

CENIC, together with private sector partner CVIN (the Central Valley Independent Network LLC), assembled a project plan for the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Project, designed to improve the availability of broadband networking infrastructure for 18 counties within the California Central Valley area: Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Nevada, Placer, Tuolumne, Tulare, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, and Yuba.

The Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Project involves building, operating, and maintaining a fiber-optic network infrastructure that will traverse 1,371 miles of California's Central Valley in addition to last-mile wireless capability over parts of four counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare). Initially, the CVNGBIP will focus on connecting community anchor institutions via fiber, including 19 county office of education sites, 14 community college sites, 3 California State University campuses, 20 county/main libraries, and 7 public safety sites. The full list of these anchor institutions is available on the Project website at [www.cvngebip.org](http://www.cvngebip.org). Once connected, these non-profit anchor institutions will be supported by CENIC and become an integral part of the CalREN network.

CVIN will utilize the new infrastructure for commercial purposes enabling businesses, residences, and county, local, state, and federal government agencies located in the

listed counties to purchase a full range of telecommunications services.

In August of 2010, this project received \$46.6 million of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), one of the pillars of which is the belief that access to broadband services will increase economic development and improve the quality of life for all Americans. With that \$46.6 million plus \$6.66 million from the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund and an additional \$13.32 million from the CVIN affiliates, CENIC and CVIN began design and planning, with substantial input and assistance from Central Valley stakeholders and community leaders from all 18 counties.

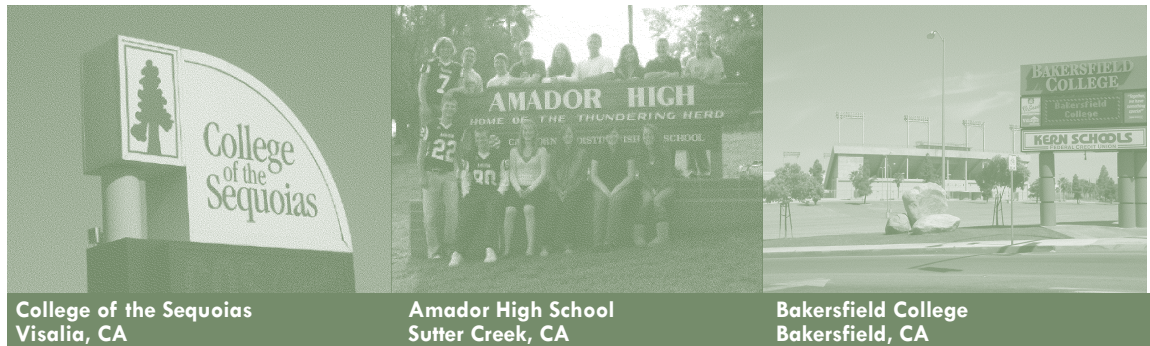
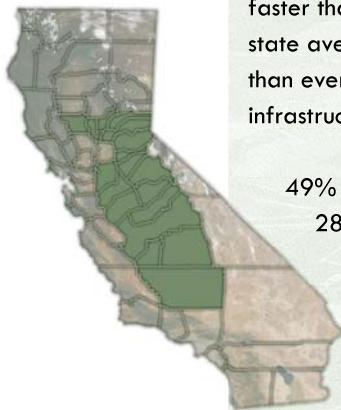
CVIN, LLC is a joint enterprise comprised of affiliates of eight Independent Telephone Companies located in central and northern California. These companies cover over 7,000 square miles and operate more than 1,700 miles of fiber and have vast experience in providing broadband services.

The hardworking Californians in these 18 counties – the agricultural heartland of one of the most productive breadbaskets in the US – have historically been on the wrong side of the “digital divide,” and together, CENIC and CVIN look forward to enabling them to move forward and take their place in the coming 21st century global information-based economy.



**BROADBANDUSA**  
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

## The Need for Broadband Infrastructure in the Central Valley: Quick Facts



► The Central Valley is one of the world's most productive agricultural regions. On less than 1 percent of the total farmland in the United States, the Central Valley produces 8 percent of the nation's agricultural output by value: \$17 billion in 2002 alone. And yet, with all this abundance, close to 57% of the Valley is classified as either unserved or underserved by broadband infrastructure.

► With a per capita income in 2007 of \$29,790 (29% below the state average), a labor force growing faster than job growth with unemployment rates from 2002 to 2008 averaging 2.6% higher than the state average, and wages in the region in every industry being lower than the state average, now more than ever this region requires the tools, resources, and potential job growth that a robust network infrastructure built throughout the region could provide.

49% of the households and 15% of the communities do not have broadband.

285 communities do not have access.

Only 20% of the users have more than a 10Mb/s connection.

Cost to user is most often distance-sensitive.

There is no middle mile fiber-based infrastructure linking these counties together and to the larger worldwide Internet.

The goals of the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure Project are to:

- **Connect** via fiber 19 county office of education sites, 14 community college sites, 3 CSU universities, 20 county/main libraries, and 7 public safety sites as anchor institutions to this new network infrastructure that will connect to CENIC's existing statewide fiber-based backbone and to the worldwide Internet;
- **Expand** CVIN's fiber-based infrastructure and wireless capabilities to facilitate the ability of the other anchor-related institutions in the community including school sites, healthcare facilities, community-based organizations, and public safety entities, to enhance their existing high speed networking capability;
- **Enable** CVIN and other providers to use the new network infrastructure to facilitate businesses, residences, and government agencies to have access to high speed networking capacity;
- **Forge** strategic relationships between CVIN and existing local Internet providers, enabling them to connect their business and resident customers to Internet services at more reasonable costs, cost being one of the largest broadband adoption obstacles faced by most rural or underserved communities; and,
- **Enhance** the ability to reach the economic development goals of the 18 counties by having the required network capacity available for new businesses that might locate in these counties.