



PRESS RELEASE

July 11, 2017

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South Bay Cities Fiber-Optic Master Plan

Hawthorne – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), in partnership with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), have completed a Broadband Fiber-Optic Master Plan for the South Bay region to support job creation, business retention and layoff aversion. This assessment was paid for by the SBWIB and prepared by Magellan Advisors, a leading consultant for broadband infrastructure planning.

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access and capacity. The report examines how the South Bay region is currently served with broadband infrastructure and focused on the services available to cities, businesses and key economic development zones in the South Bay Area. An essential objective of the study was to confirm the region and South Bay businesses had access to services they needed at prices they could afford. In addition, the project examined what would be required in the future with recommendations on how to meet those needs.

One suggestion in particular was to consider the development of a regional fiber optic network called, “SMART-Net”; that would be available to all cities in the South Bay interconnecting them with high capacity, high speed internet access. Initially, this idea would be for city governments to use, but later could be expanded outward if desired by each city to support their economic growth. To fully explore this option, the SBWIB and the SBCCOG are working to launch Phase 2 of the project, which will assess the feasibility of the recommendations and consider more closely the benefits to each South Bay city.

Broadband speed and capacity is a crucial driver for job creation and economic growth and is also important for business retention and layoff aversion. Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director said, “We feel this issue is central to the health of the local economy. Investing in broadband infrastructure and ensuring businesses have the tools they need to stay competitive and be successful encourages innovation, economic growth and creates jobs.”

The fifteen South Bay cities the Fiber-Optic Master Plan analyzed included; Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and Torrance.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area, plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. Business and employment services are provided at no cost to the public.

To read the full report and for more information on the South Bay Fiber-Optic Master Plan visit www.sbwib.org/broadband or contact Chris Cagle at (310) 970-7700, ccagle@sbwib.org.

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The South Bay Cities Fiber-Optic Master plan is available for review at www.sbwib.org/broadband