



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Knights Landing Residents to Receive High-Speed Broadband for First Time**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Yolo County and Wave Broadband today announced Wave’s commitment to provide high speed internet access via fiber to the home in the town of Knights Landing by mid-2017. This rural community of 995 citizens currently has little to no high speed internet service outside of the local library. The provision of broadband to Knights Landing is the initial step in a larger collaborative effort within Yolo County to provide broadband to all rural communities.

In May 2013, elected leaders countywide met to discuss broadband internet access throughout Yolo County. The intent of the event was to better understand the issues and gaps the County faces in the provision of internet access and to strategize on how to improve access to this crucial infrastructure. At this event, it was decided that the cities and the County would jointly undertake a countywide broadband strategic plan, spearheaded by the Yolo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). The Yolo Broadband Strategic Plan was completed in March 2015. When the Yolo County Board of Supervisors heard a presentation on the Strategic Plan, Knights Landing was identified by the Board as the top priority to focus County resources to improve community access to broadband.

“This project will help our residents gain much better access to the internet for education, employment, health information and telemedicine, home business start-ups, entertainment, and current events,” said Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain. “We hope to build on this success throughout the county in our other rural communities.”

For Knights Landing, County staff explored grant opportunities and potential technologies to serve the community with a variety of commercial providers. This included numerous meetings with Wave Broadband. As a result of these explorations, Wave Broadband Executive Vice President Patrick Knorr submitted a letter to Yolo County on October 10, 2016 stating their intent to serve the community of Knights Landing with internet fiber.

This project will extend Wave’s fast-growing West Coast fiber network directly to residences in Knights Landing, providing access speeds of up to one Gigabit. Knights Landing will become one of only a handful of communities in Northern California so far where gigabit fiber is being deployed.

“We are excited to work with Yolo County to introduce high-speed broadband service to residents of this rural community and plan for it to serve as a model for additional fiber network expansion in the

county and beyond”, said Wave Broadband Manager of Strategic Accounts Mike Puckett, who will oversee the project moving forward.

“We have had an excellent relationship with Wave Broadband for many years”, said Yolo County General Services Director, Kevin Yarris. “With Wave, we have been able to connect the cities of West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland to better share information between our jurisdictions and we look forward to replicating this Knights Landing pilot in other rural areas throughout the county.”

Further information regarding this project will be provided to Knights Landing residents on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Knights Landing Community Center located at 42114 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Yolo County General Services may also be contacted to answer questions regarding the project at (530) 406-5025.

Additional information regarding the Yolo Broadband Strategic Plan is available on the Yolo County website at <http://www.yolocounty.org/general-government/yolo-lafco/shared-services-initiative/yolo-broadband>.

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