

READ AND CONSIDERED

DATE 8/20/2021 BY B

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Broadband Access in Sonoma County

Report Date: June 20, 2021

Response by: Sheba Person-Whitley Title: Executive Director

Agency/Department Name: Access Sonoma Broadband/Economic Development Board

FINDINGS: F13, F14

I (we) agree with the findings numbered; **F13, F14**

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS: R7, R9

Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

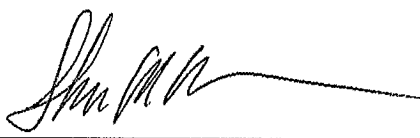
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: **R7, R9** require(s) further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)

Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/19/2021 Signed: 

Number of pages attached: **1**

(See attached Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)

Required Responses

R7. The Sonoma County Department of Transportation, Permit Sonoma and Access Sonoma Broadband develop procedures and standards that would ensure placement of broadband conduit in all appropriate situations by December 31, 2021. (F13)

This recommendation requires further analysis. Access Sonoma Broadband (ASB) is currently an informal advisory body to the Director of the Economic Development Board (EDB). The EDB has been given the authority to expand ASB into the official governing body responsible for broadband development, should an appropriate structure be identified. It is unlikely that ASB will exist at an operational capacity sufficient to create and recommend policy before a governance structure is identified and created, however they may hold preliminary conversations with Transportation and Public Works and Permit Sonoma to begin scoping a policy before the end of the year.

R9. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Economic Development Board, and Access Sonoma Broadband include in the implementation of any broadband plan a clear requirement for the download and upload speeds of 100/20 proposed in State of California Executive Order N-73-20 to be the minimal acceptable level of service by September 30, 2021. (F14)

This recommendation requires further analysis. Though download/upload speeds of 100/20 have been recommended by the state as well as identified by the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium as a target, it is unlikely that formal adoption of any particular speed recommendation will be made locally before a governing structure and business plan are identified and created. At the June 8, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting, staff proposed that an update on this work would be made to the full Board within six months, and that is anticipated to take place in early-December 2021.