BUILDING RURAL AMERICA

Part 2: Regionals and Counties
Rise to the Connectivity Challenge
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Supervisor, King William County,
Virginia

GREG PUCKETT,
Commissioner, Mercer County,
West Virginia

CORPORATE HOST:
BROADBAND. MONEY

#BBCSUMMIT23
Hon. Greg Puckett

- County Commissioner, Mercer County, W. Va.
  - Proudly serving the last 8 years
  - County is primarily rural and roughly 60,000 in population
- NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Chair, member of the Board, and one of ten Commissioners on NACo’s Opioid Taskforce
- County is in dire need of high-speed internet connectivity – and counties in the area are working to create the business case for connectivity solutions
Mercer County, West Virginia

Population: 57,250
Broadband in Rural California
RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA

- Represent 40 of California’s 58 Counties
- Larger Than 28 States in Population
- Larger Than 40 States in Land Area
- Home to 15 of California’s 18 National Forests
- Home to 7 of California’s 9 National Parks
- Includes Main N/S and W/E Interstate Highway Systems in Western U.S.
- Advocacy, Business Development, and Economic Development Divisions
- Governed by Elected Supervisors from each County
GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY

- Formed Joint Power Authority
  - 40 Member Counties
- Program of Work Includes:
  - Broadband Strategic Planning
  - Capacity Building
  - Open Access Municipal Broadband Deployment
- Identified Financial and Operational Partners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HISTORIC $6 BILLION INVESTMENT</th>
<th>PROGRESS UPDATE – TWO YEARS LATER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3.2 Billion - Middle Mile</td>
<td>Identified 10,000 Miles of Projects – Started Build in Q4 2022 in San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>State-Owned Open Access Network</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$2 Billion – Last Mile</td>
<td>Program Applications Invited in June 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>$750 Million – Loan Loss Reserve</td>
<td>Anticipate Rule-Making Complete Q3 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50 Million – Local Agency Technical</td>
<td>First of Two Years Funded and Awarded – 39 of 40 Golden State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>Connect Authority Counties Received Awards</td>
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OPEN ACCESS, PUBLIC BENEFIT, LAST MILE, MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

**KEY PRIORITIES**

FIBER FIRST
CAPACITY
BROADBAND FOR ALL
LEVERAGE EXISTING RESOURCES & INVESTMENTS VIA PARTNERSHIPS
King William County, Virginia

Introduction
- Partnerships Thru ISPs With Energy Providers Rappahannock Electric Co-Op and Dominion Energy for Middle Mile – Prevalent in Virginia
- Community Anchor Institutions Supported

Demographics
- Population: 18,492
- Percent Change: + 3.8%
- Median Household Income: $74,592
- Poverty Level: 7.1%
- Land in Square Miles: 273.91
- Commute Time to Work: 38.2 mins (75%)
- Native American Tribes: 3
- Nearest Major City: Richmond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISP</th>
<th>Subscribers</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breezeline</td>
<td>~ 4000</td>
<td>Franchise Purchase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breezeline RDOF (2024-2025)</td>
<td>Est 2500</td>
<td>FCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEGRA (Lumos)</td>
<td>~ 10</td>
<td>Direct Procurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cox</td>
<td>~1200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Points Broadband (2023)</td>
<td>~ 2300</td>
<td>VATI</td>
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Contracts
- Routine Procurement Processes
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)
- Federal Communications Commission Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

Challenges
- No County Broadband Authority
- Lack of Integrated Management
- ISPs Guarding Information