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# Broadband for All, Digital Equity, and BEAD Tribal Consultation

June 27, 2023



# Tribal Welcome

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation



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# **Tribal Government Leadership Introductions**

# Welcome

**Commissioner Darcie L. Houck**  
California Public Utilities Commission



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# Purpose

- To inform and engage California Tribes on the State's Broadband for All investments.
- Receive input and feedback from Tribal Governments, and their delegates, on development of California's Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Digital Equity Plan.
- Provide updates on Middle-Mile and Last-Mile programs and timelines.



# AGENDA

- Welcome
- Biggest Challenges to Digital Equity
- Broadband for All Initiative and Overview of Existing Investment
- Tribal Leader to Tribal Leader Discussion
- Feedback and Guidance to State and Federal Partners
- Next Steps and Decision Points
- Working Sessions
  - Working Session A: Broadband Infrastructure Deployment.
  - Working Session B: One-on-One Consultations

# Ranking State and Federal Officials

## **Secretary Christina Snider-Ashtari**

Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs

## **Commissioner Darcie L. Houck**

California Public Utilities Commission

## **Chief Deputy Director Jared Johnson**

California Department of Technology

## **Tribal Liaison Vivienne Orcutt**

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

## **Division Chief Adam Geisler**

National Telecommunication and Information Administration



# Break for Refreshments



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# Biggest Challenges to Digital Equity in Tribal Communities

**Kenneth Holbrook**

Tribal Advisor

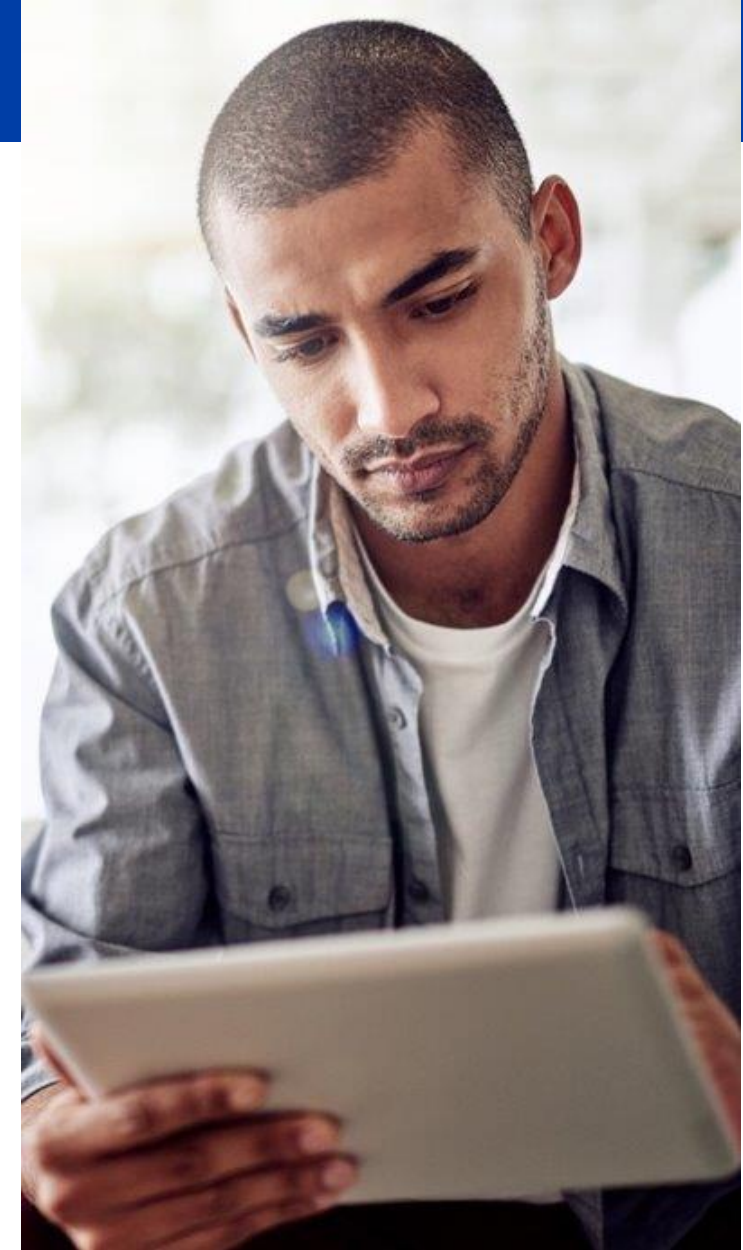
California Public Utilities Commission



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# Biggest Challenges to Digital Equity

- What communications/broadband infrastructure gaps have been identified within Tribal communities, post-pandemic.
- What do Tribal Governments consider as the primary barrier to connecting Tribal communities- physical connectivity, access (including equipment) and availability, cost and affordability, or digital literacy and skills?
- What is the state of Digital Equity across the Tribal communities in California?



# Broadband for All: Overview of Existing Investments and Efforts

**Anh Q. Nguyen**

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

**Maria Ellis**

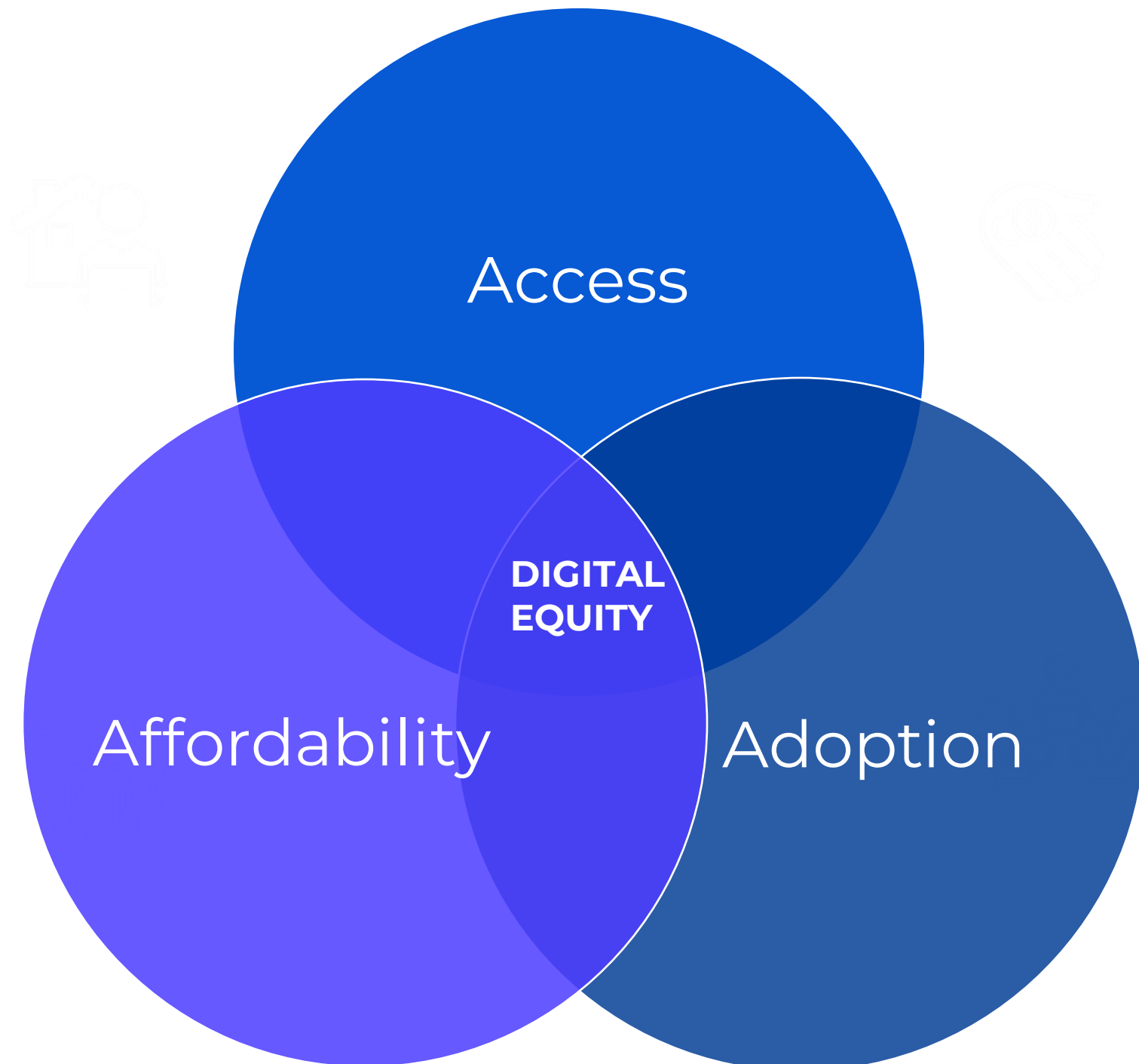
Deputy Director for Broadband  
California Public Utilities Commission



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**“Californians’ ability to access and use broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage in life and being cut off.”**





Access

Affordability

Adoption

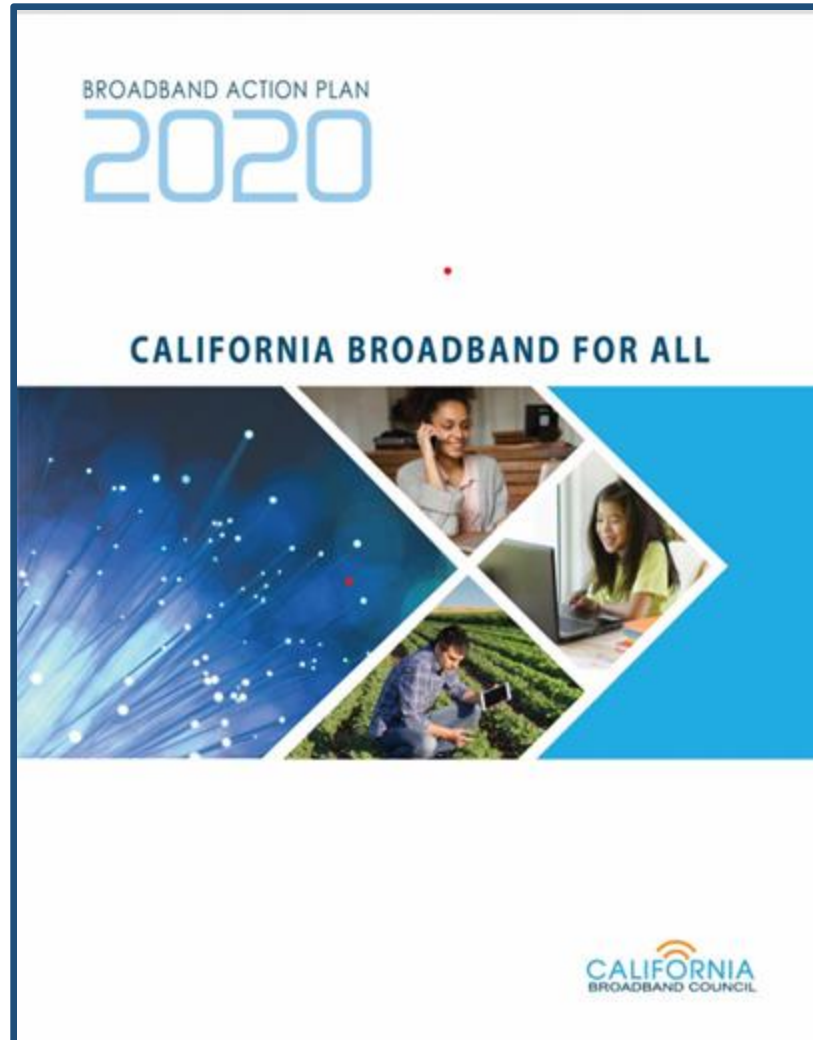
**DIGITAL  
EQUITY**

MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION

# California Broadband Council



# BROADBAND FOR ALL **Action Plan**



## Required by Executive Order N-73-20

### Multi-Agency Effort

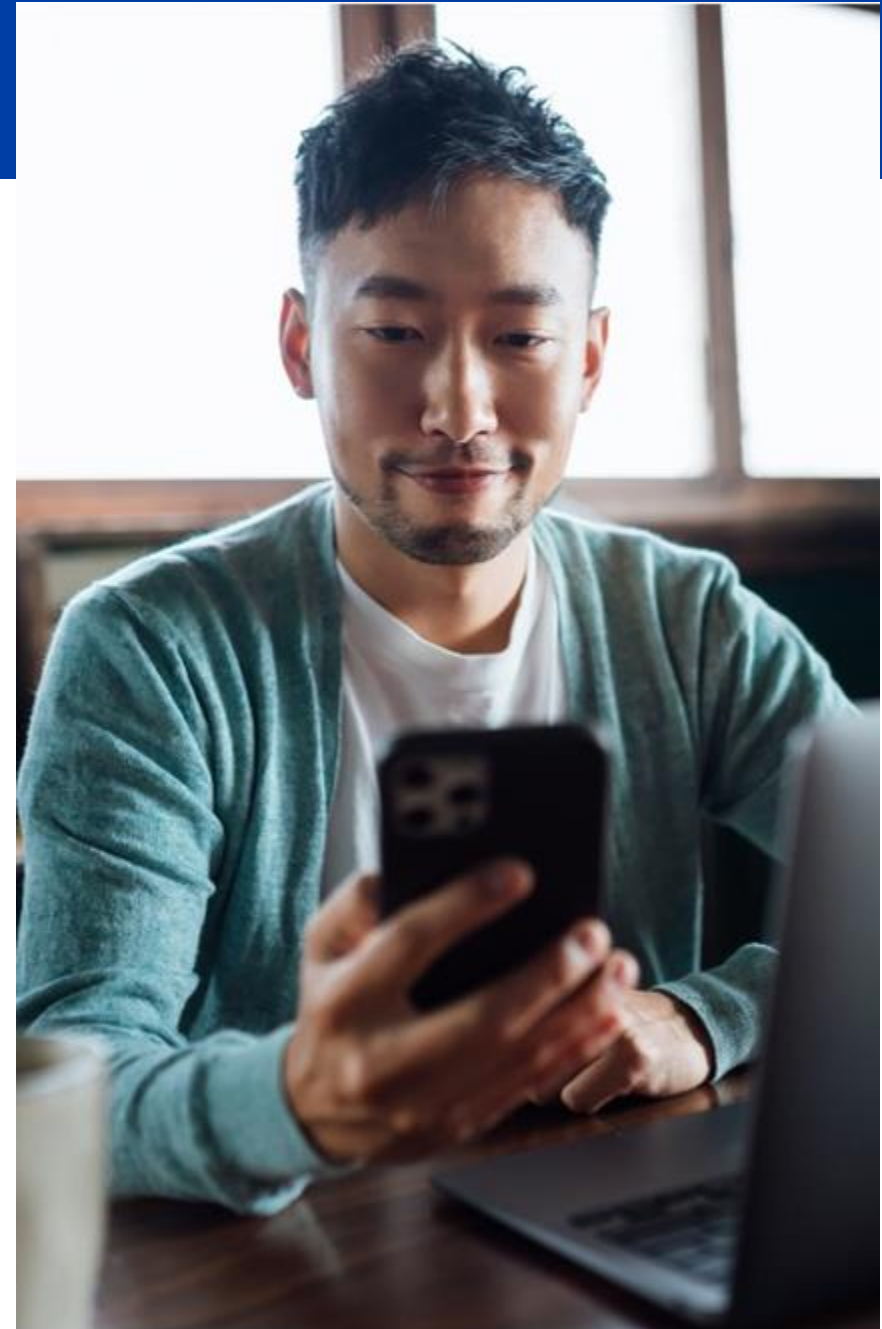
**Goal 1:** All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

**Goal 2:** All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.

**Goal 3:** All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion.

# Senate Bill 156

- **\$6 billion** investment over three years to:
  - Expand broadband infrastructure
  - Increase affordability
  - Enhance access to broadband for all Californians
- **\$3.25 billion** to develop, acquire, construct, maintain and operate a statewide “open-access middle-mile” network (CDT)
- **\$2.75 billion** for last-mile infrastructure grant programs (CPUC)





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# Middle-Mile Broadband Network



- **10,000-mile statewide network on state highways**
  - Broke ground October 2022
  - Contracted by Dec 2024
  - Constructed by Dec 2026

[Statewide Construction Evaluation Map of 10,000 miles of proposed build](#)

# Last-Mile Broadband Programs

## California Advanced Services Fund

**Up to \$73 million+ annually**

Several of programs to fund broadband infrastructure, adoption, and digital literacy, as well Tribal technical assistance.

## Federal Funding Account

**\$2 billion**

Grants for last-mile broadband deployment that focuses on fiber and cable technology. These funds must be encumbered by the 2025 federal deadline and spent before 2027.

## Loan Loss Reserve Fund

**\$750 million**

Offers credit enhancement, or a type of insurance, that helps lenders control for the risk that loans will not be repaid. For development of public networks.

## Local Agency Technical Assistance

**\$50 million (subscribed)**

For public entity or consultant costs to create Joint Powers Authorities, and for other costs to prepare to deploy broadband infrastructure, including for environmental permitting, engineering, etc.

## BEAD

**\$1.86 billion**

Grants for broadband deployment, adoption support programs, and digital literacy. Prioritizes fiber and cable technology.

# Broadband Adoption

## Broadband adoption is daily access to the Internet:

- At speeds, quality and capacity necessary to accomplish common tasks,
- With the digital skills necessary to participate online, and
- On a personal device and secure, convenient network.

*Definitions - National Digital Inclusion Alliance*



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# Affordable Connectivity Program

**The Federal Communication Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program** is a \$14.2 billion benefit program to lower the cost of home internet service for residents.

**\$75 per month**

for households on  
qualifying Tribal lands.

**\$30 per month**

toward internet service for  
eligible households

**One-time discount  
of up to \$100**

to purchase a laptop,  
desktop computer, or  
tablet from participating  
providers

California leads the nation in Affordable Connectivity

Program enrollment with

**2,226,326**

in statewide enrollment as of June 26, 2023

**38% of ACP-Eligible Households**

*USAC ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker*

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The IIJA invests roughly \$65 billion to support broadband deployment and adoption and promote digital equity in states.

**Broadband Equity, Access,  
and Deployment (BEAD)**

**\$42.45B**

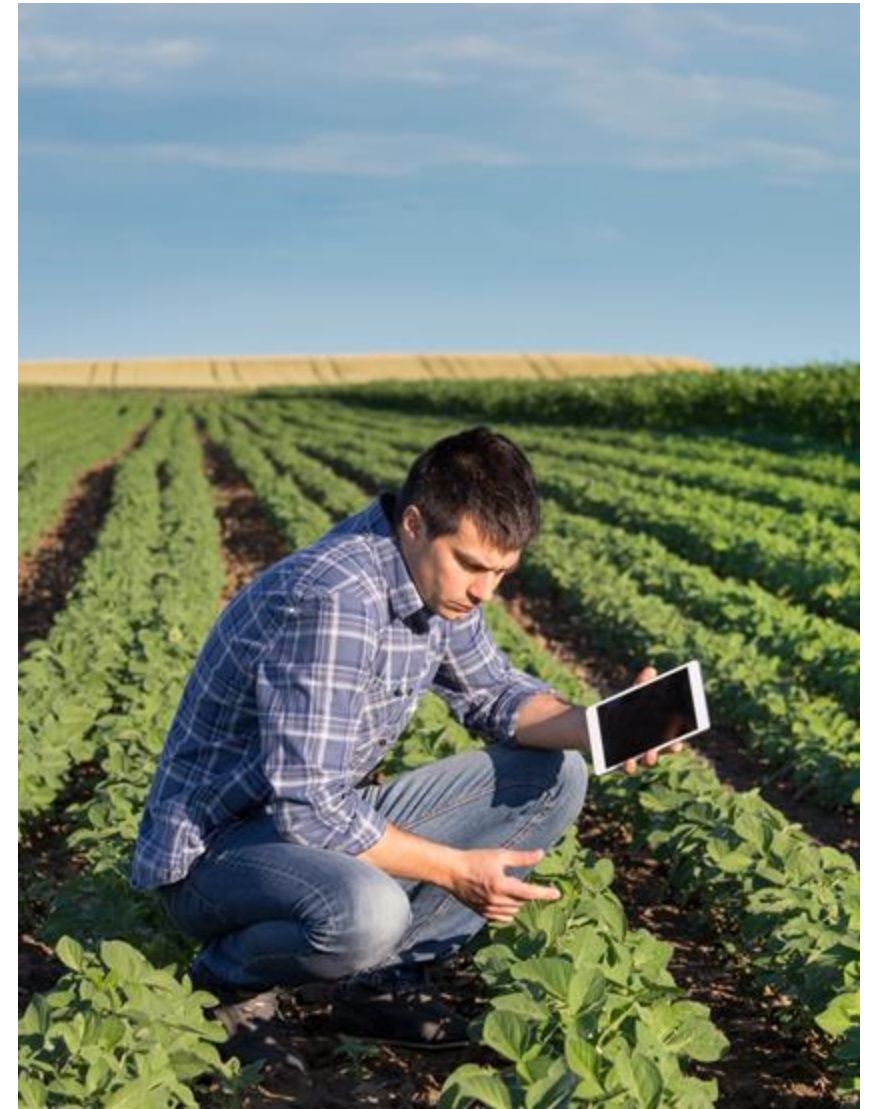
**Digital Equity Planning,  
Capacity, and Competitive  
Grants**

**\$2.75B**

## BACKGROUND

# SDEP and BEAD Plan Coordination

- CDT administering entity for Digital Equity Planning program
- CPUC administering entity for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program
- Planning processes are coordinated
- Extensive statewide and local engagement and input
- When completed, both plans will be integrated and unlock hundreds of millions of additional dollars to achieve Broadband for All





# Covered Populations

The Digital Equity Act prioritizes investments for eight “Covered Populations”

**1**

**Individuals living in covered households**

with an income at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level

**2**

**Aging individuals**

(60+)

**3**

**Incarcerated individuals**

other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility

**4**

**Veterans**

**5**

**Individuals with disabilities**

**6**

**Individuals with language barriers**

including individuals who Are English learners; and have low levels of literacy

**7**

**Members of a racial or ethnic minority group**

**8**

**Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area**

**9**

**Women and those who identify as female**

**10**

**LGBTQI+**

*Specifically called out in the BEAD notice of funding opportunity*





## SDEP PLANNING APPROACH **PLANNING COMPONENTS**

**The planning process will consist of five components:**

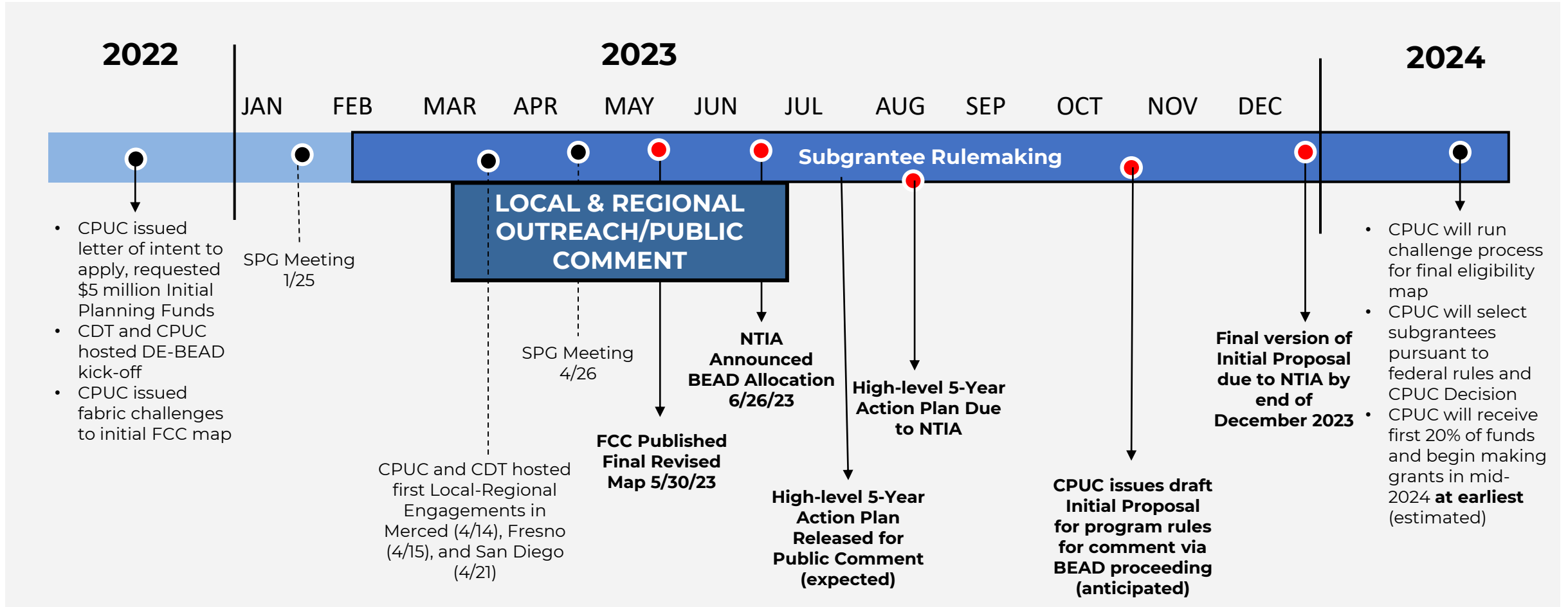
- Statewide Planning Group
- Outcome Area Working Groups
- California Digital Equity Survey(s)
- Regional Planning Workshops
- Statewide Public Engagement



# BEAD Preliminary Timeline: CPUC

## California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Timeline

Key milestones:



# Tribal Leader to Tribal Leader Discussion

**Kenneth Holbrook**

Tribal Advisor

California Public Utilities Commission



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# Tribal Leader to Tribal Leader Discussion

- What are the strengths and weaknesses in the programming now available?
- What outcomes do Tribal Governments want see as it relates to the development of the BEAD and Digital Equity programs and what recommendations would you provide to achieve them?
- What opportunities do Tribal Government see for the State, BEAD and Digital Equity to support advancing broadband deployment, adoption, and workforce initiatives?



# Feedback and Guidance to State Partners



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# Next Steps and Decision Points

## Anh Q. Nguyen

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

## Maria Ellis

Deputy Director for Broadband  
California Public Utilities Commission



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# Digital Equity Survey

## Survey

CDT is distributing a statewide **Digital Equity Survey** to residents of California as a civic engagement tool to identify barriers to digital equity, especially for Covered Populations.

The survey is intended to capture information about internet access, internet affordability, and internet adoption for residents in California households.

## Accessibility Features

The survey can be accessed online or via mobile phone in 14 languages, with audio functionality available for residents with sight impairment and low levels of literacy

## Response thus far

Since first launching, we've received 17,000+ responses in 13 languages.

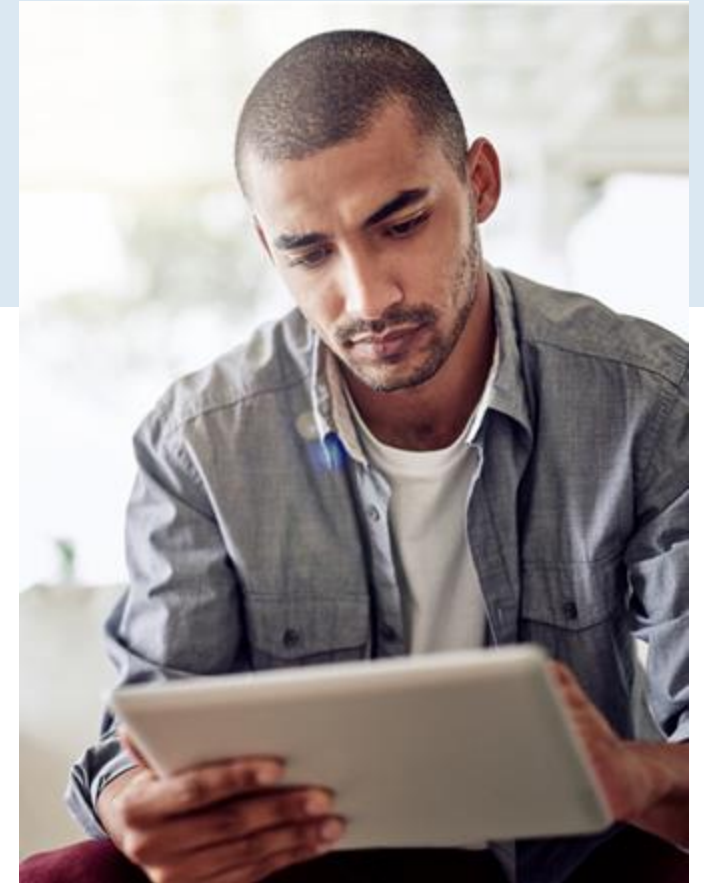




# Share the Digital Equity Public Survey

The State is distributing a statewide **Digital Equity Public Survey in 14 languages** to residents of California to identify barriers to digital equity, especially for Covered Populations.

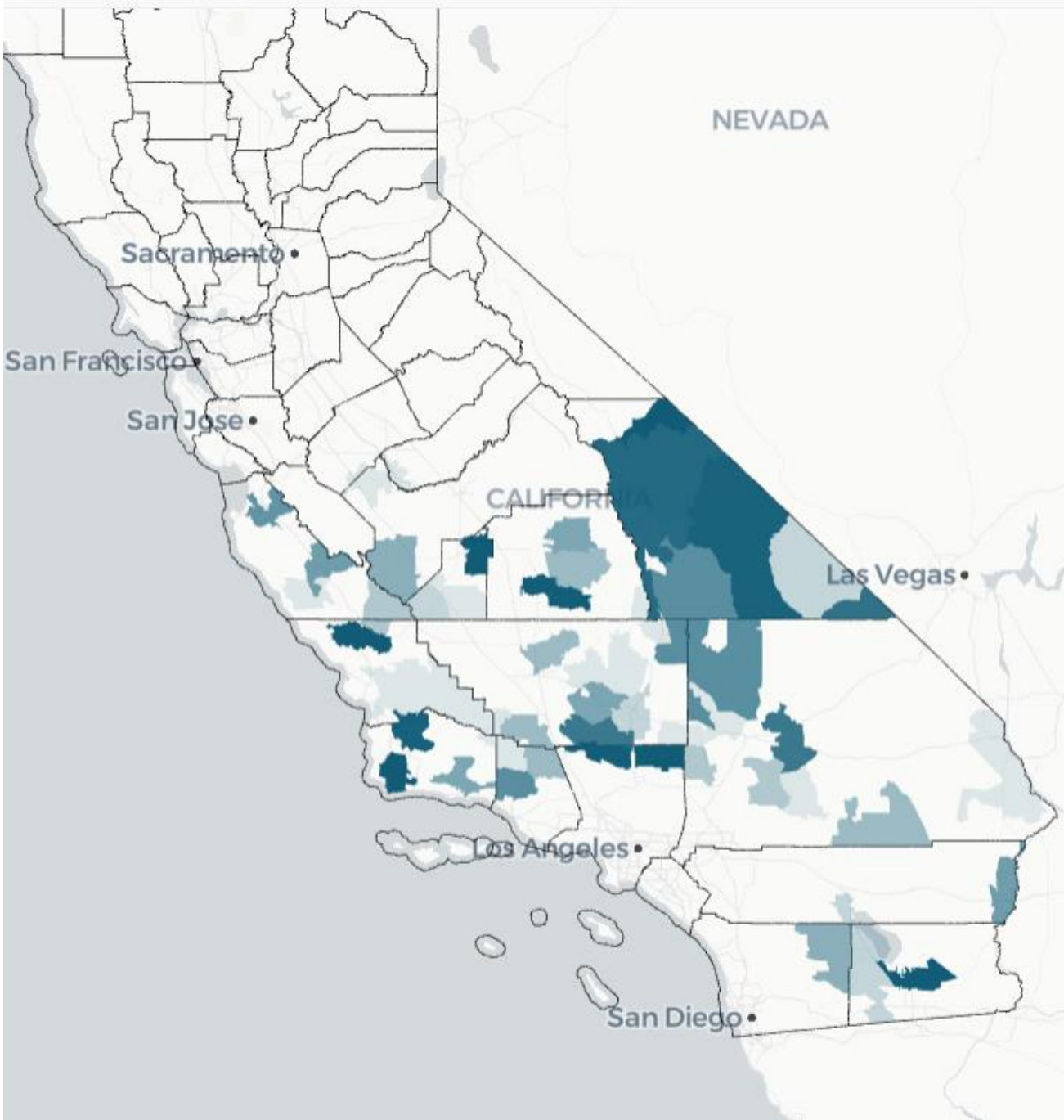
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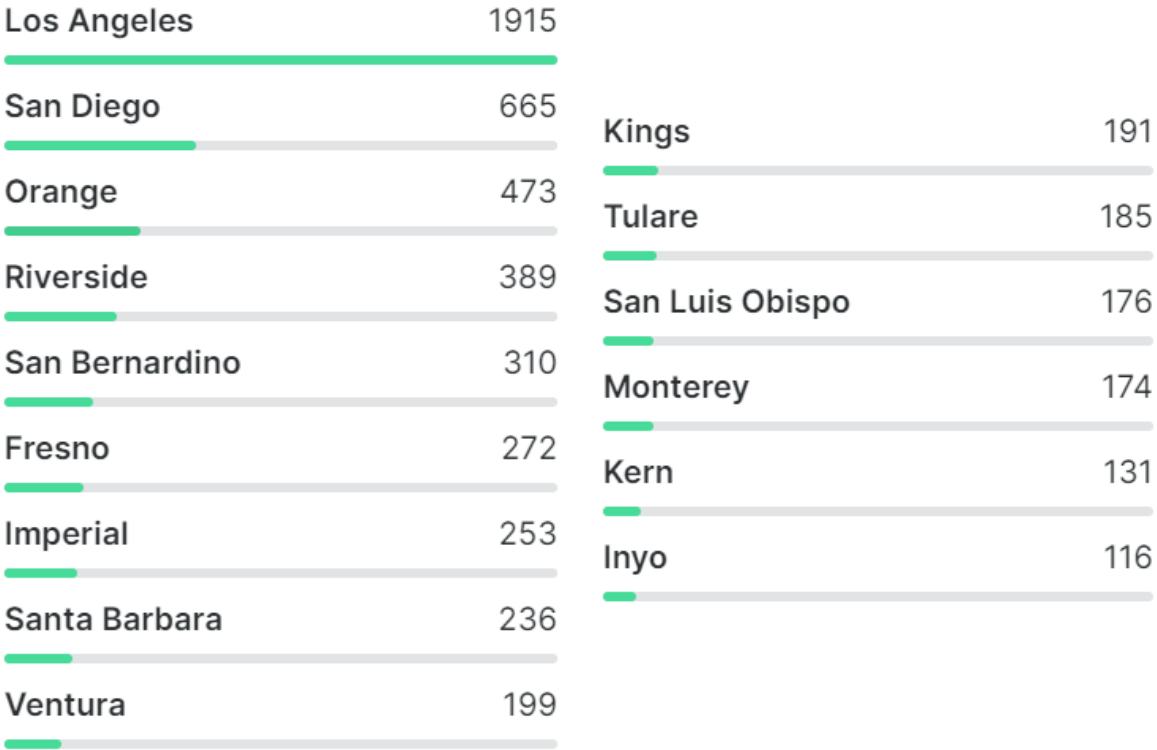
Scan the QR code using your mobile device or visit us at [bit.ly/CASurveyTribes](https://bit.ly/CASurveyTribes)



Broadband for All



## Valid Responses Received from Counties listed: 5685



# Learn More or Request a Consultation

- **We welcome the opportunity to consult with California Tribes anytime.**
  - To request a Tribal consultations, please contact Tribal Advisor Kenneth Holbrook at [Kenneth.Holbrook@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Holbrook@cpuc.ca.gov).
- **Follow CPUC Rulemaking for BEAD (R.) 23-02-016.**
- **For local governments and Tribes interested in learning more, attend CPUC webinar on June 28th (10am-12pm).**
  - Register [here](#)
  - For more information, visit the CPUC's [website](#) or contact Andrew B. Rubang from the Business and Community Outreach Office at [Andrew.Rubang@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Rubang@cpuc.ca.gov)

# Digital Equity Plan Public Comment Period

The CDT invites you to follow and participate in the public comment process

- A 30-day public comment process will be held in mid to late summer





## Upcoming Broadband for All, BEAD, and Digital Equity Tribal Consultations

*For Tribal Leaders, Members and Representatives ONLY*

**Wednesday, July 12: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (virtual)**

## Tribal Collaboration Outcome Area Working Group Meeting (Virtual)

**Late July 2023**

## Statewide Digital Planning Group Meeting (Virtual)

**Wednesday – July 26**

**Wednesday – October 25**

To receive registration links, email us at [digitalequity@state.ca.gov](mailto:digitalequity@state.ca.gov)



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**THANK YOU!**



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# Working Sessions

- Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (CDT/GSN and CPUC)
- Individual Consultation



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