

**State Route 96 Broadband Project
Orleans and Other Area Information**

Community Letters of Support

Revised: February 22, 2010

Please refer to www.jirwinconsulting.com/documents.htm for part 1 of this report

Letters from Orleans Community Members

Letters provided by area residents describing what it would mean to their lives to have broadband.

June 9, 2009

In Support of Broadband Internet

This is in support of our community getting broad band internet. For years, we have been way behind as far as technology is concerned. We as yet do not have electricity to some of our homes. That being the case, Internet becomes an issue. It is not an easy chore to get internet without a telephone. (For those of us with Internet, it costs at least \$60.00 a month, and that is not even the best package available through satellite internet)

Our community will be left behind, as usual, and the affect is far reaching. It not only affects the community that currently exists, it has a potential for the generations to come to be affected.

Our schools need ready access to the internet, and all that goes with it. We do have some access at the Tribal building, but that is incidental. And just a few have that access.

We need and deserve the same benefits that the community at large has. Our children should be able to come home, and do homework, using the computer, as children through out the nation do. Without this, they have a handicap that needs to be over come in order to function at the same level as children that have ready access to the internet.

And if I am right, it is the kids that catch on most readily to this type of technology. That window of opportunity may be missed just because we do not have the ready access to the internet that the rest of the nation has

Now, as for the rest of us. How many times have you heard, "You can get your degree over the internet"? How much do we miss by not having ready access to the internet? There is a generation out there that shops, pays bills, and who knows what, using the internet.

We struggle along, but it is not easy, I assure you.

It is important for us to have solid economic development in our area. The economic system is deeply tied into computers. The only internet service we have now is at the Yurok Tribal building, and the only ones that benefit are the ones that work there. What about potential small business owners that do not have access to the set up at the Tribal building?

We are an isolated community, and having broad band will lessen the isolation, and all that goes with it.

Please give this serious thought. I would bet there are many advantages out there that we do not even know about, and we need all the advantages we can get. This area is economically challenged, and I do not feel having broadband is an option. I feel it is a necessity.



KARUK TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Orleans Medical Clinic
Drawer 249 Orleans, CA 95556
Phone: (530) 627-3452 Fax (530) 627-3445

August 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked by our local computer education specialist, Bari Talley, to address the question of broadband connection to the community of Orleans.

I am a family practitioner who runs a primary clinic in Orleans. I am the only doctor for 75 miles.

It takes the Emergency Medical System ambulance about 35-45 minutes to respond to the clinic.

We therefore are in the position of having to provide emergency stabilization in addition to the other services that are normally provided through a primary care office.

We also serve a lot of patients by phone who are unable to come to the clinic because of lack of transportation.

Of course, our phone lines are also critical for communication during emergencies.

I have been working here for six years and communication has been very problematic since I have arrived.

Our main telecommunication is currently computer-based. It is quite unreliable and our Information Technology department has just told me that there were over 100 service interruptions in our main line during the last month.

I have had at least four occasions when communication has been interrupted during a life-threatening emergency. The most recent was last week. We could not utilize the 911 call system.

We have landlines as back up, but we have regular problems with their function also.

I presume that a fiber optic line would - by its very nature - be much more reliable than our current phone lines.

As the physician in this community, my primary need for increased access to the web is for increased reliability of the connection.

I would be happy to discuss this critical issue with anyone in person.

Please feel free to contact me at the number above or at mwillett@karuk.us.

Respectfully yours,

Michael W. Willett, MD

**Junction Elementary School
98821 Highway 96
Somes Bar, CA 95568
(530)469-3373**

August 6, 2009

Re: In Support of Broadband in Orleans

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of continuing broadband service in Orleans. As the only teacher in our K-8 grade school, I have benefitted greatly by being able to provide myself and my students with fast, reliable, free access to the internet at the Orleans Computer Center. We have been fortunate to visit the Orleans Computer Center on a weekly basis, thanks to the efforts of the Karuk Tribe and volunteer time of Bari Talley.

Our students are often the victim of the digital divide, which due to geographic isolation, poverty and the underfunding of our schools, limits their access to cutting edge technology and resources available to students in more urban areas. Currently, we only have dial-up access at our school site, which severely limits the capabilities of our students to use the internet as a learning tool. Our computers are outdated and slow. On our weekly visits to the Computer Center our students have been able to access current events, and conduct sophisticated research on the internet. Since we have no local newspaper, and many of my students do not have television, or even electricity, they are often unaware of current events and how they impact the state of our nation, now and in the future. Most of my students do not own a computer, and only two out of the twenty-five students I teach have internet access at home. My student's are amazed by the wealth of information available to help them learn about many topics, from math to science to social studies, and I appreciate the opportunity to enhance the learning of my students in a timely manner.

The access provided by the Orleans Computer Center allows me to better prepare my students for their academic and professional futures. Computer literacy is an essential skill in today's world and job market. The services provided by the Orleans Computer Center are immensely valuable to our community, help us to better prepare the children of our area to participate and compete in a larger arena.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of our computer center. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at the number above.

Sincerely,

Andrea Butler-Crosby
K-8 teacher

To Whom it may concern at the RCC,

I am the owner of an internet based Medicinal plant nursery in Orleans, CA known as Crimson-Sage Nursery. My business is mail order and most of my business is from online customers through my web site. Having an online business in our remote community is a very viable way to make an income living here, yet internet access has been a huge stumbling block for all of us operating such businesses. I have had to invest in my own satellite system out of desperation because our dial up service is so slow and unreliable, and the satellite also at times is both slow and limited in its ability to transmit the information I need to run my business in an efficient manner. It would be a huge benefit for my business and our entire community to have decent internet access. My high school age children would both like to access online classes from home but without high-speed internet, online learning is very difficult. We live in such a remote area and high speed internet could be playing a much bigger role for everyone here, in terms of education, development of small , locally based businesses, and giving our community the access to the world wide web that most other communities today already enjoy. Thank you for giving our request the serious consideration it deserves.

Sincerely,

Tina Glaessner

The internet service I have available in my home is expensive, extremely slow, and unreliable. In today's world, it is necessary to have internet and e-mail service to efficiently use health insurance, retirement benefits, and access medical information. Some services are only available through the internet. My husband and I are getting to the point in life where these services are essential to our existence in Orleans. The people in the Orleans community deserve the option of cell phone and internet use.


Leslie Burrows
Orleans, CA.

In Support of Broadband for the Orleans community:

I am an online student at CSU Chico, and quick internet access makes it possible for me to attend school from this rural location. Getting broadband service to our community would improve access not only for me, but also for my children, who are college bound in the near future. Please consider the importance of this service to the rural residents of the Orleans area and provide us an equal opportunity to have access to this necessity.

In addition, having this service would improve the chances of small home-based businesses to succeed. Although we live in this remote location, we deserve to have all the chances to improve our standards of living and be sustainable within our community without the need to commute to the city areas.

Finally, a broadband connection would create a positive impact on public safety for the residents of this area.

Please consider this request seriously, and help our community reach forward into a better future.

Respectfully yours,

Irene Treesong

In support of Broadband,

I am a 9th grade student living in Orleans and I think that our community would benefit from Broadband.

First of all, I am interested in taking online college classes that are not offered at my high school. Broadband would help students with distance learning.

Second, Broadband would reduce hours of driving for those of us who go to Eureka or Arcata to file any legal papers or just get onto a fast internet connection.

Broadband would give people something more to do with their time. In our rural area, there isn't much to do. Kids would love a fast, easy internet connection.

Sincerely,

Olea Treesong

July 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Ayukii and hello. I am a college student, and a Native American youth and resident of Orleans, CA. I am attending Southern Oregon University on a highly prestigious scholarship provided to me through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I depend highly on the Orleans Computer Center when I am at home in order to maintain a high level of academic excellence. I need to have access to both computers, the internet, and phone lines in order to stay on top of my school and scholarship responsibilities. At the moment the Orleans Computer Center provides these for me. However, we need more. We need to be better connected via broadband. Myself and my family, as it is for many local residents, have none of the modern conveniences that are needed to be successful in these modern times. As a Karuk tribal member I am very active in the ceremonies and culture of my people. Because of this I am required to leave my school for extended amounts of time. Without the computer center I would be left without a means to do my school work and without a way to communicate with my numerous bosses and supervisors at school. I could not even fill out my FAFSA. This is the case for many college bound residents like my sister Vikki Preston who is currently attending the University of California Berkley. The Computer Center allows for us to not have to choose between school and success and our culture. For us, that is huge. However, students like us need more than what the computer center can provide at this time.

By connecting us to the rest of the river communities and to the rest of the world by putting us on the grid with broadband connectors, we could do so much more. As it is, the computer center is 20 minutes from our house. If we had broadband at our own home I could afford to stay home all summer, and youth like me wouldn't have to sacrifice convenience and sustainability for our way of life when we are thinking about our living situations later on in life. Community members could stay in this community without having to spend hundreds on gas money to go to Orleans and to Hoopa, and tribal members could better utilize the online culture and language classes. Kids could be off of the streets and out of trouble if they had more to do at home. We could all do so much more with Broadband.

Please connect us via broadband so that we can do more and be more.

Yootva,

Maymi Preston

(707)499-9230

Maymi_Preston@hotmail.com



Orleans Volunteer Fire Department

P.O. Box 312
Orleans CA, 95556
Voice: 530-627-3344

38176 State Hwy 96
Orleans CA, 95556
Fax: 530-627-9209

Bari Talley, Coordinator
Orleans Computer Center

August 3, 2009

Subject: Community Broadband Benefits

The Orleans Volunteer Fire Department supports efforts to extend broadband service to our small rural community in eastern Humboldt County. I believe broadband would provide our small all volunteer fire department with greater opportunity for training, outreach, and would position the department to benefit from web-based training opportunities and future communication technology. In short, access to affordable broadband would allow our small isolated department to increase the level of service we offer the communities we serve. Benefits would be measured in lives saved and property protected.

Broadband access would enable our department to utilize web based training opportunities that are currently unavailable. Individual department members utilize home dial up connections that are too slow to participate in these opportunities. Our small community is located far from regional training centers where public safety courses are taught. This puts department personnel at a disadvantage when it comes to training, lowering the capability of our volunteers. Long travel distances and the high cost of commuting create an undue hardship for a department with scarce resources. Web-based training opportunities could increase our access to these critical training opportunities.

Funding small rural fire and rescue operations has become nearly impossible in the current day economy. Firefighting equipment and safety gear is expensive. Small departments such as ours cannot outfit our members with safety gear & equipment without access to federal, state and private grant programs. Increasingly these grant programs require broadband connections to develop and submit competitive grant proposals.

Today's emergency services and fire response area maps and dispatch information is accessed through web based GIS platforms that our small department lacks the bandwidth to access. The GIS programs provide for pre-attack fire planning and development of firewise neighborhoods. Having broadband access would allow greater utilization of these computer based tools to develop neighborhood maps and prepare overall community protection plans. The same tools provide a means to add spatial data to our

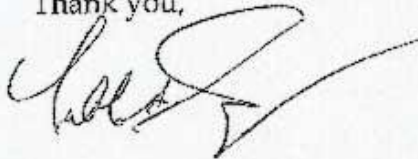
incident response reporting. This can be valuable for improving future emergency response and for developing community protection measures.

Finally, future communications capability will likely require broadband access. Emergency dispatch and incident communications are critical in getting appropriate resources on scene and in getting victims to appropriate medical facilities. Without broadband access, we will be unable to benefit from future communication improvements that could benefit our community.

In summary, broadband access is more than beneficial to our volunteer fire department, it is critical to our mission. The current lack of affordable bandwidth prevents us from participating in wide ranging training opportunities, limits our access to critical funding sources, and limits our access to GIS planning tools. Building broadband infrastructure will provide access to these resources and will improve emergency services to community members and visitors alike. We provide services to a large transient population travelling into the area for recreation, hunting, fishing, hiking, and rafting. These visitor groups outnumber the resident population by a large margin.

While we are unable to serve as an anchor for a future broadband network, we will be an important subscriber & offer any additional support we are capable of providing. We look forward to participating in efforts to bring this critical infrastructure to our rural community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way I can support your current campaign.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Salberg', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd Salberg,
OVFD Fire Chief

P.O. Box 304
Orleans, Ca 95556

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Fruitwood Farms

August 4, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a small business owner living in the town of Orleans, a rural community along the Klamath River. This area is very productive for my orchards, but the lack communication infrastructure severely limits my business opportunities.

Having access to high speed internet would make a tremendous difference to my business and my personal life. The current options for internet access are costly and slow, leaving me behind my competitors in this way. Because the phone system is unreliable dial-up access is slow and intermittent, calls are frequently dropped and 'blips' in the line interrupt downloads, taking up valuable time. I have tried Satellite service but found it is extremely expensive and not substantially faster than dial-up.

As a farmer, I cannot afford to off take days at a time to attend meetings and workshops. However, it is important for me to keep current; others in my industry do this on line. The limited internet access in Orleans means I am not able to attend 'virtual' meetings and workshops that are available to my competitors just a mile up the road. The lack of adequate access is restricting my ability to participate in important industry updates

The limited internet access in our area continues to have a negative impact on my business. My business is ready to expand and increasing markets through the internet is the next logical step. In order to grow my business I need broadband in our community.

Sincerely,

Kirk Terrill

Kirk Terrill
Owner

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Home of the Perfect Pear

In Support Of Broadband In Orleans, CA

By Shelly Slusser, teacher 3rd/4th and 5th Grade
Orleans Elementary School, Orleans, CA

Aug. 3rd, 2009

I have been a teacher and community member in Orleans since 1979. I have taught almost all the grade levels here from 2nd to 8th grade in those past 30 years.

I am pleased to say that in the past 3 years our school has been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit the Community Computer Lab in Orleans during school hours twice a week. My students receive quality technology tutoring using the T1 internet line that is connected to the public school on a special arrangement with our school district. Not only are our students allowed to visit during school time, but are also invited to visit with community members after school until 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday. Considering 48% of our students are low income and don't have the privilege of owning a computer with broadband internet access at home, this Community Lab is vital to school age children as well as adults who would like to earn a degree on line.

Orleans is now facing a grave problem. Our Community Computer Lab has been given a notice that the T1 internet service from the public school is going to be discontinued. T1 was all the community lab had and now that will leave our community with no public internet access and will leave our students without an opportunity to research after school on the internet.

As a teacher, I feel handicapped with the internet services that our school is limited to and following is an example. After attending an inservice at the HCOE, I was so excited to teach my students videoconferencing with the California State Park Service. Unfortunately, my school district's T1 line does not have the internet capacities to video conference, so my students are not able to do what other California students are doing. Other students in our state have high speed and dependable internet, but we have only T1 that is not fast and is not dependable and not available at our community lab anymore. Therefore, my students do not have the same opportunities to stay caught up with the rest of the state and once a student gets behind, it is so hard to get caught up.

High speed broad band is a necessary service that Orleans needs as much as anybody else. Our students are entitled to a fair education that other students in California are receiving and this includes high speed broadband internet.

Please contact me if I can be of anymore assistance to you and the need of Broadband internet service in Orleans.

Shelly Slusser



Mid Klamath Watershed Council

P.O. Box 409, Orleans, Ca 95556

Tel: (530) 627-3202

Fax: (866) 323-5561

www.mkwc.org

August 4, 2009

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council operates a community center, called the "Panamnik Building," in Orleans, California. One of the goals of the community center is to provide entrepreneurs to the resources they need to make a living in our rural community. So many of our local residents' houses do not have telephone or electrical services. They rely on community facilities in order to access telephones, copy and fax machines, and internet. The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) strives to be able to offer these resources, but it is difficult to offer internet access to the community without broadband infrastructure.

Currently, MKWC uses satellite internet. This internet option is expensive (\$90 per month) and extremely limited in available bandwidth. We currently have the largest plan available in our area. Our bandwidth usage is metered. If we go over our available bandwidth in a 30-day period, our internet access is throttled. In addition to functioning as a community center, the tenants of the Panamnik Building employ a significant number of people in this rural community. When our internet access is limited, we have to cut the community off from internet access. At times, the community is unable to access the internet for over a week at a time.

As a community in transition from a natural-resource based economy to a more diverse economic base, we need technological infrastructure. Living in a rural community, people are increasingly reliant on the internet to make a living. While gas prices are increasing nationwide, this week gasoline and diesel are 60 cents more per gallon than in the Arcata/Eureka area. The Arcata/Eureka area is about a 100 minute drive from the Orleans/Somes Bar area and is our closest large town. We rely on the internet for a significant portion of our banking, shopping, and business needs. It is unfortunate that our internet is unreliable.

Please consider this plea for broadband internet technology in the Orleans area.

Sincerely,

Luna Latimer
Associate Director
Mid Klamath Watershed Council

August 3, 2009

To whom it may concern,

I will attempt to list some/most of the things our household currently do the 'old fashioned' way since we do not have broadband internet access. These same actions would be much more enjoyable experiences on the internet, & save us a lot more of our time for more enjoyable life events if we had broadband internet access available to us at our home in the north western part of California (Orleans, Humboldt County).

Due to our remote location we currently only have slow dial up service available for our internet access. Even expensive satellite internet service is not available to us at our address. We have tried that route; to no avail, and have been left with very frustrating dial up internet access for years now. Even our slow dial up internet service is not always available to us. Our current telephone service comes in to our community via a microwave repeater system. During stormy weather, foggy weather, or smoky weather from forest fires it is not uncommon for us to loose our telephone service & internet service altogether.

The items that would provide the greatest impact to our personal lives in Orleans, CA would be items 8 & 12, listed below. Being able to use a program such as Skype to keep in touch with our families living & visiting overseas, and those serving in the military would be significant to our happiness & peace of mind (Germany, Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Washington, & Nevada). The rest of our families visit regularly on Skype, Facebook, etc. Due to Skype not working via dial up internet access we miss out on these virtual reunions. Since we are now in our 50's we cherish each opportunity we get to be in touch with our loved ones. We do still use the snail mail way of keeping in touch, and we appreciate it. But, we feel that our lives would be greatly enhanced being able to join in on the family gatherings that take place over the internet, and by actually being able to 'see' our family members in the military occasionally.

Being able to stay alerted to the status of natural disasters throughout the world is also important to us. But it is especially important to us to stay alerted to water levels of the Klamath River during high water events. Since our dial up service is so slow and frustrating we are not connected to the internet unless we drag ourselves to the computer to hook up. This is a disadvantage to us during winter storm & wildfire events. It would be better for our community members to constantly stay alerted to high water levels, and health impacting poor air quality levels from wildfire smoke. Broadband access would allow us to stay connected and alerted to impending dangers to our community members; especially for taking care of our elders, and those with illnesses.

Also, during winter storm events it is not uncommon for travel on our roads in and out of our community to be impacted. When we cannot get in or get out of our community via our roads I can imagine that having the broadband internet access link to the outside world being a tremendous asset to all in our community. No one knows right now of the lives it might save, or which of our natural resources that would benefit from keeping us informed & alerted and ready to act.

Here are some additional actions that would be greatly improved for our family if we could have broadband access available for us to subscribe to (in no particular order):

- 1) Work for charities/companies; that work towards helping to develop alternative fuels for remote sites
- 2) Small business work, (become more competitive for govt. contracts)
- 3) Online banking
- 4) Home based business work
- 5) Art work (shared internationally)
- 6) Tribal networking (keeping tribal members downriver alerted to chemical spills that occur upriver... getting them out of the river before being contaminated by dangerous chemicals)
- 7) Green shopping: Savings in fuel – due to long drives (1 ½ hours each way) currently necessary to do shopping of any kind living in our remote location (we have only minimal grocery shopping available locally).
- 8) Keep in touch via virtual reunions with family & friends overseas & in the military, and in remote locations of Alaska (they already have broadband, & are already using Skype with other family members) during holidays, birthdays, etc. more often via i.e. Skype. We seem to be the only ones still living in the 'dark ages' of our technology world.
- 9) Do research without having to drive 1 ½ hours to the nearest place to conduct genealogy work
- 10) Correspond with contractors in a more timely manner than via snail mail or telephone only
- 11) Keep up with current events since we don't get periodicals/dailies delivered here the same day as when they are published.
- 12) Keep informed in a timely manner regarding natural disasters; especially for those that directly affect our community, since we live in the mountains along a flood & wildfire prone river corridor
- 13) Being able to download updates to software programs via the internet (right now via dial up, it is usually not possible to download software updates due to line noise, and long down load times via our ancient telephone lines in Orleans, California)
- 14) Downloading music files
- 15) Uploading music files we create to share with family/friends
- 16) Finding & downloading new recipes

Please keep our community in mind for aid to acquire broadband internet access. It would enrich the lives of many people here.

Thank you very much for your consideration and any help you can provide to bring this valuable tool to our community. It would be greatly appreciated for many generations to come.

Sincerely,



Millie Black-Graber

Red Cap Road, Orleans, CA

August 3, 2009

Roberta Coragliotti
P.P. Box 426
Orleans, Ca 95556

July 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

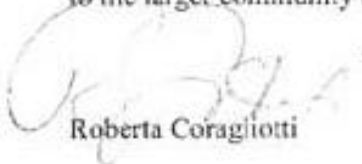
I am writing in support of broadband services in the Orleans area. Access to reliable phone service and high-speed internet will change my life. I dream of communicating with my family, running my business and revitalizing my community, as most others do - through access to the internet.

I would like to offer our children opportunities to learn and grow with the rest of the world, but we are limited by the inadequate communication infrastructure. I believe my community deserves equal access to this technology. In fact, its very survival depends on it.

These rural areas have been hit hard by the collapse of the timber and fishing industries. Without prospects for employment our children face unacceptable choices, such as, leaving their home and families, a life of poverty or participating in illegal activities. A few small farms and cottage businesses are developing, but isolation and poor communication service is limiting their growth. In order for these businesses to thrive and other small business to develop, access to dependable high-speed internet is critical.

There has been a lot of talk about "Rural Development" but without equal access to reliable phone service and high-speed internet rural communities continue to be caught in economic and social isolation. The lack of opportunity for our children today means the larger community will pay a higher cost in social support programs tomorrow.

This lack of 'fiber' in our community translates into very limited choices for our children. With this one tool, our community can grow business, improve education, and provide access to services for our elders. In this way we will help ourselves and provide benefits to the larger community through tax dollars and innovative new ideas.



Roberta Coragliotti

In support of Broadband for Orleans:

Ayukii, I'm a Karuk tribal member whose career emphasis has been education, art, and working for the Native American community. I'm a Student Services/Library Coordinator at the Community Computer Center in Orleans--helping adult students achieve their educational goals. I also volunteer/teach computer skills to local elementary classes, because I can see clearly the students' academic and career survival is dependent upon having computer skills.

Some of the student projects include a Karuk language book with illustrations made on the computer, and learning skills for successful online learning. Broadband would help revitalize traditions and enhance our students' education. Online learning classes can be very frustrating/impossible without high-speed internet. Students want to learn & keep up with today's technology—it would be a terrible waste to lose that enthusiasm by letting them get impossibly behind.

The Karuk Community Development Corporation purchased teleconferencing equipment for the computer center that could be used to offer real-time classes, hold meetings, and save time and money on transportation; however, we cannot use the equipment because we don't have the bandwidth.

Currently, our community members have to pay more for less service—and as a community, have less money to do so. At my home, we have 2 land lines, 3 cell phones and an air card. The land lines are connected to an antiquated microwave telephony system, which frequently fades and drops—and we don't get cell service. However, with a small home business, a husband who works on a tugboat, and 3 daughters, access is important. Broadband would be much cheaper and vastly superior.

Public safety is also at issue here because of the unreliability of our phones/communication. We don't have any local radio stations either.

It is very difficult to run a business when the phone lines get dropped in the middle of a transaction; or trying to download files for my desktop publishing business on dialup. The lack of services is holding our community back.

I know of community members who have moved, because they were tired of the lack of service. I know of people who own homes up here who would love to live here, but don't because of the lack of services.

Our community members need and deserve equality in services. We should have the ability to live in our homeland, grow strong in our culture, and be equal contributors to our community, nation and world.

Sincerely,

Bari G.M. Talley

August 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Meredith Klein-Morehead. I am a resident of Orleans, California, and a mother of a young son. I work as a tutor and run the After School Program at Orleans Elementary School. I can not begin to describe how useful having accessible internet access would be for me and my students.

I would love to be able to take classes offered at Humboldt State University and get myself closer to a teaching degree. I also would find it extremely helpful to be able to research games and other after school crafts and activities for the students.

As a mother in a somewhat isolated community, I would love to be able to network with other moms for advice and knowledge. I would also like my toddler to become comfortable around computers.

I am also a Certified Chef, and have done some catering in town. I have gotten these jobs mostly by word of mouth, but it would be wonderful to be able to have a website with which to advertise.

Living in a remote location also limits my contact with my family, who are eager for news of me and my son. It is not easy for them to come and visit often, and the internet, and programs such as Skype, would help us feel connected.

Presently, my only access to the internet is at the Computer Center, which, although well run, is not very convenient, as my prime computer time is when my son is napping, and I can't leave him home alone.

I would urge you to help this community get broadband access and connect with the rest of the world.

Sincerely,

Meredith Klein- Morehead

To whom it may concern,

Orleans **needs** broadband! Because we are a small, remote town, there are few opportunities for jobs, higher education and recreation. Our current system of dial-up is so slow, out dated and just plain irritating that it discourages any use beyond e-mail. And even that is limited.

Orleans is an hour and a half from the nearest town large enough to provide many job opportunities. With broadband, many people could work from home. One example is artists selling online. Currently, this is too slow and cumbersome because of the large amount of photos that need to be used.

Broadband would open education for both adults and kids. I took a class to introduce myself to on-line learning and a big part of what I learned was that my connection was too slow to allow me to take full advantage of what's out there. It simply took too much time to do any kind of research. I have tried downloading educational programs for my kids but most of them I can't do at all because it would take three to six **hours** to do it.

We are a tiny community- we have no library, movie theater, mall, recreation center, gym, all the things that are usually used by kids to keep them occupied and out of trouble. High-speed internet could provide something reasonably safe for our kids to do in their off time.

Part of the reason our internet connection is so hard to deal with is that it is run through our micro-wave phone system which tends to go out at the most annoying times. It just goes dead from a few seconds to a couple hours at a time! Nothing goes out and nothing comes in. We do not even have cell phone service as a back up. Having a different method of communication that does not rely on that system could be vital in emergencies.

I sometimes feel cut off and out of step from the rest of the world- no local news or weather on satellite TV, no radio, no way of knowing what is going on in our state or even our own county. During the winter this can be especially bad because our roads are closed on a regular basis. This means no mail and no newspapers. Broadband could help us keep up with current affairs.

Jobs, education, recreation, safety and communication- we deserve what most of America already has and takes for granted. We need broadband!

Michele Kirste
Po Box 206
Orleans CA
95556
530-627-3217

Sophie Elisabeth Neuner
Fritz-Muellerstr. 63
82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Germany

August 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In a world in which modern technologies have opened possibilities never imagined, even to its remotest of corners, an efficient internet connection meeting international standards is of the highest necessity to gain access to the world community and thus, enabling the local community to be stabilized and strengthened.

From this standpoint, I urge you to help assure the accessibility to broad band service for the town of Orleans, California.

Orleans is a small village situated in the Klamath Mountains of Northern California. Boasting a long Native American history, it is home to tradition and cultural heritage. As the land prospers, however, its people, though full of hope, are facing difficulties and hardships absolutely futile regarding connections made possible by the world wide web.

As a daughter of a German father and an American mother with Karuk Indian descent, I live and go to high school in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Every summer, my family returns to Orleans to visit friends and family and the home we have had since our earliest childhood.

When we depart for Germany for the rest of the year, however, it is impossible for us to participate and contribute in tribal and community life. The options that high-speed internet offer would help greatly in communication and involvement for tribal members living elsewhere, as in our case, thus tying the people together.

On several occasions my siblings and I have tried to communicate with our cousins and grandparents via webcam on the internet communication service. Every time, we failed due to insufficient transmission speed.

My mother is currently taking an online university class towards a master's degree in adult education and would have wished to continue participation during the summer. That too, is not possible.

At this point, I would like to point out that broad band connection not only opens doors to communication and cultural exchange, but, perhaps most important, furthers education. The wish to continue and emerge in a profession is strong. A strenuous and dangerous two hour drive to the next college is much more than most can (financially as well as physically and time-wise) take on.

My Aunt is very much involved in the Elementary School of Orleans and has been offered to take classes to become a special-aid teacher, a profession which she would be thrilled to pursue. As a mother of a two year old, however, the travelling involved makes this not an option. An online course is not available to her due to the absence of a viable internet connection.

To be considered are also those young people who have acquired scholastic degrees or are currently enjoying further education.

Many would like to come back home after finishing their degrees, but that is made unappealing to them in knowing that they will be isolated from the outside world. These young people are essential to the community.

My final statement is also a point which is of concern to me personally. Wishing to pursue a medical career, it is my dream to become a doctor and to make my living in Orleans, as I have always felt "at home" here.

The prospect of being cut-off makes me irresolute.

I urge to consider these aspects regarding the absence of broad band in Orleans, California.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie Neuner

The need for broadband internet service in Orleans has become more pressing as time passes.

We are private users who find that downloads of updated software take hours and often can't be completed. We are unhappy with the friends who send us large files or photos of the family. Our bank accounts are difficult to access.

We need broadband.

Our private needs are not as important however, as the community needs for service. Our community computer center is tied to school services which limits greatly what can be accessed. The MidKlamath Watershed Council is often without their service as the maximum use allowed often runs out before the month ends.

Orleans is a small isolated community whose needs are tied with the outside world. Broadband access would greatly help our town better connect with the outside world.

Lillian and Werner Rentz

August 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As a small village tucked away in the mountains of Northern California, Orleans still retains many of the qualities and characteristics of a marginal mining town: Its natural resources are sapped and its indigenous people are relieved of their pride. It is this last facet that is mostly affected by the absence of a viable internet connection.

- Education opportunities open to people unable to attend furthering education institutions leaves the adult population unskilled and unqualified,
- Those young people able to pursue higher education must leave their native homeland. Participation in native ceremonies, essential to safeguarding this fragile culture, is rendered impossible,
- Tribal members living away from the homeland cannot partake in occasions such as the local language program or tribal meetings – opportunities to be involved in the community that could be opened easily with modern technology.
- The Young will not have the chance to be a part of the global community. The frustration of being “cut off” is a source a great tension for families. This will lead, yet again, to the drain of our most precious resource.
- Our Elders would greatly benefit from the prospects of multi-medial medical diagnosis. Although admittedly not a perfect substitute for hands-on medical treatment, this alternative would be so useful for so many people physically and/or financially unable to travel the two hours to a major hospital.

Please consider these facts when deciding whether or not to pursue the extension of the broad band system. Without a doubt the project is fiscally taxing, but I would urge you to review the ideas within the framework of history and a cultural heritage already on the brink of extinction.

Please help us.

Sincerely,
Lisa Morehead-Neuner

Kristy Goodwin
99235 Highway 96
Somes Bar, CA 95568

September 30, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to ask for support for broadband in the Orleans area.

My husband and I have custody of our granddaughter, who was exposed prenatally to drugs. She has started counseling to help counter the social/emotional effects of her exposure. We are able to tele-health with the counselor, but only in Happy Camp, which is over 40 miles from our home.

I am employed as a school bus driver and maintenance person, and find the time away and cost of driving to be a hardship.

The Computer Center/Panamnik Library in Orleans has the PolyCom equipment, which would enable the counseling sessions to be held there; however, it cannot be used unless we have the bandwidth to support it. Orleans is 8 miles from Somes Bar, where I live, and having the counseling sessions held there would relieve some of the hardship.

Please help our community get the broadband we need to support tele-health and tele-education in our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristy Goodwin