Meeting Date: 2/2/2022

Title: Discussion and Update on the Communications and Community Engagement Efforts to Date and Upcoming Opportunities Planned

From: Director of Utilities

Lead Department: Utilities

This item is for discussion and no action is requested. Staff seeks input from the Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC) on the Palo Alto Fiber effort including communications, education and engagement. The verbal update will include notable items completed to date, upcoming opportunities for community input and engagement planned, and available tools and resources to reach and engage residents and businesses about Palo Alto Fiber.

Overall, the Palo Alto Fiber near term effort includes three phases: Maximizing Community Awareness, Building Community Excitement and Supporting Council Decision-making. These phases provide an opportunity to both educate and engage residents and businesses in Palo Alto on this unique initiative underway; helping to inform the Utilities Advisory Commission on recommendations for Council consideration and inform the City Council as they consider Palo Alto Fiber options later this fiscal year.
To date, staff continues with its consultant, Magellan Advisors, to conduct robust community education and outreach.

Below is a high-level timeline of milestones underway and future milestones planned.

Fiber Education Phase: November – April
Fiber Community Engagement Phase: November – April
UAC Communications and Community Engagement Update: February 2
Palo Alto Fiber Community Information Session: February 24 at 5:30 p.m.
Fiber Neighbor Meet Up Week: February 28 - March 4
Survey Launch: March 14*
City Council and UAC Joint Meeting: April/May*

*Denotes these dates are tentative