
Request for Council Assistance Regarding Community Broadband Coordination in Quemazon and Hawk's Landing

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Bcc: Places Spaces <placesandspacecla@gmail.com>, Christa Saenz <christamsaenz@gmail.com>, Janice Krish <janicekrish@snet.com>

Chair Ryti and Members of the County Council,

I am writing to formally request your attention and assistance regarding Los Alamos Network's participation and involvement in the Community Broadband Network project, specifically as it relates to the Quemazon and Hawk's Landing areas.

I own Los Alamos Network (LANet), a local ISP that has served this community for nearly 28 years. For more than 15 years, LANet has supported and participated in County broadband efforts because I believe Los Alamos deserves better internet infrastructure. As a small local business, I have consistently done my part—not only by providing reliable internet service, but also by supporting community projects and County initiatives related to broadband.

Over the past several weeks, I have repeatedly attempted to schedule meetings with County broadband staff to begin formal discussions regarding the use or acquisition of existing LANet infrastructure in the Quemazon and Hawk's Landing areas. This infrastructure includes conduit that is already connected to active customers and has been reviewed multiple times by the County through surveys, walkthroughs, inspections, and the sharing of maps and documentation. Despite these efforts, no meeting has been scheduled and no clear next steps have been communicated.

My concern arises from the most recent meeting in which an amendment was presented and approved to fund equipment purchases based on the already approved Low-Level Design. In that presentation, both Quemazon and Hawk's Landing are shown as being built through new microtrenching, while other areas—such as North Mesa—are shown utilizing existing conduit. This indicates that the project is proceeding toward construction of a parallel network in areas where infrastructure already exists, raising immediate concerns regarding cost, duplication, and neighborhood disruption.

During that meeting, when Councilor David Reagor asked about the existing conduit in Quemazon, County Manager Anne Laurent stated that negotiations were underway and that all options were being explored. However, no negotiations have occurred with LANet. Continued lack of communication makes it appear that decisions are moving forward without evaluating existing assets or establishing the terms under which LANet would participate as a local ISP on the open-access network.

As a local business and a potential participant in the open-access fiber network, staff should engage with LANet professionally and in good faith. I want this project to succeed for the community, and I intend to be part of that success. At the same time, I must make strategic business decisions to remain viable, particularly when County-funded construction would directly compete with and potentially damage existing private infrastructure and an active customer base.

Proceeding with new microtrenching in Quemazon and Hawk's Landing will create a parallel network in areas with challenging terrain, including curved roads, rocky conditions, steep driveways, and homes located close to the right-of-way. This will increase disruption to residents, require duplicate service drops and additional home penetrations, and introduce unnecessary cost and construction risk. In contrast, using existing infrastructure will reduce risk, minimize neighborhood disruption, accelerate deployment, and lower overall project costs.

I am prepared to collaborate on a transition plan that maintains service continuity for existing customers, supports migration to new fiber, and decommissions the legacy network in an orderly manner. My goal is a solution that benefits the community, protects residents from unnecessary disruption, and strengthens the long-term success of the broadband project.

I am asking Council to facilitate and help schedule a meeting next week between LANet and County broadband leadership to address Quemazon and Hawk's Landing specifically, and to participate in that meeting (or designate a Council representative) to ensure the discussion is productive, timely, and aligned with the County's Strategic Goals, I also ask Council to direct staff to pause any decisions involving new microtrenching in Quemazon and Hawk's Landing until that meeting occurs and existing infrastructure is fully evaluated.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the community.

My hope is that the Council's assistance will help resolve this promptly and constructively.

Respectfully,
Allan Saenz
Owner, Los Alamos Network

 **Letter to Steve Lynne 2023.pdf**
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