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County of Monterey and Partners Mark Milestones in Broadband Expansion

Two rural areas in Monterey County are marking milestones as the County of Monterey expands essential internet services.

San Ardo and parts of North County are communities which are benefitting from the County of Monterey Broadband Project. This program has provided internet service availability to approximately 1009 households so far and is narrowing the digital divide in Monterey County.

Tackling the Digital Divide in Monterey County

For too long, North County and San Ardo have grappled with limited or no internet access, hindering residents' ability to engage in online learning, remote work, and staying connected with loved ones.

The County of Monterey Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$1.935M for broadband expansion and an RFP was released in September 2021 resulting in awarding contracts with Spectrum Pacific West, LLC and Cruzio Internet. Led by County Chief Information Officer Eric Chatham, the project was launched to expand broadband services in regions of North County, Southeast Salinas, Marina, San Ardo, and San Lucas.

"The recent completion of the broadband project in San Ardo and later this year in San Lucas is a transformative moment for our residents," says Supervisor Chris Lopez, County of Monterey District 3. "It demonstrates our commitment to ensuring equitable access to essential services for all residents, regardless of their income or location. We are grateful for the collaboration with Charter in making this vision a reality."

What Does This Mean for Residents?

This achievement represents a significant advancement, delivering essential internet services to residents. Through Charter's [Spectrum Internet Assist](#) and Cruzio Internet's [Equal Access](#) programs, low-income households will now have access to affordable internet services, further democratizing access to essential online resources and opportunities.

James Hackett of Cruzio Internet emphasized that this partnership highlights their dedication to closing the digital gap and empowering communities with the advantages of dependable internet access.

Next Steps in Broadband Expansion

This multi-region project will bring internet service availability to approximately 1865 households when fully completed later this year. Areas to be completed later this year include San Lucas, parts of North Monterey County, southeast Salinas and Marina.

“This multi-region project represents a significant investment in the future of our communities, fostering economic development, educational opportunities, and social connectivity,” says County of Monterey Supervisor and Chair of the Board Glenn Church. “Internet access is essential to people’s education and job opportunities for all ages. Internet access allows us to fully engage in our communities and local government. It is a service necessary for all residents to thrive.”

The completed regions are now poised to embrace the countless opportunities that come with reliable internet connectivity, setting the stage for a brighter and more inclusive future for residents.

For more information on the broadband expansion project, contact:

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To follow this work and see broadband updates: www.MCBroadbandforall.org

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