



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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SECOND BROADBAND FORUM TO BE HELD

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to invite residents to a second Broadband Service Forum, giving residents a chance to directly hear from local broadband providers about existing and upcoming services.

Hosted by Board of Supervisors Chair Zach Friend and presented by the Santa Cruz County Office for Economic Development, the forum will provide residents a brief overview of County efforts to expand broadband and introductions by broadband providers, followed by a chance for residents to interact face-to-face with providers to learn more about existing offerings and future expansion plans. Confirmed participants include AT&T, Comcast, Cruzio, Etheric Networks, Loma Broadband, Ridge Wireless and Surfnet.

"Information access should be as basic as access to other utilities, such as electricity and water. Expanding broadband services has been one of my priorities since I arrived on the Board of Supervisors, and we hope these forums lead to benefits for residents throughout Santa Cruz County," Friend said.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Santa Cruz County Office for Economic Development have worked to improve broadband infrastructure throughout Santa Cruz County. In 2014, the Board adopted a "Dig Once" ordinance, and the OED has surveyed residents to map broadband deficiencies to solicit provider access improvements. (www.santacruzcounty.us/Departments/EconomicDevelopment/BroadbandSurvey.aspx)

WHAT: Broadband Service Forum

WHERE: Aptos Junior High School, 1001 Huntington Dr., Aptos

WHEN: October 18, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

For more on the Office for Economic Development, visit www.sccvitality.org.