 billion dollar Tribal Broadband Program and have worked here in the Department of Commerce for going on almost 8 years now, trying to address the digital divide. I also just wanted thank the State of California, Secretary Snider, Scott Adams, and the team for the invitation to come and participate and speak with you today in particular, about the digital equity aspects of how that inter relates with our communities, and how that can be a positive thing when we're thinking about those equities, and how that can also, when left unaddressed, leave some of those barriers, frankly, some pretty big disparities out there in relationship to education, health, workforce, and economic development. So I guess the first thing I just wanted to highlight with everybody on the line is, I know a number of you have submitted LOIs as part of the digital equity program at NTIA, which is not a program that I administer. It's another pot of funds totaling over 2.7 billion dollars that is broken up into essentially 3 categories. There is a tribal set aside, which many of you have submitted LOIs for. There is a state bucket of money to do both planning and implementation regarding digital equity plans and strategies. And then there's going to be a competitive bucket to come down the road where everybody is eligible to come after the funding that is available there. So I just, I want to make sure that I spent just a quick moment to highlight the dollars that are available through NTIA related to digital equity. The other thing that I wanted to just address is, it is an elephant in the room, I think you have all patiently been waiting on the status update of your LOIs to NTIA. And what I can tell you is that you all should be receiving a letter from our leadership here in the next week and a half providing an update, a status update on the digital equity LOI process, status, etc. So that should give everybody a little bit more guidance here in the near future around how we're going to be treating the set aside component of the program. Now I'm a California native myself, a lot of you I have worked with on this call for a number of years, you know personally and professionally, I care about all of you. So I am I, I am, as I do most of the, much of Indian Country, all of Indian Country. Better be careful, right, Christina? But I guess one of the things that I do want to say is what I'm finding in my time here in federal service is that the amount of interest in digital equity from tribes frankly overwhelmed our team here at NTIA. I honestly can tell you I don't think we anticipated seeing the level of response that came from Indian Country related to the needs of digital equity and bringing tribal communities up to a point of access. I appreciate the conversation earlier about, you know let's talk Internet, we should also talk roads, power, infrastructure, housing. You know all those other pieces that usually would have come first. But I also want to recognize that it's gonna take everybody on this call to get creative with the federal dollars that are available, the state dollars that are available. The Governor and his team, Christina, is doing excellent work in looking at state resources to couple with federal resources in a way that doesn't duplicate because we can't duplicate. But we absolutely can complement. And so I do want to point out, as I just finish up my comments here that I want to emphasize to everybody. This is really a unique time in the living history of Indian Country, in the history that the State and the tribes have with one another, and in relationship to the Federal Government, where I don't think we'll ever see this type of an investment again in relationship to both infrastructure, but also in relationship to bringing communities along to teach them how to use this infrastructure, right? I can think back to when the pandemic started, and I see our tribal administrator is on from La Jolla, so I'll give a quick shout out to Richard, but I can think back to when the pandemic happened, and many of you probably remember this, and I remember we had to do a community survey. And the way that we had to go about teaching our elders how to use the QR code in order to one, be able to scan it, and then to be able to complete

the survey, was a little bit of a lift. And actually, our now chairwoman, Chairwoman Schlater, actually, we shot a video on our phone and then texted it to everybody across the community. And it was interesting, it was an interesting time for me, because it pointed out, I think, the disparity and the digital equity issues that we had in my own community was something as simple as being able to complete a survey so we could get disaster relief and assistance moving for the Tribe. And so I think those are, that's a good example right here in California from my own Tribe in the last 2 years where, when we talk about, you know, what are these impacts? Those are the types of things that we're talking about. It's some things that maybe the younger generations maybe take for granted that our older generations are still learning how those things function and integrate with the way that we live and practice both our customs and traditions, but also integrate into the world as it becomes more digitized. And that is the truth. So I am really excited to see the work that California has done in bringing the tribes together. I am going to tell you that the state is developing, as many of you know, a digital equity plan as are all states, and the outcome of your participation in that plan, you will likely be able to use aspects or in its entirety for the competitive portion down the road. Or maybe you all work together to come after the competitive dollars together. I just wanted to point out that those aspects of your work, that this is not a state-tribe thing. I really would encourage you all to think as collectively as you can, as neighbors, as partners, as friends, as colleagues, as you think about this digital equity work. The disparity components in the education piece, again, not to just give another La Jolla example, but I remember the kids all being sent home when I was a tribal leader, not during the pandemic, but a few years back. And our local school district sent kids home with tablets, and our kids didn't have access to the Internet. And it was wild to me that they were receiving homework assignments to complete at their house, and they had no means of accessing the Internet. And at the time the level of connectivity in La Jolla, to the majority of the homes that our students were at, it wasn't available. So from an education standpoint, I think it is important to think about how our students are interacting with the Internet in a safe way, in a responsible way, but also in a way that promotes the educational goals that every parent has for their child or for their children. I also think about the health components associated with our work and the reality is, is that telehealth is a real thing. We had snow, for those of you that don't know, we actually get snow down in San Diego County, and if you guys remember, everybody else is getting snow up in the Sierras, and for my Central and Northern California colleagues and peers, I hear you. I've seen the photos. Wow. But believe it or not, we actually got snow in Southern California as well, and I remember my mom reaching out to me and saying, "Hey, I don't know that I'm going to be able to take - " my aunts needed to go in for some, for a discussion with her doctor for some chemo treatment, is the gist of it. And what was incredible to me was that 2 years ago we were trying to figure out how to use the QR code. My mom never would have stopped and said, "hey, do you think we can do this as a telehealth appointment?" And just a couple of weeks ago she comes back to me and says, "hey, Adam, you know the snow is pretty bad. Do you think the hospital" or excuse me, "do you think the clinic down in Escondido would actually be able to do a telehealth appointment?" And lo and behold, they were. And so we then had to go through the education of teaching my aunts how to actually get on the platform that they were using. And so my point is when we talk about navigating the barriers of what is out there for digital equity when we say, when we talk about those barriers, they are as simple as some of the more immediate, familial, related items that we can teach one another that we didn't realize we're barriers, right. I didn't. I didn't even stop to think for 2 seconds that folks in my community may not have been able to use a QR code. And then there's also the other aspects of those pieces, such as the actual physical infrastructure, which I know we're all trying hard to resolve. So I have a great team in California.

I have Vanesscia Cresci, for those of you that are from Central and Northern, you may have worked with her in the past when she was at CRIHB. And I also have Andrew Orosco, who are both in California. Andrew's down in Southern California, he's from the San Pasqual community. And we are here to help. I know that sounds so cliché, we're the federal government, we're here to help. But in all honesty, guys, this is a moment that I don't think we'll ever see again. Our team is working around the clock to help in every way and fashion that we can. I know the state is doing the same. And I just want to continue to put out there any way that we can be of assistance to you as you go down your digital equity journey or your infrastructure journey. We want to be there to do it with you, not for you, but we want to be there with you every step of the way that you want us there to assist. So again I want to say thank you, and appreciate the opportunity to speak today. Thank you. And thank you for sharing wonderful experiences and stories and opportunities through all the challenges, but you find silver lining in all that to bring those stories and giving us an insight to how, we always talk about the 4 cornerstone of digital equity barriers, right, access, affordability, adoption, digital literacy and inclusion. And your stories, Adam. We've, all four very well, and give us insights to the needs, all of our community needs. And so much love and call to action for partnership and collaboration, which is exactly what we're trying to do here. So thank you. Next, I would like to introduce you to Kori Cordero, Deputy General Council representing the Yurok Tribe. Kori, if you're able to come off mute, thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you. My name is Kori Cordero. I'm, a descendant of the White Mountain Apache and I'm also Chicano. I serve as Deputy General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe, and my pronouns are they/them/theirs. Mr. Geisler and Secretary Snider did take a lot of my talking points. We had the same prompt, so I'm going to dive a little bit deeper into the question of what do things look like on the ground for the Yurok Tribe, and also what recommendations do we have for state and federal partners in terms of working with tribes, and some of that comes from the direct experience that we've had, and also from the experiences of some of our neighbors. So the Yurok Tribe is located about an hour south of the Oregon-California border, very rural area. In terms of the Tribal Council's perspective on digital equity and broadband, it's a very simple goal. Every Tribal member should have the same tools that anyone else in California does. Internet, computer access, you know, water, power, all of those things. In terms of the government itself, it's really important from a sovereignty perspective, economic development, education, all of those different services we provide Tribal members, that we have to have connectivity, and we also have to have sovereignty over the infrastructure. That really makes it so we can have equal footing with the providers and some other folks in the area. Where if you are reliant as a customer, you might not have an equal footing, you might not have room to improve it for yourself. So the Yurok Tribe took on the project of creating accessible Internet on the reservation back in 2001 or so. So we had a USDA grant that started our network. It was just 6 towers originally, a wireless signal, very, very low speed. Not everyone on the reservation had it, but it was the first step. The CARES Act actually brought in a little bit more, so we were able to deploy a few more towers, provide some upgrades, and again, about half of the reservation had wireless access. We created a telecom corporation, and I actually serve as a representative for the telecom corporation as well, which is for a different panel, but that corporation received 61 million dollars from the NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and we're currently working on bringing middle mile and last mile service to the area. In terms of some of the challenges that we face, directly, thanks Adam, in terms of some of the challenges that we face directly, ongoing flexible funding has been one of the biggest issues for us. Another issue comes down to mapping. So we've had the experience where we look at how can we get some funding to the upper part of the reservation where there is no Internet access, there is no electricity, no water infrastructure. One road and the road actually doesn't

even go all the way through the reservation. So the only way to go through the entire reservation is actually by river. So for us, maps have become very important, and trying to keep up with the different maps and point out the errors on the different maps has been an issue for us. So we looked at the USDA Rural Reconnect Grant. I think was round 4, got all of our ducks in a row, got everything together, came time to submit, and we didn't bother to check the box. We knew that there was a priority for rural areas, a priority for economic development or places that were low socioeconomic status. And when it came time to submit, we found out that under the maps that the USDA was using, we counted as urban. Which is not the Yurok Reservation. And we also counted as like fairly affluent, and we didn't have the socioeconomic need with, and we have a 50% unemployment rate on the reservation. So that wasn't true. We're still trying to work to address that map so hopefully when Reconnect 5 comes out we can take a look. And then the FCC mapping issues as well. So for us, we wanted to participate and help correct the map because we knew the federal and state funds were going to be relying on the FCC maps. However, in order to actually get access to the fiber, the third-party contractor wanted a broad waiver of sovereign immunity so we weren't able to participate in the way we would like. We took a lot of work to still provide some comments and some corrections to claims that were made on the maps to make sure that we would be eligible for funding, because many areas aren't served and can't even be served by things like Starlink. But that's an area where we definitely need help. It's been a big burden for the tribal staff to take that on. I'm already running out of time. So I'll just wrap up quickly by saying that energy infrastructure is a really big piece for us. Most of the reservation doesn't have electricity, and without electricity doesn't matter what kind of wireless, broadband, or fiber you have, you can't run a computer. So needing to allow for power and broadband funding to go hand in hand, allowing broadband funds to be used to extend power lines would be very helpful, more flexible funding. The CPUC's model for the LATA program has been really great. And then also recognizing the resource and the power imbalance that exists between tribes and providers or tribes and the state. I think oftentimes tribes come with providers, and they say, you know the provider will say, "hey, this is a great deal." The tribe doesn't necessarily have the resources to look into it, and might not end up in a great deal, and so really scrutinizing the tribal and for profit partnerships to make sure the tribe isn't being taken advantage of. Working on a government to government basis with tribes not just, you know, one meeting with 5 tribes in the room. And then also, not every tribe is going to be able to participate, or wants to participate in these ways, and you still need to make sure to be respectful for environmental and cultural resource resources that are going to be impacted by infrastructure. The last 2 things that I'd say is having an executive level tribal affairs position really does make the difference. So for the CPUC, having Mr. Holbrook, having Karen Eckersley, having Commissioner Houck, having all those folks who understand the tribal perspective is really, really helpful, and that's resulted in a lot of change at the CPUC level, which has really allowed the Yurok Tribe to take advantage of funding that's out there, and we're really in a great position now to finally provide broadband to all of the Yurok Reservation residents. But I think without that kind of knowledge within each department it gets a little bit difficult. And then the last thing I'll say is getting on the same page amongst your own departments is really going to be helpful. It's very frustrating for us when we talk to one group of people and then find out that they're not on the same page as another group, or you know the district isn't on the same page as the headquarters, and so, making sure you have all your ducks in a row, have all the right people at the meeting so we don't have to have 4 or 5 meetings, which can be a really big burden on staff when we're trying to create partnerships and work on collaborations. So that's all I'll say, for now. Thanks so much for your time today. I appreciate it. We appreciate you for sharing your time with us. Thank you. Thanks, Ana. And

next, I would like to introduce Mr. Will Micklin, Chief Executive Officer of Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians. Mr. Micklin, would you be able to, thank you, I'll spotlight you. Hi, can you hear me? Yes, we can. Thank you. Will Micklin, I'm CEO of the Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians. Chairman Robert Pinto Senior, Vice Chairman Michael Garcia. We are a tribe in East San Diego County. We are 5,470 acres. 5,460 of those acres just southeast of Mount Laguna, in the Laguna Mountains. The tribal community is at 5,000 feet in elevation. It's a narrow valley, with 3 steep ridgelines at 40 degree grades that top out at 6,400 feet in elevation. We are on the main flight path for San Diego International Airport, Lindbergh Field. So that's where we're at. I think likely we were chosen because we are off grid, off grid, to speak to you today. Off grid to telecommunications network meaning we don't have by line, fixed wireless, or mobile wireless services. And we're off grid to the public electric grid, which is SDG&E and several utilities in our area and we lack a access road with a legal right of way. So we have a number of challenges that perhaps illustrate the barriers to digital equity that that many tribes face. We are not unique, as you heard from our friends at Yurok. There's many tribes in the state that are either off grid or more likely in number, their reservation lands are partially served by the electric and grid and telecommunications network and have substantial challenges for a substantial number of their tribal citizens. So I'll just briefly go over the 8 major areas we have seen for project development. Our plan is to, after identifying the core network which we've done, find a middle mile to an access point to bring high speed broadband services to the reservation, and then back all those over about 3 miles of very difficult terrain and topology to a demark point in the tribal community, and then either provide fiber to the home, or, more likely, 2.5 gigahertz spectrum to serve that last mile into the household. So of those 8 points, the principal ones we see is the challenge of being seen and being counted. So the FCC Data Fabric lists us as served 100 by 10, which we are not. So, although the FCC broadband map and the state broadband map are in error, we are working to correct those. The BEAD funding is as deployed will be for the uncorrected map. But there will be substantial benefit to working to correct those depictions on the maps. Why is that important? Because of funding. Most funding is based on the target in the equity provision for these appropriations which is to serve, to provide, deploy services to unserved households and, implicitly, underserved households. So getting counted means getting funded as well. The opportunities, of course, we've applied for TBCP in the first round. And we're descoped, so we're looking for the 500,000 award and then application to round 2. We have applied to Reconnect and are waiting for the Reconnect determination. Then the BIL opportunities with the BEAD, the new mile and the last mile. And then the IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act opportunities. These are extremely important to us. Each one is different. The TBCP was definitely helpful in terms of funding service and finding pre award costs in application development. The Reconnect was, didn't fund operating services, but was helpful in in other aspects of building out the network, and, as well, and funding pre award costs under the grant award and the grant proceeds. So those were extremely helpful. The issues we see and moving forward other than getting funded with a grant to work, principal among these, in the long term challenges is getting permits. So we are contiguous to federal public lands with Forest Service and BLM. Unfortunately, our federal partners don't believe that tribes can be sponsors of special use permits to bring infrastructure across federal public lands into the reservation and also don't believe they can waive the cost for permitting, as well as for NEPA documents required for permitting because of the application of the FPLMA doesn't allow them to waive those costs, so those are considerations we have to build in. The utility providers won't submit a permit or sponsor a permit application because the tribe is required own the assets that are acquired through federal funds under the grant awards. So we have to figure out exactly how we're going to get permitted under those dual conflicts in for permitting, as well as for

getting the appropriate NEPA or CEQA documents if it happens to fall on the state lands. We also see issues with workforce, not just in employees, but in contractors. It's very difficult to get qualified contractors into tribal lands. Ours is extremely rural and remote, and of course we're off grid. So the cost for contractors to bid work for us is extremely high. But more than that, it's difficult to get contractors out to where we are. Supplies, of course, going to be subject to inflation and sourcing. The awards are taking so long that our costs projected some time ago will need ground truthing for contract awards, so that'll be a substantial issue. Project bundling, we think it's an important issue. We have transportation projects, energy projects, and we want to co-locate the broadband deployment projects in order to save on permitting and environmental costs. Getting other, getting various agencies to work together has been extremely difficult. The past 41 authority doesn't really seem to be suitable. So we're looking for our, the White House Counsel to provide some relief in this matter. And finally, I'll just say the cost of project, of application development is substantial. There are non-federal shares that are required by some awards. There are funding opportunities, there are some that prohibit the use of grant award proceeds for pre-award project development, and these applications can be extremely costly, and take some technical ability for design and engineering. We are hoping that the future funding opportunities look more like E-rate, where E-rate basically asks you, to present the problem and a lack of, in need award, and then apply the award to design and engineering. We think that would be substantially beneficial. So those are the major areas. I know I've taken some time in this, but I hope it's helpful. And we, of course, thank the State, the CPUC, the State Office of Technology, and of course, our federal partners in collaborating with tribes. Without that assistance we just would not be as far down the road as we are, and hoping for, amassing the resources for deployment of essential services that we think is a human right, to have energy, to have broadband services, and to have a road, safe road into the reservation. We think that if we don't get it now, we're unlikely to get it. Everyone thinks that the Public Works Administration in the 1930s, everyone got electrified over the next 30 or 40 years. They think most locations have telecom services and a safe and a reliable road to their communities. That many tribes don't is a terrible reality. But if we don't get it now, it seems unlikely we will have sufficient appropriations in the future to do so. So good luck to everybody. Thank you. Thank you for sharing those priorities and very urgent needs for the state, federal, tribes to collaborate. Next, I would like to introduce Charmain Germain Ruvalcaba. I'm so sorry if I mix up any of the pronunciation here on out, from the Gidutikad Band of Northern Paiutes Fort Bidwell Indian Community, and please correct me when you introduce yourself, Chairman. Go ahead, the mic is yours. Alright, hello everyone. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity. Thank everybody for being here. And you're fine with the name. Again, my name is Germain Ruvalcaba from the Gidutikad Band of Northern Paiutes. We're located in Fort Bidwell, California. Rural area in the northeast corner located in Modi County, resides in the Surprise Valley area about 30, 20 miles south of Oregon, and maybe 10 miles just shy of Nevada. So we're really up there in that top right corner. So again, thank you, everybody, allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of our tribe. Got a chance to meet Deputy Director Scott Adams at the tribal summit in Sacramento, and he's been a great, great, great help. Yeah. So you know, ultimately, I think our goal is to bring Internet to our community. You know, high-speed Internet, which allows us some of the basic opportunities as far as you know, some of our youth applying to colleges. It would allow us, you know, an opportunity for economic development, to invest in our people as far as telehealth and just some of the basic necessities as far as just looking up stuff. I, you know it's always really a challenge, you know, lots of times. So I reside in Los Angeles. So here at UCLA, in our area it is really great. But when I go up to Fort Bidwell, you know, it is really a challenge. Just some of the basic stuff, as far as information, maybe

looking up something as simple as fixing in your home on YouTube. You know, some of these stuff we take for granted, but it's really, really a challenge. But you know, right now we're working with Intertribe and looking for funding opportunities. Sharing information. We attended the Tribal Broadband Boot Camp with Matt Rantanen, and we look forward to the next one coming up and in Hoopa, and which a lot of our Councilmembers will be attending. So we have a really good proactive council that really wants to get things going for our Tribe to not only invest in our infrastructure and people there in Fort Bidwell, but you know to our 80% that lives off the reservation as well. So I guess one of our, I guess first starts is either, you know, connecting either from 299 from Cedarville, which is about 29 miles, which is a span we would have to you know find funding opportunities for it to get that done. Or connecting on 395, which is over the mountain, which is some rugged terrain. So those are those are some of the challenges we have, and we're seeing what's the best fit to try to get that done, and ultimately we would like to become, we would like to think big and become our own Internet service provider, which would allow us to create jobs. You know, jump it to that facet and really learn, you know. Rather than having somebody else do it. We like to do it ourselves, and really develop it. We would like to have a lot of our youth to, you know, be involved with a lot of this stuff. So we really look forward to the opportunities that it provides, working with other tribes, the state and other entities. So with that being said, I guess I would go ahead and pass it back. Yeah, thank you very much. I appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman, and thank you for highlighting the empowerment aspects involving youth in this larger plan. And I heard you said UCLA, and I see Royce Hall behind you, so I just want to let you know I'm also a Bruin. So thank you for joining us. And Deputy Director Scott Adams, would you like to comment, and wrap us for this portion. Well, yes, thank you, Anh, and we definitely want to give a big thanks and much gratitude to Secretary Snider, to Mr. Geisler, to assistant chief counsel Cordero from the Yurok Tribe, Mr. Micklin from the Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and to Chairman Ruvalcaba. Really thankful for the ongoing and growing partnership that we have with you know your tribal nations and the other tribal nations in California. Just wanted to, and let me again introduce myself, I am Scott Adams, I'm the Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy, and also the Tribal Advisor for the California Department of Technology. Just wanted to really underscore some of the comments that you know our distinguished opening panelists had shared, and that is that from a State perspective is the Newsom Administration and the State of California is committed to, you know, meaningful partnership with the Tribal nations around digital equity and Broadband for All. And as you know, Mr. Geisler said, that there's so many unique variables that factor into tribal connectivity that, you know, we need to be aware of the. So while Broadband for All focuses on, you know kind of the 3 main barriers to digital equity which are access and affordability and adoption, that we know that, as we've heard, there's some interdependencies between other supportive infrastructure that we can't separate from this conversation. So really just wanted to thank our team and thank our distinguished panelists for getting us to this point and teeing up the next community lived experience session wanted to remind folks. There are a number of interested parties in California that are also committed to working with our tribal nation partners to support, you know their digital equity efforts. I want to remind everyone that we are, you know, on a call with, you know, distinguished leaders and representatives from other nations and to, you know, be mindful when we're making our comments, and to make sure we're respectful and allow this space, for you know, the tribal leaders and their representatives to engage in, you know, this conversation and share their lived experiences. And you know, keep the focus of this conversation on digital equity, and how the state and federal partners can work with and be sensitive to the needs of tribal communities. And that's it, Anh, for me. Thank you, Scott, for the closing word for the panelist portion of the agenda. Next slide, please.

Okay, as Scott briefly said in the next section we would ask a few questions and please at this point, if you can look at the bottom of your screens under reactions that's where you can raise your hands, and if you would like to answer any of the questions on the next page next slide. And next slide, please, Ana. Thank you. Just briefly I'll read these questions out loud, as you're also reading them. You don't have to answer them in order, but we do ask that you stay on topic and look at these questions. So what digital equity barriers are experienced in tribal communities? How do digital inequities create disparate outcomes in tribal communities? What strategies and programs are you or your community implementing to support and promote digital equity on tribal lands? How can other entities working in this space better partner with you to bridge the digital divide? And then, if there's any reflections after we go through these 4 you may have about our discussion today so far, topics we may not have mentioned, or digital equity in general, please raise those things as well. And just want to make sure that the chat is also a place for you all to type in your insights. We don't want to limit people only in one area, so let's make this a bidirectional conversation. Oh, thank you for adding that, Tish, to the chat, too. And I see one hand. And I would ask you to limit comment to about 2 minutes each, so that other folks have the ability to chime in as well. Dr. Renee Lyons. Hi, thank you. I'm not a member of a tribe. I did, in college, take some classes with somebody who was a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, who was of an Indian tribe. My concern is about safety, and the lack of. I think digital inequity is created by not giving full information. And I want to give some websites. One is physiciansforsafetechnology dot org and the other one is Massachusettsforsafetechnology dot org, both of which have either educational seminars, but also understanding that there's, it's not just the tribal area, but multiple other areas that do have the need, as I believe, you do, to have really good clarity and not limit your understanding of the harm from some of the ways, understanding that there are costs that are prohibitive, but also that safety of the, of your children and the cognitive development and all the data that's been there about wi-fi, cell phones, suppression of melatonin, and disruption of voltage gated calcium channels in the brain have not been – it's not – have not been fully known. So I want to give those websites – excuse me – because I believe that health outcomes will be affected. Dr. Lyons. Yes. I'd like to. Am I allowed to have 2 minutes without being interrupted? Wait you're interrupting me. I thought I had 2 minutes, so your, may I ask for the – we are talking about Broadband for All, and we're looking at deploying broadband infrastructure throughout the State of California to create, you know, wired connectivity to homes, and we understand your concerns, and also know that we are here with leaders from our tribal nation partners who want to engage in a conversation on how the state can partner on those. Not to diminish the concerns about health related to those other technologies, but we are talking about, you know, mostly fiber deployment and other technology. So I'm not trying to cut you off, just asking you to respectfully direct your comments to the focus of this meeting. And with that, yeah, Dr. Renee Lyons, if you had anything else to add, please add in the chat and I see that you are. And I don't know the number, but I'll just go to Sherry Treppa. We can't hear you yet. All right. Can you hear me now? Oh, yes. I'm sorry about that. You have to hit Star 6 to unmute, I apologize. The representatives, I believe the tribal representatives, have pretty clearly outlined our same experience being a rural community within our reservation boundaries, totally lacking access to the Internet. And of course, during Covid that impacted our children from a educational perspective as well as some of the employees that work for us, you know, in their attempt to try to work remotely that was unsuccessful. So you know it is absolutely critical that we get the necessary funding to be able to bridge that gap. I think we did experience some challenges with the NTIA application process. I understand that it was oversubscribed, so we had to amend our application with a very short turnaround. And of course we had to engage experts to help us prepare the application. Unfortunately,

when we went back to these consultants with the reduced project scope it wasn't worth their while. So they dropped us, and we were scrambling to derive, to try to find, you know, adequate expertise in a very short amount of time be able to reapply. Basically we had to amend our project scope. And that was very impactful from a time, you know, process, we almost weren't able to get it resubmitted. So, unfortunately we got a project funding that is considerably less than we had originally asked for. So I appreciate the contacts here that have been, you know, talking about some of the efforts and offering assistance, and I'll certainly be reaching out to a couple of them to see if we can find additional funding to bridge the gap from our original project. That's it. And obviously the outcomes of the disparate impacts is pretty critical. Several children are behind the eight ball now, in education. And you know it very much impacts of the ability of our membership to be gainfully employed. So it's very, very impactful. Thanks very much. Thank you for your comments. And Linda Thomas. Can you please unmute. Thank you. Hi! Can you hear me? Yes, we can. Thank you. My name is Linda Thomas and I'm the Vice President of Community Outreach for Cal.net, and we have the honor of partnering with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians on a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant. We're doing fiber to the home. And as I listen to all the barriers that have been shared, and some of the things that have been said about for profit companies, I just want to, I just want to assure people that there's many people who are aware of the barriers and the injustice that are out there, that work at companies, and are transparent and willing to work with tribes, and to really get over a lot of these barriers, because there's a lot of ways to do it, even if there's not electricity, there's solar. And I just want to encourage people to take heart and not be down about it, because this is a historic opportunity to bring broadband to unserved and underserved people in rural California. And so there are people out there who want to partner and make that happen. And I just wanted to let people know that. So thank you. Thank you for your comment. And Patrick Simon. Oh. Yeah, hi. Thank you very much. I'm Patrick Simon, President, Manager of Beehive Technology Solutions. And I'm currently working with some tribal entities in the Midwest, California, and Midwest, I'm sorry, Illinois, Oklahoma area, and we've been together as a team with some doctors for a couple of years, and this is, and some of the highlights of that have recently come out of our discussion today center around the broadband equity issue, but most especially education and health care. And we now have to start looking at it as just was said from a partnering perspective, because one entity, one consultant, one company, as you heard some of the stories, will not deliver all of this for you, because you have another piece to deal with. Once you receive your grant money, if you get it, then you have to sustain your broadband. So that means, as the previous speaker talked about, having E-rate funding type opportunity, and I've done that K-12 E-rate program extensively, so I know that when you start working with K-12, and you start working with community colleges, and then you even add, challenged communities from a health care and a education and a governance perspective, because tribal is sovereignty, so you need all 3, and you have a partner team, now you can start getting into FEMA grants and extensive funding. You start getting into health care funding, you start getting into education funding. So I just wanted to make a point. Don't depend exclusively on NTIA or the FCC. Create partnering teams and have functional responsibility in your main 3: governance, education, and health care. And then you can start tracing your revenue screens for sustainment, not just adoption and your capex. You're going to need op-ex funding that will be continuing for 5 to 10 years, and this is your opportunity to partner with other entities who are your subject matter experts, and can assist you with your sustainment of your program. This is not a one and done. These are going to be broadband programs providing this access to rural communities who have never had this kind of technology before. So we have to really understand wrap around services with healthcare, mental and physical support

services, cyber security, risk mitigation, compliance and privacy, especially in California. We have 3 privacy laws. HIPAA is going to be a very serious issue with health care online and through broadband. So you need to really plan this out and think about it and do your research. Thank you. Thank you for your comment. And Sam Cohen. Hi, I'm Sam Cohen. I'm the Government Affairs and Legal Officer for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. We're pleased to be here today to work on overcoming the digital divide. First, I wanted to talk about the FCC Fabric. And I just want to, I just learned that tribes actually qualify as cities and states, and you can get a copy of the FCC Fabric for all of your tribal lands if you apply online, so I encourage everyone to do that. It costs nothing, and only tribes can do it. Second, I encourage you all to get CPUC technical assistance grants. They are $150,000 per year. It's a weird state calendar year, but anyway, it's still a year and that'll give you a jump start on your feasibility planning. And that that's kind of really good, kind of really good seed money. And third, I ask you all to consider government to government partnerships. And we, as tribes, fear our counties mostly. But we've actually developed a really good relationship with Santa Barbara County. Santa Barbara County and our metropolitan planning organization started out with $500,000, and did a broadband schematic design plan. Then the Tribe and a nonprofit, the Econ Alliance of Northern Santa Barbara County applied for, and received an EDA grant to map 2 different routes for fiber in Northern Santa Barbara County, and we should be done by August. And now the county and SBCAG again are going to apply for the next million dollars to start the EIR process. So I know you know there's not a lot of big reservations in California. There's a lot of small reservations that are kind of dominated by their neighboring cities and counties. And I think it's a good idea actually to reach out to them and partner with them because their fiber has to, it's gonna run past your reservation, and you're gonna have to need nodes to link into it. Thank you very much. Thank you for your comment. You know one thing I want to say. Thank you for those comments about partnership, Mr. Cohen, because it is, I think that's something that is really clear that in addition to the state and the Department of Technology and the Public Utilities Commission, and many of the state agencies that are committed to partnering with tribal nations, there's a lot of regional collaboration going on through the broadband consortias, and also Rural County Representatives of California. I know Barbara Hayes here, Barbara, is there anything you might want to share about some of the interesting work that you folks are doing, and how that might be leveraged to support tribal connectivity. Hi, can you hear me? Yeah. Okay. Yeah, I mean, right now. Thank you, Scott. Right now we're focused on. We represent 40 of the state's 58 counties, those that are among the most rural. Thus the name of the organization I represent, Rural County Representatives of California. And we're focusing on the LATA grants specifically and trying to increase the application rate on those LATA grants. It is now fully subscribed for cities and towns, of course, but the tribal pot remains open, and we are working with a handful of tribes across our 40 counties to get their applications in specifically for network design, and specifically focused, as LATA requires, on a 100 symmetrical up down speeds, or systems that deliver 100 symmetrical up down speeds. But we want to serve as a resource to tribes in not only helping them write those applications, but also in implementing the work for specifically around network designs. But I will say that the speakers today did a phenomenal job in my mind of really synthesizing the obstacles and the challenges that I have heard, I won't take time to regurgitate them. They did a great job, of course, of pointing them out. And those messages are what I'm hearing when I'm in conversations with the tribes that we're assisting with the LATA. As far as you know, things that have to be overcome. And hopefully efforts like this, and through LATA, as others have mentioned, will help us get there. Thank you, Barbara. Yes. Can you hear us? Mr. Alan Pruitt. Yeah, hi, Alan Pruitt, I am not a tribal member. I'm an economic development specialist with the Quechan Indian Tribe at Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. And I'm referring

to some of my notes that I sent to Zach after the last work meeting we had here online and under digital equity while we're talking about some of the usual suspects for social and economic disparities, access to information, economic development, educational opportunities, social connectivity, there's a new player in this mix also, and it's artificial intelligence. I've been a beta tester with Open AI for over 2 years now, and I consult with graduate students at University of Arizona on AI in the workplace. So I see it as a disruptive technology in a disruptive world on the Internet. My prediction is by the end of the year, most of us on this call are going to reframe the way we interact with the Internet and with digital tools based on artificial intelligence. And this is a perfect example of how Internet technology is going to be taking a giant leap forward while we're still trying to work on wiring and bringing broadband and middle mile and everything else. So, from a user experience standpoint it could create a gulf here between people that were you know, born, you know, from the early days of you know, using the Internet to people that have this gigantic advantage in knowing how to leverage something like artificial intelligence. I don't want to beat it to death, but it's just in the past 2 weeks there's been dramatic evolution. And it's a billion, billion dollar issue with all our major providers right now, and it's a race to be first to market type of situation. So that's all I wanted to share right now. Thank you, Mr. Pruitt. Anh, I know we got time for one more question. But is, you know we were looking at the other clients and types of partners that are really eager to work with and support and partner with tribes on digital connectivity. You know the area associations of governments are really doing a lot of work, particularly in Southern California, and I see Chris Schmidt is here from SANDAG. Chris, might you be able to talk a little bit about what SANDAG is doing down in San Diego? Yeah. Hi, Scott, thanks for that, for asking. This is Chris Schmidt, I'm the Deputy District Director for Right of Way at CalTrans but I also serve as SANDAG's Digital Equity Manager. And one of the things we've made a priority at the SANDAG is really partnering with our tribes to do a lot of what was discussed here today. To seek the funding necessary to do the planning work. To really implement some powerful new projects on reservation to really serve communities better, and one of the keys to that is to try to leverage the connection to the middle mile. That's well under the planning and construction phase at this time. One of the key challenges I think that we have is getting tribal leadership to understand what all these issues are and what the opportunities are. And I think a lot of that's been discussed in the meeting here today. There's so many different opportunities, both at the state and federal level for funding, technical assistance, and sort of this cross fertilization to better understand what the different opportunities are. We try to be sort of a clearing house to help facilitate those conversations, and to be a convener, to really allow folks to talk, and really expose some of their own ignorance, myself included by the way. This is all new to everyone, and I think that that's a novel thought that we don't always have all the answers, and one of the reasons I think I like to participate in these meetings is to better understand what the lived experience truly is. So we're looking forward to continuing to work with the tribal members locally. But we're also very eager to partner across the state. A lot of what we've done locally to bring the first middle mile project under construction on State Route 76, excuse me, 67, you know, was an example of that. And we have a partnership with our sister agency, the Southern California Association of Governments, and we host a number of different meetings and a number of different opportunities to collaborate. So if anybody's interested in knowing more about what we do and how we go about it, I'd love to share that with you and be happy to put my information in the chat if you want to reach out. Thank you. Thank you. Can we see any other hands, either in the chat or on here, Scott? Just wanna make sure I'm not missing anyone. Well, I don't see hands. I think we can move on to our next portion: how to take action. And I would like to introduce you all to Rachna Vas from the Broadband Equity Partnership, to go on and outline the next few slides for us. Thank you, Anh.

Hi, everyone. My name is Rachna Vas. I work as a Principal for Broadband and Digital Equity with Broadband Equity Partnership. We serve as advisors and project consultants to the California Department of Technology, and we are assisting with the State Digital Equity Planning process. Next slide. Next slide. So one of the required components of the State Digital Equity Planning process is an asset inventory of existing programs, plans, and services across the state, including across tribal communities. So, in order to properly assess the breadth and depth of programs being offered across the state, we need to systematically and methodically collect information that we can actually analyze in a proper way. So we've developed a tool called the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool, also known as the DEEM tool. And the DEEM tool will actually help us understand what programs, plans, and services are currently available across communities throughout California, where they're being offered, and to whom they're being offered. And by analyzing this information we'll be better able to understand where the resource gaps may be. This tool is currently live right now, and ready to be completed. So please take some time to complete this tool to share with us information about any programs that are being offered to tribal communities across the state. So if you are leveraging technology to provide a service or a program to communities, to tribal residents. Please share this information for us. We need to see it. We need to understand it. We need to know what's being offered, so we can better understand the digital equity ecosystem landscape across tribal communities as well as across communities in the state of California. Next slide. So in order to help push out the DEEM tool, we've developed an outreach toolkit. This toolkit will actually help you share the DEEM tool with tribal administrators, with schools, and non-profit programs. So if you partner with community-based organizations, or you partner with nonprofits to promote technology and connectivity among tribal communities, please share this tool with your partner entities. We'd love for you to be able to get them involved in completing this tool so that we can understand the scope of programs being offered to tribal communities across California. One of the toolkit collateral materials includes a QR code that you can actually scan and start competing the tool. The tool is available in Spanish and English, and we've already had people sending us information. Some of the types of information being sent to us so far include program descriptions. They can include broadband data. It can include any other data that you've collected about your programs and services. So please feel free to share this information with us. The links are being dropped in the chat, and we actually have an email address that you can email your questions to. It's DEEM at state dot CA dot gov. Please start completing this tool. Please be open and candid about sharing with us some of the resource gaps that you might be seeing in your communities. We'd love to hear from you and we'd love to see some of the information that's being shared, and we will push this out in the coming months to be able to share what we've collected with all of you. Next slide. Hey, Rachna, I have a quick question, cause I do know that there's some Internet service providers. Can you talk a little bit about how the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool, we've created the one for state and government entities and nonprofits and community based organizations, etc., and you know, for some of the ISP's here there's a slightly different kind of question setting data gathering. Could you at least talk about how you've developed that separate tool as well? Very good reminder. Thank you, Deputy Director Adams. So one of the special subsets of the DEEM tool that we've created is for the over 400 ISPs that exist in the state of California. That tool is called the DEEM ISP tool that will enable us to better understand what ISPs are doing in terms of connectivity, their programming, their ability to promote ACP and other subsidized programs in communities across the state. That tool is also live. We are dropping that in the chat. And we are actually going to have a webinar for ISPs on understanding how to better leverage that tool to be able to share some of the programs being offered by ISPs to communities. So we plan to offer this webinar in early

April, and we'll be sending out information to all the ISPs, so that you can register for the webinar, and better understand the DEEM ISP, and what kind of information we're hoping to collect. Thank you. The last thing I wanted to mention is about the household survey, the public survey. The Digital Equity Public Survey is meant to be taken by all households in California. We need to understand some of the digital equity barriers faced by households as it relates to broadband accessibility, affordability, and adoption. This public survey is available in 14 languages. It will have audio functionality, so that limited English proficiency communities and people with limited literacy can actually hear the questions being asked of them. We plan to release this survey in the coming weeks and paper versions of the survey will be available at the regional and local events that will be taking place throughout the state. So again, please push this out with your constituents. Please push this out with tribal residents, so that we can get an accurate assessment of what households are experiencing throughout California. And with that I'm going to turn this over to Anh for the next panel. Thanks. Thanks, Rachna. And then actually passing the hot potato over to Gladys, our FPO, California FPO from NTIA. Gladys, do you mind going on mic, oh, there you go. Hey, hi, Anh. Thank you. My name is Gladys Palpallatoc. I am one of the Federal Program Officers for NTIA, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. So what you see here on the slide is another opportunity to get involved. I want to thank everyone for their time today. It's really heartening to see all the participation today in particular. This is a way for you to give your input and feedback on some upcoming next, funding opportunities, and you'll see there that the, it's the next phase of this tranche of funding. The State Digital Equity Capacity grant program as well as the Competitive Digital Equity Program. The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant programs will be administered by the state, an entity in the state, likely to be CDT. And the Competitive Digital Equity Program will be administered by NTIA. And so it's just another opportunity for you to give your feedback, and input on how these notice of funding opportunities should be shaped, what they should be taking into consideration as they are being developed, and so that they suit your communities better. So it's a great opportunity to participate in a different kind of way. I'm gonna put in the chat my contact information for any questions you might have after reviewing the information. The slides will be provided also after the meeting, so you'll have that information in front of you, and I will put in the chat as well links to that, so you can start looking at them in advance. And I'll hand it back to Anh. Thank you. Thanks, Gladys. And I'm just, as we have a few more minutes of our meeting, a few next steps, and I'll go through the next few slides fairly quickly, quick high level summary of what ways to get involved. You heard about the DEEM tool, the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool from Rachna earlier, as well as the public surveys that will be coming out in April. And we are planning 20 local regional workshops, DE and BEAD workshops, so make sure to keep an eye out for those and register and attend them if they're near you. And all these events will be online under our Broadband for All website, thanks Tish. Our virtual events include the outcome area working groups, and the next one will be, for us, will be in May and June. And to stay connected, please sign up for updates on the Broadband for All portal with the link below. And next slide, please. Just a few next steps in terms of what the outcome area working groups will be doing. We will develop strategies for tribal collaboration and inclusion to align with SDEP priorities, as informed by results of the public survey and the DEEM tool. We'll conduct gap analysis of programs, plans, and services that are supporting tribal digital equity. Lastly, conduct research, evaluate assets, and develop recommendations to CDT pertaining to tribal equity for inclusion in the State Digital Equity Plan. And next slide. And I promise this is the last one. These are just 2 dates for you to save, and we will make sure to email past participants of registration links. So next slide. And with that, for more information questions about the planning process or a formal consultation, please contact us at the

general email address here: digital equity at state dot CA dot gov. Or reach out to any one of our working group support staff with the email addresses here. And with that, thank you so much for your time, speakers, participants, our ASL interpreters who are trying very hard to sign my very rushed closing. But thank you for being with us, and I know you have lots of competing priorities. But you were here with us to lend your voice and provide insights to this planning process. So thank you, and have a great afternoon. I'll stop recording now.