



ITD

Innovate • Transform • Deliver

Board Referral #2022.09

South Salinas Valley Broadband
Joint Powers Authority and
Proposed JPA Agreement

March 22, 2022



Board Referral #2022.09

- On Feb. 8, 2022, ITD was assigned referral #2022.09 to explore the potential of creating a Salinas Valley Five Cities Joint Powers Authority;
- ITD supports the JPA initiative which enables cities and County work together through
 - Collective vision and strategic planning
 - Cost sharing for administrative service;

JPA Agreement

- On Feb. 10, 2022, ITD was provided a proposed JPA agreement;
- JPA's purpose is to maximize the funding for “bringing broadband as a utility available to all residents at a low cost, by developing a Community, Publicly Owned Open Access Broadband Network (OABN)”;
- Appoint MBEP as the executive director, \$50K per year;
- A list of specific projects in Exhibit B:
 - a. Extend the Connected Central Coast middle-mile fiber route from Soledad to San Luis Obispo;*
 - b. Develop open access spurs off the Connected Central Coast fiber route to unserved and underserved areas;*
 - c. Implement various initiatives that benefit wireless internet providers;*

Summary of ITD Efforts

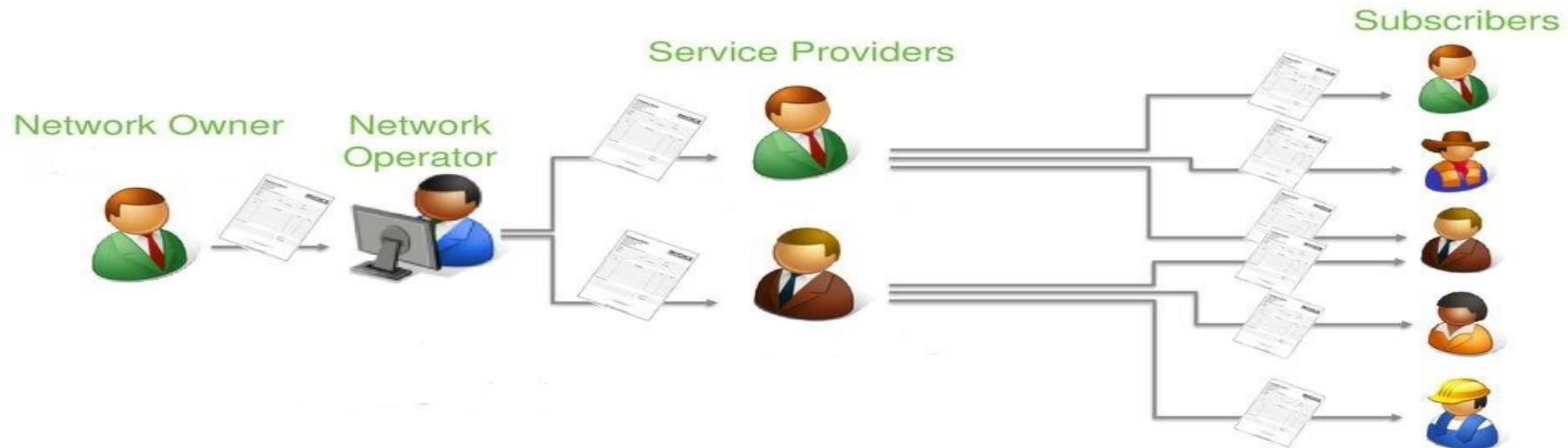
- Met with Counsel and CAO discussed and reviewed the JPA agreement;
- Met with Supervisor Lopez to get additional clarity;
- Met with Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), regarding broadband funding opportunities, and benefits of a regional JPA;
- Met with Utopia Fiber, regarding their open-access network business model;
- Met with Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), and discussed State Middle-Mile initiative;

Open-access Network

Open-access network can encourage Internet Service Provider competition and lower cost for subscribers;

The Open Access Business Model

Multiple ISPs on the same network compete for the end customers with quality and price of service



ITD Feedback to JPA Agreement

- ITD supports the open-access network approach that leverages Federal and State funds to pay for projects, rather than member contributions, to lower subscriber cost;
- Build the network expeditiously, leverage existing infrastructure where feasible, to help unserved and underserved;
- Remove specific projects and vendor names and keep the agreement general;
- The JPA could benefit the entire County if other districts or entities join;

Summary and Next Steps

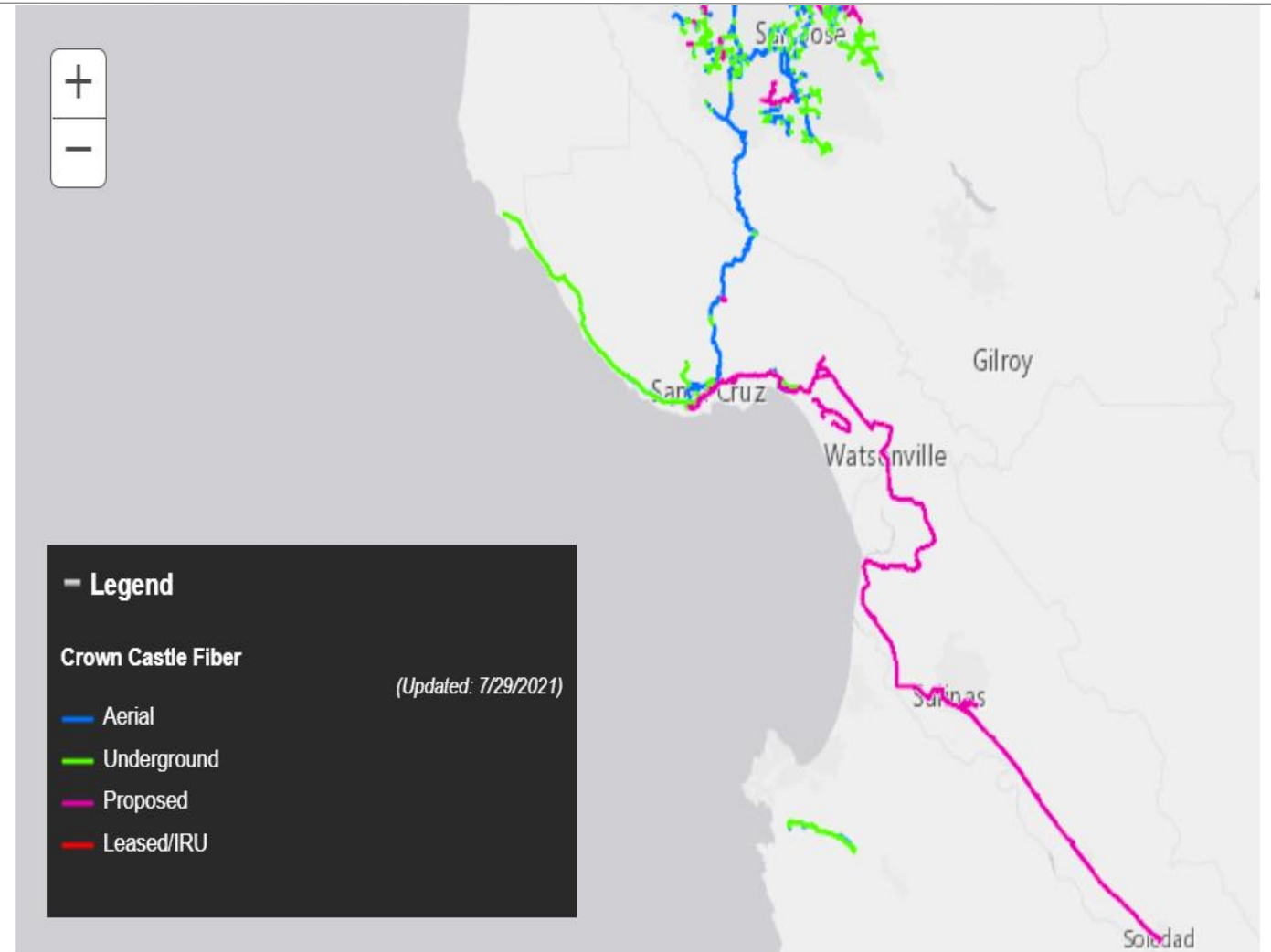
- ITD supports the proposed JPA and open-access network approach that leverages Federal and State funds, rather than member contributions;
- ITD likes to get Board directions on the next steps:
 - Option 1. Authorize the proposed JPA and agreement to move forward;
 - Option 2. Authorize the proposed JPA, and direct ITD to provide suggested modifications to the agreement;
 - Option 3. Direct ITD to come back with more information;
 - Option 4. Not to move forward;

Addendum 1. Other Broadband Projects

- *Connect Central Coast fiber project (addendum 2)*
- *State Middle-Mile project (addendum 3)*
- *RDOF (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund) project (addendum 4)*
- *County Broadband RFP last-mile projects (addendum 5)*

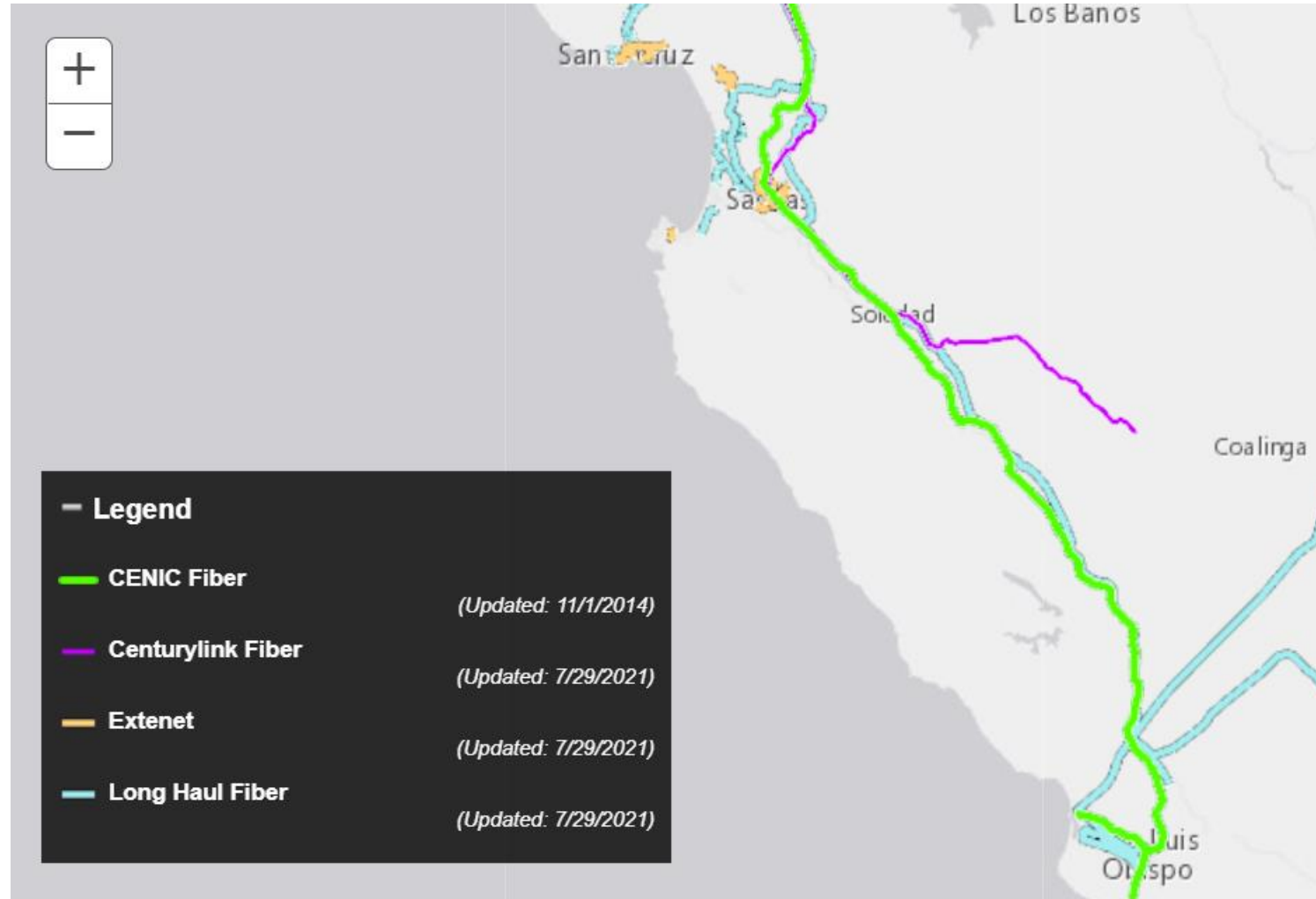
Addendum #2 Connect Central Coast Fiber Project

In 2017, 91-mile fiber from UC Santa Cruz to Soledad, with approx. \$13M funded by CPUC; Crown Castle owns the fiber with a discount program and open access mandate by CPUC expiring in April 2022;



Addendum #2 Connect Central Coast Fiber Project – Cont'd

Other Existing Fiber (published by CCBC)

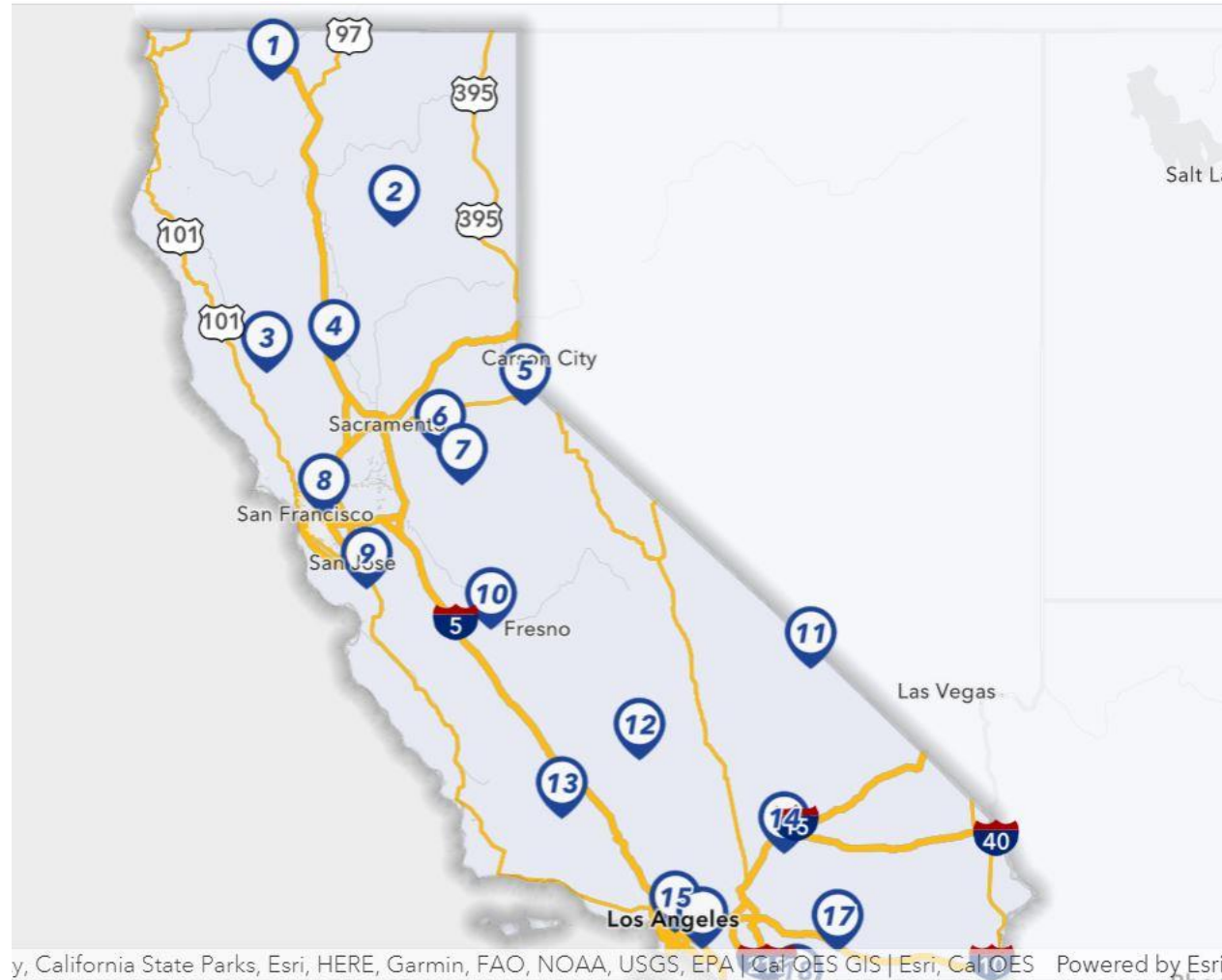


Addendum #3 State Middle-Mile Project

- An open-access middle-mile network prioritizing unserved and underserved communities;
- Upcoming 8000-mile fiber plan to be released in June 2022;
- GoldenStateNet, a subsidiary of CENIC selected as the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for the project;
 - CENIC is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1997 to provide free networking services to California universities, Libraries and schools.

Addendum #3 State Middle-Mile Project – Cont'd

State Middle-Mile Project Map



Addendum #3 State Middle-Mile Project – Cont'd

State Middle-Mile Project Map – Central Coast

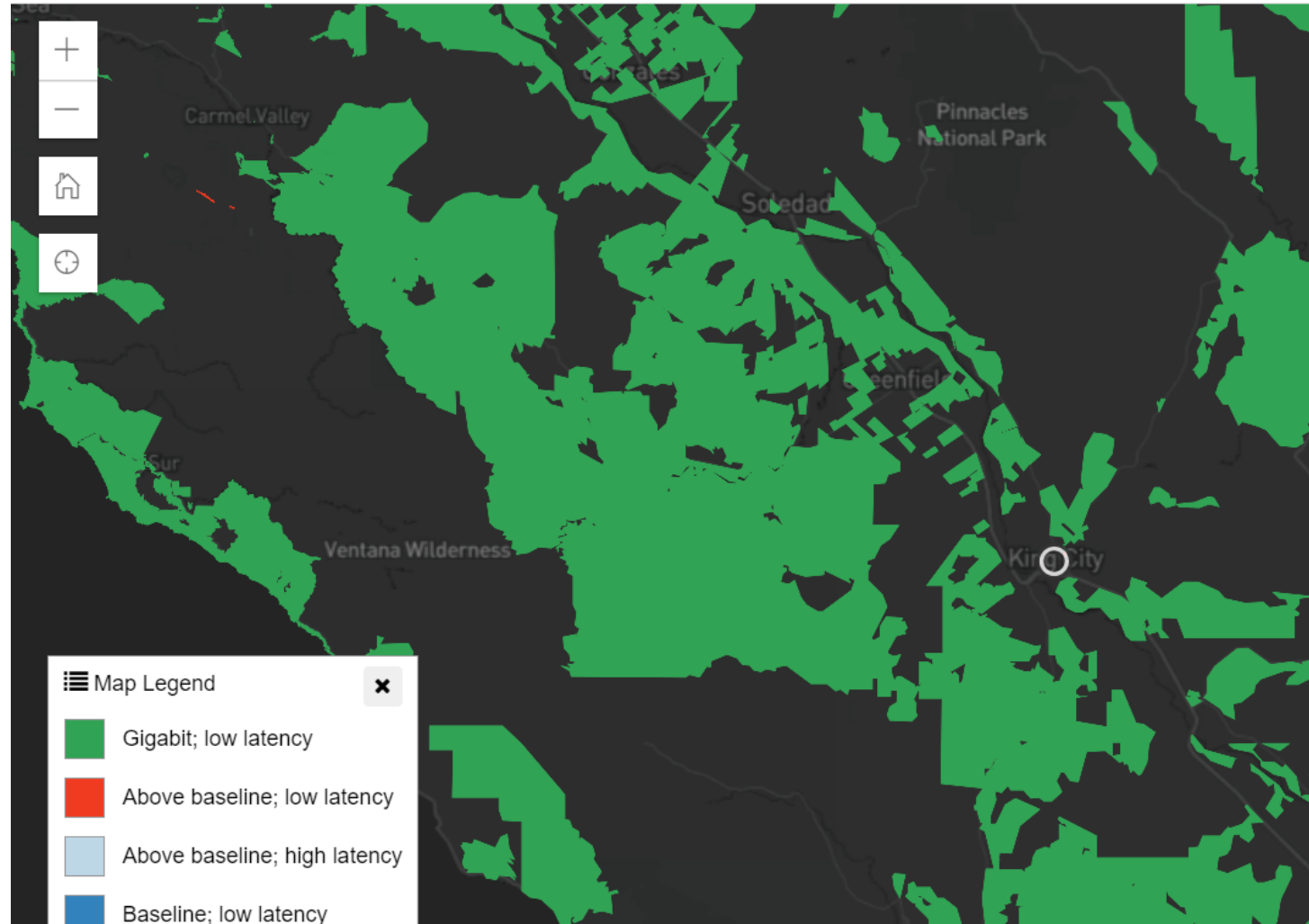


Addendum #4 RDOF Project

- In year 2020, FCC led Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction;
- 180 bidders won \$9.2 billion over 10 years to provide broadband to 5.2M locations;
- Etheric Network won most of the Monterey County area;

Addendum #4 RDOF Project – Cont'd

RDOF Project Map for Central Coast



Addendum #5 County Broadband RFP

- In June 2021 Board approved \$1.935 million in ARPA funds for broadband development;
- A Request for Proposal was released on September 23, 2021; Five vendor proposals with 16 projects were received;
- The following last-mile projects were tentatively selected :
 - Spectrum Pacific West, LLC – (San Ardo)
 - Spectrum Pacific West, LLC – (San Lucas)
 - Cruzio Internet – (North County and Salinas area)
- Agreement negotiations are in progress;