

CERTIFICATE OF AGENDA POSTING

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

A regular meeting scheduled for April 17, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. was posted at the San Benito County Administration Office, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA, and on our county website www.cosb.us on this 14th day of April 2023 AT 12:00 P.M. per Government Code Section 54956.

Gracie Rodriguez

Gracie Rodriguez

Associate Admin. Analyst

SAN BENITO COUNTY
Information Technology Committee

Committee:

Board Supervisor Dom Zanger, District 1
Board Supervisor Angela Curro, District 4

AGENDA

Monday, April 17, 2023

2:00 P.M.

San Benito County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

Webinar ID: 890 6390 0311
Webinar Password: 426468

Pursuant to AB 361, and the resolution adopted thereunder, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to the recommendation from Dr. Gellert dated January 5, 2022, members of the Committee are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

The meeting is closed to the public. The meeting will be available through Zoom to those who wish to join or require accommodations with the instructions below:

This meeting can be accessed through the following methods:

Through Zoom (<https://zoom.us/join>) per the instruction stated below

Participating by Zoom:

Three ways to attend Zoom meetings: on a web browser, through the Zoom App, or over the phone. Each webinar will have a webinar ID and password, which is a unique number associated with an instant or scheduled meeting (found at the top of this text). The chat feature is disabled for all participants. Additionally, the video function is not available to the public. Zoom regularly provides new versions of the Zoom desktop client and Zoom mobile app to release new security features and fix bugs. To ensure you can join the meeting and participate through public comment, please launch the web address to download the Zoom application: <https://zoom.us/support/download>. Furthermore, we recommend upgrading to the latest version of Zoom once it is available. Please visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version> to ensure you have the newest Zoom update.

A. Zoom on Web-browser:

a. If joining through web-browser, launch the address <https://zoom.us/join> or open the direct link listed below: <https://zoom.us>

B. Or launch the Zoom app on your Tablet or Smartphone:

b. Select "**JOIN A MEETING**"

c. The participant will be prompted to enter **Webinar ID and Password listed above** and name to join the meeting. The meeting agenda can be found at <https://www.cosb.us/>

d. The participant can launch audio through their computer or set it up through the phone.

e. **Public Comment:** Select the "**Participants Tab**" and click "**Raise hand**" icon, and the Zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

C. Zoom Audio Only (phone):

a. If you are **calling in as audio-only**, please dial **US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968**

b. It will ask you to enter the **Webinar ID listed above**, followed by the "**#**" key (pound key), then enter **Webinar Password listed above** at the top page of the agenda. The meeting agenda can be found at <https://www.cosb.us/>

c. It will then ask for a **Participant ID**, press the "**#**" key (pound key) to continue.

d. Once you enter the Zoom meeting, you will automatically be placed on mute.

e. **Public Comment:** If you are using a phone, please press "*9" (star-nine) to raise your hand, and the Zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

Written Comments & Email Public Comment

Members of the public may submit comments via email by 5:00 PM on the Monday prior to the meeting to Brian Gordon at BGordon@cosb.us.

Public Comment Guidelines

A. The Committee welcomes your comments.

B. If participating on Zoom, once you are selected you will hear that you have been unmuted: At this time, please state your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.

C. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes, or such other time as may be designed by the Chair.

D. Please keep your comments, brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Gordon, at (831) 636-4402, or email BGordon@cosb.us.

The Informational Technology Committee welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- *If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Committee, please state your name for the record. Please address the Committee as a whole through the Chair.*
- *If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.*

2:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Supervisor Curro, District 4

2. ROLL CALL.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Opportunity to address the Committee on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Section 54954.2.*

5. Approve action Minutes for February 16, 2023, Information Technology Special Committee Meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION: receive presentation from Elise Brentnall, on the Internet for All Aromas San Juan Project, discuss request for a support letter supporting such efforts and provide staff direction if desired.

7. INTRODUCTION to California Consulting Senior Project Manager, discuss potential broadband grants and other matters as appropriate related to broadband efforts.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS., No discussion of these items shall occur, but the Committee may direct any of the reports to be agendaized for a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn to the next regular scheduled meeting on June 19, 2023, at 2:00 PM

As required by Gov. Code Section 54957.5 any public record distributed to the San Benito Information Technology Committee less than 72 hours prior to this meeting in connection with any agenda item shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board, San Benito County Administration Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Public records distributed during the meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the County. If the public record is prepared by some other person and distributed at the meeting it will be made available for public inspection following the meeting at the office of the Clerk of the Board.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the Board of Supervisors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (831) 636-4000 at least 48-hours before the meeting to enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

State Financial Authority a portion of the Rural County Representatives of California with the intent of creating a strategic broadband plan.

Further dialogue concerning the County efforts to move forward with improving broadband in the region.

Presentation only, not action taken.

10. RCRC Broadband Strategic Plan Vendor Selection update.

Brain Gordon provided an update on the Broadband Strategic Vendor selection. Staff have met with the Golden State Finance Authority representative to review all proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals for Developing a Broadband Strategic Plan. For the area including San Benito County, TeleworX was selected.

Other updates include support letters to Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MPEB) and Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) which are both working to improve broadband efforts.

Regional Update Central Coast Broadband Consortium was awarded \$ 1 million CPUC grant to support regional Broadband deployment and expansion.

Public comment opened.

James Hankins provided comments.

Wayne Norton provided comments.

John Freeman provided comments.

Public comment closed.

CAO thanked the office of education and department head librarian, Nora Conte in receiving Chromebook and hotspots for individuals for schooling efforts.

Curro, has been following broadband and provided information regarding Uplift Center Coast meetings and the benefits the county can access. Advocates for staff to attend these meetings.

Presentation only, not action taken.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS., No discussion of these items shall occur, but the Committee may direct any reports to be agendized for a future meeting.

No future agenda items, would like to continue discussions on Broadband.

12. Closed Session. Threat to Public Services for Facilities and Technology. Government Code section 54957(a). Consultation with: Barbara Thompson.

Public comment opened; public comment closed.

No reportable action

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next scheduled meeting.

MOTION

Motion to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting made by supervisor Curro, seconded by supervisor Zanger.

2-0 Vote

For (2)

Ayes: Zanger, Curro

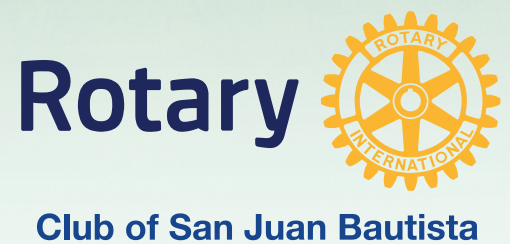
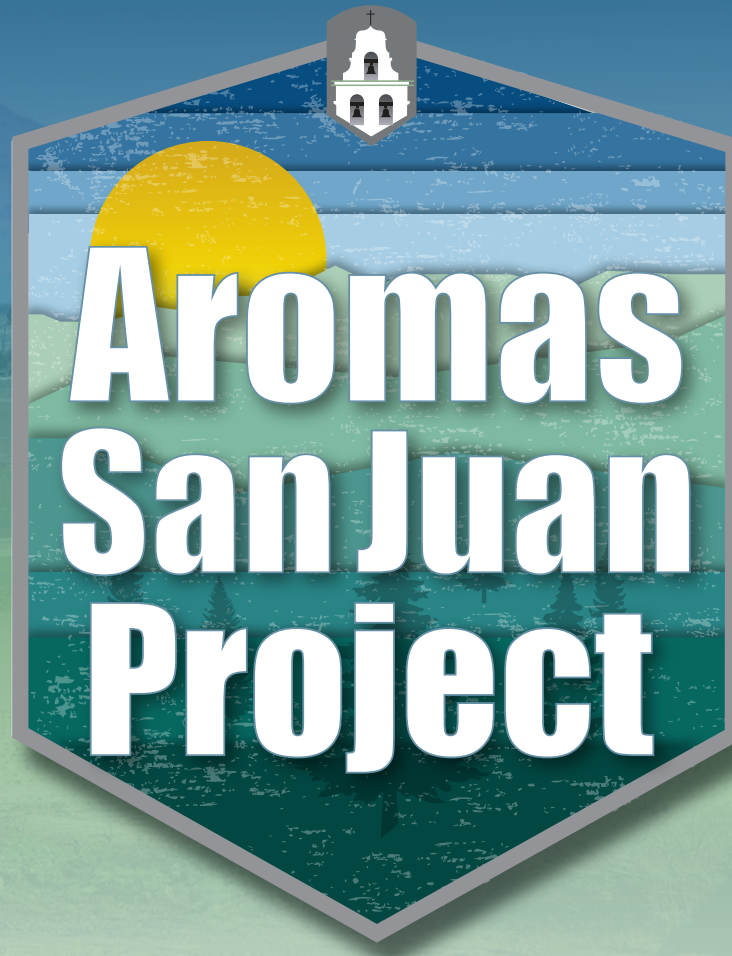
Against (0)

Noes: -

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INTERNET FOR ALL





Balanced Access is a 501c3 non-profit organization created to help eliminate the Digital Divide by providing fast, reliable internet to students currently in the public school system in South Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. The Balanced Access team will bring dependable fast broadband to every underserved student in our community, regardless of their family's financial situation.



GARLIC.COM, powered by South Valley Internet, is a telecommunications company specializing in voice and data services. Founded in 1994, Garlic.com is one of the few remaining locally owned and operated service providers in the nation and has been recognized as a leader in the industry by its peers throughout the country. In 2017 Garlic.com and sister company LCB Communications were awarded a grant from the state of California's Advanced Services Fund that provided garlic.com with just over \$1,000,000.00 in funding to help with the build out of a new \$2,100,000.00 Fiber to the home network (FTTH) in Paradise Valley, just west of Morgan Hill. The Paradise Valley Project was completed in early 2021 with over 90% of the homes passed choosing to take garlic.com's new gigabit service. Since then, South Valley Internet has continued to place fiber in the ground and provide multi-gigabit service to both corporations and residents alike via Copper, Wireless and Fiber. Garlic.com is committed to closing the digital divide in our communities.



Club of San Juan Bautista

Founded in 1996, the Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista is dedicated to serving the needs of the western San Benito County communities of Aromas and San Juan Bautista. Education is an important priority of SJB Rotarians.

The COVID pandemic that forced schools to do all teaching via the Internet hit local schools particularly hard. Many of our students live in remote areas that have no access to broadband. And many families are unable to afford expensive monthly broadband charges.

The club's Access Committee led fundraising efforts to purchase equipment needed to meet the emergency situation. It's time to take the next step.

The Rotary Club is now teaming with the non-profit Balanced Access to bridge the Digital Divide. When completed the Aromas-San Juan Project will provide high-speed internet to all students living in the boundaries of our school district. The internet service will be free for five years for students that meet low-income guidelines.

The Digital Divide Defined

Definition and explanation obtained from Close the Gap Foundation

The Digital Divide is defined as the gap that exists between those who have reliable internet access and devices and those with very limited access or none at all.

The Digital Divide is a problem that affects people from all walks of life. It is a multifaceted issue, but two main characteristics define this gap: access to high-speed internet and access to reliable devices. Many of the individuals who struggle from the digital divide face both.

In some areas, internet access is either limited, unavailable, or unaffordable for those who could be equipped. Even with a reliable internet connection, access to certain digital spaces can remain a challenge, always just out of reach for those who can't afford costly tools like laptops and software.

This leaves countless students to rely on public computers or their mobile devices as their only tools to exist in an increasingly digital world. It leaves many more, like those in rural areas or living under the poverty line, without even that.

Without reliable internet access at home, students can struggle with completing assignments and furthering their knowledge outside of classroom hours. This has only increased since the COVID-19 pandemic which has sent many students home to learn virtually.

Learn more at closethegapfoundation.org



***Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.***

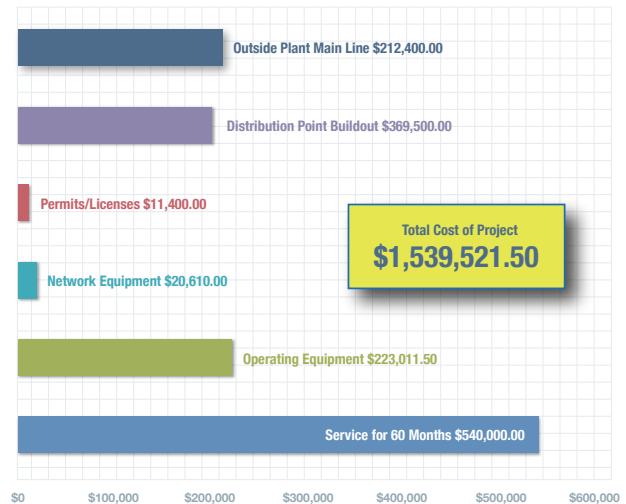
- Helen Keller

Aromas-San Juan Project

The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

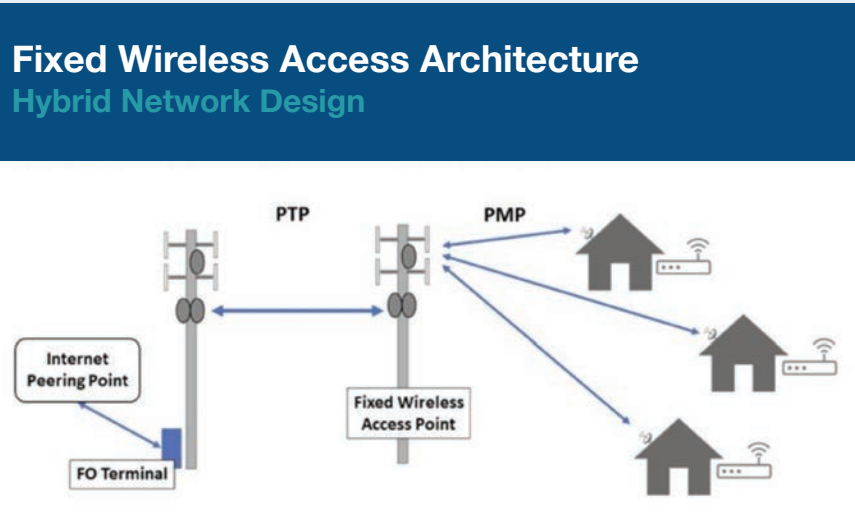
The Aromas San Juan Project will eliminate the Digital Divide for students living within the Aromas San Juan Unified School District boundary by providing fast, reliable internet access. The project will not only serve students from the cities of San Juan Bautista and Aromas but will include the unincorporated areas within the Tri-Counties of West San Benito, North Monterey and South Santa Cruz County. The Aromas San Juan project will serve approximately 600 students who are unserved at this time over a 140 mile area with challenging terrain.

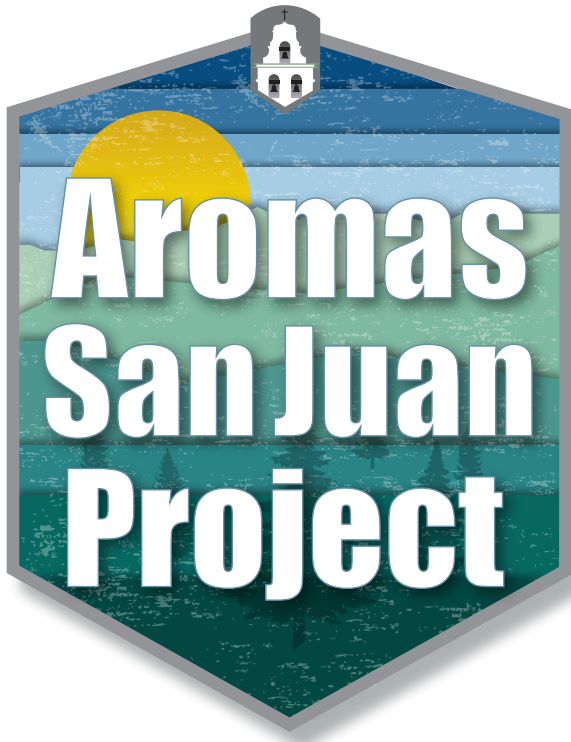
Our solution is a hybrid Fiber/Wireless network and Balanced Access in conjunction with Garlic.com and the Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista will provide the solution. Balanced Access has partnered with Garlic.com to build and maintain the necessary network in addition to providing the students with the broadband they need. The total cost of the project is \$1,539,521.50 Funding will pay for construction, equipment and service for the next 5 years. Each family enrolled in the Balanced Access Aromas – San Juan program will have all of the benefits of being a Garlic.com customer. Benefits include free 24x7 technical support 365 days per year, four @garlic.com email addresses and much more. In addition to broadband, our team will provide a WiFi router and technical



support to ensure students know how to use the tools provided. students and their families will utilize the router to gain access to the internet. South Valley Internet will filter content on behalf of the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District should that be their desire, otherwise SVI staff will educate the parents on how to use and much more.

Garlic.com staff will also provide the necessary education and support to ensure that all family members are comfortable using the broadband service provided. Knowledge of the service and the possibilities afforded by having reliable broadband is a key factor to the success of our deployment.





OUR MISSION

The goal of this very powerful team is to eliminate the Digital Divide for students in the K-12 school system living in the boundaries of the Aromas San Juan Unified school District.

How you can help

Please help empower the children in our community by giving them the fundamental educational tool of dependable internet access.

- Get involved! Visit balancedaccess.org
- Donate to this project. Visit balancedaccess.org/donate/ or send a donation to 200 E. San Martin Ave. #1430, San Martin, CA 95046
- Talk to your neighbors and tell them



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