



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
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Ukiah, California... December 23, 2016

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC) RURAL
CALL COMPLETION AND DIAL TONE ACCESS PROCEEDING
PASSES "REVISED PROPOSED DECISION"**

In April of 2016, Mendocino County became "Party" to a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Proceeding so that the County's concerns regarding telecommunication issues would have a stronger voice at the Commission. That status led Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval, the Commissioner in charge of the proceeding, to hold a "Public Participation Hearing" in Ukiah to allow residents to submit their concerns into the record about outages and the lack of access to 9-1-1 services. Mendocino County then submitted official comments on issues that were raised in these hearings, and later submitted supportive comments on the CPUC's "Proposed Decision" that was issued. In addition, Mendocino County Supervisor Dan Hamburg and Broadband Coordinator, Trish Steel, attended an "All Party Meeting" in San Francisco to further support the proposed decision.

On December 15th, 2016, the Commission passed the "revised Proposed Decision" of which Mendocino was strongly in favor. This favorable vote was the result of hard work by many groups besides Mendocino County, including neighboring counties, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), California Office of Emergency Services and Senator Mike McGuire. In response, Supervisor Hamburg stated, *"The successful passage of this measure by the CPUC, over the objections of the major carriers, occurred in large part because of the evidence gathered by the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) and presented at the Public Participation Hearing held in Ukiah last July. I'd like to thank Trish Steel, chair of the BAMC, County Counsel Kit Elliott, and Regina Costa of TURN for their coordinated efforts to improve the quality and reliability of telecommunication services in rural Mendocino County."*

This approved Decision forces reporting and notification requirements, as well as provides local public safety with 24/7 emergency contact information. These approved requirements are necessary to provide public safety officials with information during an emergency such as a widespread outage. During past outages, this public safety notification was lacking.

With this vote, the Proceeding remains open and moves into a “Phase 2” in which a “Working Group” will be formed to collaborate with Public Safety on these issues.

For more information please contact the CPUC News & Outreach Office, (415) 703-1366 or news@cpuc.ca.gov; or Trish Steel with the Mendocino Broadband Alliance, chairman@mendocinobroadband.org.

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