CITY OF BANNING
STAFF REPORT

TO:	**CITY COUNCIL**
FROM:	**Arturo Vela, Acting City Manager**
PREPARED BY:	**Fred Lyn, Deputy Director of Electric** **Art Vela, Acting City Manager / Director of Public Works**
MEETING DATE:	**August 26, 2025**
SUBJECT:	**Receive and File the Final Report of the City of Banning's Broadband Feasibility Study**

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File the Final Report of the Broadband Feasibility Study prepared for the City of Banning and direct staff to seek reimbursement from the California Public Utilities Commission's Broadband Grant Portal.

BACKGROUND:

On November 23, 2022, the City of Banning (City) was awarded a $300,000 grant from the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Program in order to conduct a broadband feasibility study to identify gaps, examine economic impacts and develop a plan to deploy broadband access in Banning in order to improve education outcomes, business/expansion and provide opportunities for high-quality jobs. The original grant application had a project completion date of December 31, 2024. On September 12, 2024, the City requested a one-year grant extension in order for the project to be completed by December 31, 2025 which was granted by the CPUC.

In October 2023, the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP No. 23-042) requesting consultant services that would assess Banning's existing broadband infrastructure and internet service to the City, potential demand for high-speed broadband service, identify potential costs, opportunities and challenges associated with expanding the City's existing fiber optic network. On December 12, 2023, the City Council approved Resolution 2023-196, approving a Professional Services Agreement to CTC Technology and Energy in the amount of $220,000.

JUSTIFICATION:

The final report from CTC Technology and Energy is attached to this staff report. Some of the key findings from the feasibility report include:

- According to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband data map (https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home), the City is well covered by wireline fixed broadband through the current internet service providers (ISPs) either cable internet through Charter Spectrum and fiber optic internet through Frontier Communications.
- Of the City's 11,654 locations (residential and commercial)

- - 99.78 percent of these locations are adequately "served" by wireline broadband internet through a minimum of 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds (100/20).
  - 91.2% percent of these locations are adequately "served" by licensed fixed wireless services such as T-Mobile or Verizon Wireless networks.
- A majority of the survey results (73%) expressed a level of satisfaction with their current ISPs, with the main reasons for survey respondents being unsatisfied including internet service being too slow, too expensive and unreliable.
- Additional survey results expressed support (53%) in the City bringing in a new broadband competitor and additional support (52%) that the City should establish a City-run broadband service.
- Overall, there was very little support (11%-19%) in survey respondents wanting to pay additional fees to support this service.
- The total estimated cost to construct a citywide Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) network connecting to a new network hub site in the Western area of the City and the existing Corporate Yard will cost approximately $25.4 million while the expansion of a FTTP to the proposed new developments, as well as those currently under construction would cost an additional $19.1 million for a total of $44.5 million.

It is staff's opinion that it is not feasible, at this time, for the City to pursue the construction of a city owned and operated FTTP network.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Accepting the final broadband feasibility report will allow the City to be reimbursed for a grant contract amount of $220,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

Provide staff with an alternative direction.

BUDGETED?:
No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:
No

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Banning Final Report_Final Draft.pdf