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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: February 11th, 2025

Item: Nevada County Board of Supervisors Meeting

Topic: SR 25-0144

Proposed AT&T High Speed Internet Service Grant Award – Northern Alta Sierra

Submitted by: Paul Jewel (15501 Fay Road Grass Valley...Alta Sierra)

On behalf of...

Amy Cole and Deren Baker (15377 Fay Road)

Lana Coil (15438 Fay Road)

Howard and Dee Simpson (15409 Fay Road)

Ken Miele (15451 Fay Road)

Neighbor (15546 Fay Road)

Re: Message to Robb Tucker - Assistance needed with High Speed Internet along Fay Road Alta Sierra

From Lana Coil <lane@silverkeylegal.com>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 6:42 PM

To Deren Baker <deren1227@gmail.com>

Cc Paul Jewel <pj4music100@outlook.com>; robb.tucker@nevadacountyca.gov <robb.tucker@nevadacountyca.gov>; amy cole <amycole24@gmail.com>; Ken Miele <estragon122@gmail.com>

Hello Supervisor Tucker. I am an attorney practicing out of my home at 15438 Fay Rd and the internet service provided by AT&T is a constant source of frustration and presents numerous challenges to my productivity and professional image. The service is unreliable, applications freeze, large files take forever to upload, and the connection frequently drops. Virtual client meetings and webinars are disrupted by video lags, choppy audio and inability to smoothly share my screen. Options to mitigate these challenges are essentially nonexistent and I would greatly appreciate the ability to receive the high-speed internet available to my neighbors.

Lana Coil, Esq
(707) 386-0263

On Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 3:29 PM Deren Baker <deren1227@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Paul. Supervisor Tucker, to underscore Paul's point, I live in this dead zone and I have to subscribe to two internet providers (ATT&T and Verizon) and split them between work and leisure...and neither one performs well enough.

We would greatly appreciate any assistance you can lend to helping resolve this problem.

Regards,

Deren

On Wed, Feb 5, 2025 at 11:21 AM Paul Jewel <pj4music100@outlook.com> wrote:
Supervisor Tucker,

I am writing to request your assistance with an issue here in Alta Sierra. There are six houses on Fay Road that can't seem to make any progress on getting high speed internet service.

- 15377 Fay Road (Amy Cole and Deren Baker)
- 15438 Fay Road (Lana Coil)
- 15409 Fay Road (Howard and Dee Simpson)
- 15451 Fay Road (Ken Miele)
- 15546 Fay Road (Neighbor's name unknown)

- 15501 Fay Road (Paul and Michelle Jewel)

All six homes have low speed internet service, either ATT DSL or Verizon hotspots.

Optimum

To the north of us on Fay Road, Optimum High Speed Internet is available along Fay Road to 15308 Fay Road. Optimum has said it won't expand south of that address.

Race

To the south of us, Race Communications Fiber Optic service is available along Fay Road to 15535 Fay Road. Race has said it won't expand north of this address.

Oasis

I have had several conversations with Oasis Broadband in Truckee about getting them to provide service to our stretch of Fay Road. After three months of conversations there has been little to no movement.

So...the six houses listed above are caught in a "no man's land" for high-speed internet service. The distance from the end of the Optimum Service to the start of the Race service is approximately .2 miles (1,056').

Last Mile Internet Service Grants

I have had many conversations with Kari Sinoff at the Sierra Business Council (530-277-0676, ksinoff@sierrabusiness.org) about the status of high speed internet improvements throughout the county. She has kept me abreast of the current grant process. I understand that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors will be voting on Tuesday 2/11 to award the following internet last mile service grants:

1. AT&T

Aerial fiber technology to serve:

- a. "Northern Alta Sierra" (I'm not sure what area is specifically covered by this designation)
- b. Wolf Road/Higgins Corner

2. Oasis

Fixed Wireless technology to serve:

- a. Blue Tent/Harmony Ridge north of Nevada City
- b. Donner Summit

Obviously, the Oasis grant would not apply to our street in Alta Sierra. I don't know if the ATT "Northern Alta Sierra" grant covers our area. If it doesn't then we would like your assistance to help pressure somebody to close the gap on our street. We have been waiting patiently for years for an internet service upgrade and it is more than disappointing to see service being extended to areas with housing densities than come nowhere near what exists in Alta Sierra. Alta Sierra is the 3rd largest CDP (Census Designated Place) in the county and the largest single commuter shed for active workers. I imagine that our pocket on Fay Road isn't the only section of Alta Sierra that still lacks high speed internet.

How bad is it? My neighbor two doors down has Race Fiber. His speeds, down and up, average 1000MPS. My neighbor 3 doors up the street (the last house with Optimum) averages 350 MPS down and 250 MPS up.

The average speeds for those of us in no man's land using ATT DSL?

15 MPS down
1.5 MPS up

Many of us are professionals working from home and find it nearly impossible on a typical day to do video conference calls, download files of any reasonable size, etc.

Last thought? We are all getting killed up here on long term housing values because of the near impossibility of acquiring reasonably priced homeowner's insurance. Getting high speed internet into the homes in Alta Sierra would go a long way towards mitigating the property value damage caused by the problems with insurance. This seems like a win-win for everyone.

Paul Jewel
cell 650-224-2186

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Lana Coil
Attorney

SILVER KEY LEGAL
(707) 386-0263



SILVER KEY

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