

STRAWBERRY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (SPOA) UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE FOR STRAWBERRY

July 1, 2017

Introduction:

The following is a brief informational presentation on the:

- ! Background on the SPOA efforts to get high speed internet in our area
- ! The current status of getting high speed internet service to our area
- ! Costs of high speed internet service and contact intact information for local high speed internet providers

Background:

- ! In Sept. 2014, after SPOA's contacting potential internet providers, government agencies, local business, it was concluded Strawberry and neighboring communities lacked good high-speed internet and there were no plans to bring service to our area. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) considered our community as unserved.
- ! In early February 2015, SPOA was advised by Darrell Slocum of the Central Sierra Connect Program that Cal.Net was applying for state grant monies from the CPUC for to bring reliable high-speed internet to rural areas which included the upper HW 108 corridor including Strawberry.
- ! In March 2015, with support from SPOA and community and elected officials, Cal. Net submitted its grant package to the CPUC proposing to use a variety of different technologies to deliver fixed-wireless rural

broadband services including TV White Space in the UHF bands which works well in areas such as Strawberry which has thick tree stands and diverse geography.

- ! Cal.Net anticipated it would take 90-120 days to get approval. That would have put it at September 2015 at the latest.

- ! SPOA learned in a recent communication with representatives of the Sierra Nevada Communications Company, which is a current HW 108 Corridor internet service provider, that the company is now working on providing high speed internet service via fiber optics and cable to the Pinecrest and Strawberry communities.

Current Status of the Project:

- ! Regarding Cal.Net, in December 2016 the CPUC finally approved the project to go forward for providing high speed internet service for Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties. The CPUC approval document can be viewed on line. Google CPUC Resolution T-17502.

- ! In SPOA's latest communication with a Cal.Net representative, Mark Herr, this is a rundown of the project status:
 - o The CPUC and the grant require the project to be handled as one project for both counties, Tuolumne and Mariposa.

 - o This project will involve 31 new towers and 17 existing co-location towers.

 - o Once the leases for these sites are in place, Cal.Net's environmental consultants will proceed with the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review process. Simultaneously, with the submittal of CEQA documents to the CPUC, Cal.Net will submit required documents to Tuolumne and Mariposa counties to get necessary local approvals for building the high-speed internet project infrastructure.

- The schedule is largely dependent on approvals by the CPUC and Tuolumne and Mariposa counties.
 - Cal.Net optimistically anticipated all leases to be signed by mid-July and to submit CEQA documents to the CPUC and documents to Tuolumne and Mariposa counties by mid-September 2017.
 - According to Cal.Net, assuming timely approvals by the CPUC and Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties and barring any significant potential construction delays due to the snow season, they are hopeful they will be in a position to offer high speed internet to Strawberry residents by the spring/summer of 2018.
- ! With regard to Sierra Nevada Communications Company, although the specific details of Sierra Nevada Communication's proposed high speed internet service are not yet known, SPOA understands that:
- They are projecting to provide high speed internet service in the southwest area off Old Strawberry Road and will offer internet service on a block by block basis based on their ongoing assessment of their infrastructure.

- In the north area of Pinecrest, they have identified 98 homes, the Pinecrest Store, and the Fire Department as available for internet service and are continuing to assess providing internet service for the rest of the community.

Costs/Contacts:

- ! You may be asking what does this mean to me? What are these companies offering? How much internet speed should you really pay for?
- ! This is really a case by case determination based on your needs and budget.
- ! There is a wide range of high speed internet service plans and costs offered by Sierra Nevada Communications and Cal.Net. Please see attached information sheets for the details and costs of the internet service plans and costs.

- **Sierra Nevada Communications:**

Range of services from **Light User** (up to 5Mbps download speed, up to 1.0 Mbps upload speed, 50 GB's monthly data cap) at \$44.95 per month to **Power-User** (up to 12 Mbps download speed, up to 1.5 Mbps upload speed, 550 GB's monthly data cap) at \$119.95 per month.

Set up fee is \$49.95 with one year contract and \$149.95 without one year contract.

Equipment cost (Wi-Fi included) \$119.95 before taxes

- **Cal.Net:**

No monthly data caps, no installation fee, can use your own modem/router unit.

Range of services from **Wireless Basic** (1-3 Mbps download speed, 512 Kbps-1Mbps upload speed) at \$54.95 month to **Wireless Extreme** (18-25 Mbps download speed, 3-4 Mbps upload speed) at \$159.95 per month.

! Contact information:

- o Cal.Net:

4101 Wild Chaparral Drive, Shingle Springs, CA 95682

1-(530) 672-1078

Cal.Net for website link <https://www.cal.net/>

For technical issues, contact Ken Garnett

For sales, contact Steve Souza

- o Sierra Nevada Communications Company

16913 Army Dr., Sonora, CA 95370

1- (209) 588-9601

Sierra Nevada Communications website link
<http://gosnc.com/>

For technical and sales issues, contact Jacob Lopes