Executive Summary

BTOP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Monterey County occupies over 3,000 square miles on the central coast of California, having a permanent resident population of over 400,000 persons. Topography includes a large region of rugged, mountainous terrain, large valleys, over 100 miles of coastline and large tracts of agricultural land coupled with small and medium urban centers. Serving as the County seat the City of Salinas is the largest City in the County with a population of 150,000 persons. Nearly ninety percent of the population is located in the north 25 miles of the County from east to west, although this section of the County also hosts a number of rural and unserved/underserved areas. This project will focus on three primary broadband delivery avenues to increase accessibility to the public and private sectors while also leveraging a variety of other projects and programs as well as existing and potential partnerships: Public Libraries as community anchor institutions, public safety mobile data access and sustainable broadband whereby the County will allow service providers to access the County’s infrastructure to provide last mile service. The primary focus of this project is to expand broadband coverage to rural, remote, unserved and underserved areas of the County through the use of some existing infrastructure to support new technologies that will deliver high-speed access at a minimum capacity of 135 megabit via microwave. The primary initial beneficiaries of this middle mile project will be the existing County library system and public safety agencies to include law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire suppression units. These beneficiaries will soon be joined by the Monterey County medical community after the digitization of medical records. The same system will be used to allow for the rapid transfer of HIPPA protected medical documentation between the County’s four hospitals and over one hundred clinics and other medical facilities. In 2004 the Monterey County Operational Area Emergency Communications Users Advisory Council (ECUAC), the participating stakeholder consortium policy advisory panel for the Monterey County emergency communications dispatch system, chartered a subordinate Next Generation (NGEN) Emergency Communications System Task Force to examine issues and recommend solutions relating to the existing County voice communication radio system, including future FCC narrow band and Project 25 requirements. Pursuant to that charter, the NGEN Task Force subsequently recommended, and the ECUAC approved, that the County of Monterey develop a long-term strategic plan relative to future voice and data communications needs and requirements. In January 2006 the independent consulting firm 911 Insight completed a 104 page strategic planning document that details current and future agency needs, provides budgetary estimates for upgraded wireless capabilities, identifies funding opportunities and provides implementation recommendations. From this document the County has completed the MOU's associated with the governance structure of the overall project and issued the RFP for the system
installation. The vendor proposals were received in late 2009 with the review of the proposals underway and award of the contract by early May. The BTOP program with its emphasis on broadband expansion and the specific BTOP statutory purposes of Community Anchor Institutions, public-private partnerships, growth in economically distressed communities and public safety enhancement make this grant program and the Monterey County project an excellent match. The program proposed will be a middle mile service that will feed an unserved and underserved population of nearly 100,000 persons in 38,000 households located in 14 communities and other remote areas of the County via microwave repeaters as detailed in the project description and schematic. Populations include a wide spectrum demographic including a very large concentration of English as a Second Language (ESL) migrant farm workers in communities with unemployment rates as high as 36%. The overall costs including infrastructure will be under including all end user implements for the community anchor institutions, broadband microwave and the public safety mobile data network adapters and all applicable software and hardware. Monterey County IT, as evidenced in the management team resumes and organizational chart has a long and well established history of managing and implementing just this type of project; in fact, it is the very reason for our existence. In summary, we are requesting funding from the BTOP for a multi-faceted project that includes the placement of infrastructure and end user implements to support broadband access at all forms of community anchor institutions as well as public safety mobile data access.