

### Continued Last Mile Access Critical to Customer Choice of Broadband Services

- TelePacific, the third largest carrier in California, relies on last mile access to offer competitive broadband services to its SMB, school, health care, and community anchor institution customers.
  - Only telecom provider with facilities-based network coverage for nearly all of California.
  - Assets include 29 switches, 346 collocations, and more than 57,000 fiber miles.
  - Fiber to 108 LEC wire centers, many data centers and more than 200 commercial buildings.
  - April 2015 survey of available on net buildings from 19 vendors (including ILECs) in TelePacific's three-state footprint found fiber last mile access facilities available at only 11% of TelePacific's customer service addresses.
  
- Preserving competitors' access to wholesale last mile options enables customer choice among broadband providers.
  - ILECs' Section 214 discontinuance application should include facts that show availability of equivalent replacement wholesale services.
  - Where fiber is not available, TelePacific offers 10-100 Mbps broadband service using copper loops, DS1/DS3 loops, and DS1/DS3 special access.
  - Ethernet over Copper ("EoC") can provide 10-100 Mbps with 2-48 pairs.
  - Ethernet over DS1 speeds of 10 Mbps.
  - About 65% of ALL current orders include broadband services: nearly 25% are third-party Ethernet over fiber from 24 different providers and about 40% are EoC. The remaining 35% are TDM, Fixed Wireless and bonded T1s- the latter two are also Ethernet based.
  - Currently we provide EoC services to nearly 20,000 locations using about 115,000 copper pairs.
  
- Define copper retirement and enforce copper obligations after overbuilds to preserve customers' broadband choices.
  - ILEC that removes or disables loop, subloop or feeder should follow retirement process (but if service is also retired, should file Section 214 discontinuance).
  - Unless retired, ILECs have an obligation to restore copper to serviceable use. 47 C.F.R. 51.319(a)(3)(iii)(B).
  - USTelecom e-rate comments recognize value of copper for broadband services, and that not every customer is so large that it needs fiber.
  - Copper pairs with chronic troubles interrupt customers' business.
  - Although California has some service quality standards, Nevada and Texas (and other states) no longer regulate service quality.
  - CPUC Alternate Proposed Decision (July 3, 2015) finds: "the performance of Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California (AT&T) and Verizon California Inc. (Verizon) has *consistently failed to meet existing service quality metrics.*" (Emphasis added.)
  - California Staff report found *if ILEC-controlled trouble tickets were removed*, TelePacific would have met Out of Service minimum standard (90% restored within 24 hours) during 2010-2013; with ILEC tickets included, TelePacific failed each year.
  - When copper pairs are not maintained or restored, they are not available—forcing TelePacific's customers to higher-priced DS1/DS3 alternatives.