

SUBJECT: You're Invited: Broadband Rural Access Information Gathering Session

Dear (Contact First Name),

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), in collaboration with Valley Vision and other community partners, is participating in research to form regional broadband priorities.

Valley Vision is guiding the scoping process, which is being funded by Sacramento Region Community Foundation and the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF). We are focusing on three opportunity areas: digital inclusion, rural access and "enterprise", which includes bolstering promising e-health initiatives and emerging technologies.

SACOG and Valley Vision are convening an information gathering session on rural access opportunities for the Sacramento region. *We would like to invite you to participate in this session:*

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, August 6th, 2009, from 1 to 3 PM

LOCATION:

Valley Vision, 2320 Broadway Street, Sacramento, CA. 95818

Click [here](#) for parking information.

You are invited because you have expertise and interest in improving access to broadband infrastructure and the benefits of its many applications for underserved and un-served rural areas throughout the region. These benefits include e-health and telemedicine, education, transportation, public safety, emergency services and e-government. A particular focus will be on the opportunities to support SACOG's Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) intended to strengthen rural economies; to identify new network opportunities, especially those offered by the California Telehealth Network; and to coordinate with CETF projects in the region.

At the session, we will ask you to consider the following questions:

- a. What are the current opportunities for increasing broadband infrastructure and utilization in our communities?
- b. What are the key opportunities to implementing a strategic rural access solution?
- c. If a collaborative approach were pursued, what top agenda items would maximize the benefit of a regional partnership?
- d. What resources can we leverage to optimize this effort?

We look forward to seeing you on August 6th. More information about the project can be found [here](#). *Please RSVP for this event by Friday, July 31, 2009 to Tara Thronson at (916) 325-1630 or Tara.Thronson@valleyvision.org.*

We thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Bill Mueller, CEO & Managing Partner
Valley Vision