



For Immediate Release

February 2nd, 2014

Media Contact

Dan Cohen – O: 510.465.8294 / C: 510.282.7621

April Thomas – O: 510.550.8176 / C: 206.321.3850

MEDIA ADVISORY: Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015; 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Oakland Asian Cultural Center (388 9th St #290, Oakland)

EAST BAY LEADERS GATHER IN OAKLAND TO STRATEGIZE YEAR OF ACTION ON HIGH-SPEED INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

Event to include panel discussion with East Bay mayors including new mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaaf

Oakland, CA – On Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015 from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, the East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC) will engage leaders from East Bay counties in a discussion of how to improve broadband, or high-speed internet, in the region. The summit is part of EBBC's effort to work with civic, business and community leaders to identify how best to expand regional broadband infrastructure to be more competitive and accessible in the region.

"We are already beginning to see the fruits of our efforts to expand access to broadband in the East Bay," stated Darien Louie, Executive Director of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, a member of the Consortium's Steering Committee. "We have laid the groundwork over past years and are now ready to share exciting news on upcoming legislation, public/private partnerships to expand access to broadband and collaborative efforts to improve access to high-speed internet for low-income students."

The event will include a panel discussion beginning at 9:15 AM with Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland, Pauline Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, Robert Taylor, Mayor of Brentwood, and Mark Friedman, Mayor of El Cerrito on how cities can better support broadband infrastructure. Broadband providers will also gather at 9:45 AM to discuss opportunities to collaborate with local leaders, including representatives from Comcast, AT&T and Sonic.

Through a collaborative approach led by the community, the EBBC hopes to expand the region's ability to compete in a 21st century economy and identify the best ways to grow responsive, high-quality and cost-effective broadband. It also hopes to strengthen the lines of communication between broadband providers and the communities they serve. Most importantly, EBBC is working to improve quality of life in the region by using broadband to improve local education, safety, health and well-being.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015; 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

WHAT: "2015: A Year of Action" East Bay Broadband Summit

WHO: Speakers, who will also be available to speak to media, include –

- Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland
- Pauline Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro
- Robert Taylor, Mayor of Brentwood
- Mark Friedman, Mayor of El Cerrito
- Ken Maxey, Comcast
- Ken Mintz, AT&T
- Tara Sharp, Sonic
- Zoe Salnave, Youth Radio

WHY: The East Bay Broadband Consortium, comprised of a diverse group of important multi-sector organizations in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties, understands that for the East Bay to remain economically competitive in an innovation economy and to keep our communities healthy and strong, we must prioritize investing in a broadband infrastructure as we have invested in other infrastructures. The summit will help us plan for our region’s future needs and ensure that the entire East Bay can prosper and share in the opportunities that increased broadband capacity provides.

###

About the East Bay Broadband Consortium:

The East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC) is a regional initiative to improve broadband deployment, access, and adoption in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties through a collaborative regional approach. EBBC has two primary initiatives – the East Bay Broadband Infrastructure Initiative, which focuses on improving regional broadband infrastructure, and the East Bay Connects Digital Inclusion Initiative, which provides information on how to bridge the Digital Divide and acquire and use affordable broadband.

EBBC is organized by the Contra Costa Economic Partnership, the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the East Bay Community Foundation and the Solano Economic Development Corporation in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties. The Consortium receives primary funding from the California Public Utilities Commission and support from the East Bay Community Foundation, the Leshner Foundation and the California Emerging Technology Fund.