



## Advanced Communications Services Work Group

### Challenge

High-speed broadband telecommunications access is critical for businesses to thrive in the global marketplace and for San Joaquin Valley residents to access services and education. Adoption rates continue to be low when compared to other parts of the state and must be increased in order to reduce the digital divide and provide for increased employment opportunities. Affordable basic training also continues to be scarce, especially in rural communities, and access to digital literacy is critical for our residents moving forward.

### Opportunity

The California Public Utilities Commission awarded the Partnership funding to convene the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium in order to engage stakeholders to facilitate the deployment and utilization of broadband and information technology throughout the region.

### Focus

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium focuses on facilitating the use of regionwide, advanced communications. Recognizing that high-speed Internet, broadband telecommunications access is essential in doing business and accessing services, the Consortium is promoting greater deployment and use in the underserved San Joaquin Valley.

### Success for the San Joaquin Valley

- January 2008 – California Broadband Task Force Report released. According to the report, many Advanced Communications Services Work Group objectives have been completed.
- Broadband access rates are now more than 90%.
- CAT telemedicine model project plan in place.
- Health center project plan in place.
- Electronic health records implementation forthcoming.
- Exploring opportunities for water efficiency through the development of a strategic agricultural pilot site.

### About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

### Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.

## Action

*Expedite the provision of broadband access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley.*

- *Create an organizational infrastructure with a goal to "Facilitate the deployment and utilization of advanced communications services and information technology throughout the region."*
- *Develop a strategic plan for broadband infrastructure aimed at increasing access to broadband.*
- *Inform over 300 elected officials from the 8-county region about the benefits of ubiquitous access to broadband and provide model policies and other tools to help facilitate deployment.*
- *Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connections to delivery of broadband.*
- *Increase deployment of broadband by current and prospective service providers.*
- *Identify and seek all available funding for deployment of broadband.*
- *Leverage unused bandwidth for the benefit of the greatest number of users.*
- *Increase utilization of broadband by all residents.*

*Promote accessibility and utilization of broadband in targeted underserved communities and populations.*

- *Increase availability of affordable broadband in unserved and underserved areas of the San Joaquin Valley, including rural communities.*
- *Foster demand for broadband access in underserved and disadvantaged communities, with a focus on the rural areas.*
- *Develop and implement plan to ensure high school students graduate with the basic computer literacy skills.*
- *Assist in the expansion of public locations for access to broadband to help disadvantaged residents and businesses to bridge the digital divide.*

*Expand and replicate successful model programs through 2 regional forums to increase access to broadband and information technology to bridge the digital divide.*

- *Develop and implement a plan to expand and replicate the most successful strategies and programs to bridge the digital divide.*

*Accelerate deployment of broadband infrastructure through telemedicine and Telehealth technology.*

- *Develop and implement a telemedicine and telehealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers.*

*Work with neighboring regional consortia, such as Valley Vision and Eastern Sierra Connect, to ensure the development of a cohesive infrastructure.*

- *Share plans among neighboring regional consortia as developed.*



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

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[www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org)

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium

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