

CALIFORNIA COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION (CalCom)

About CALCOM

The California Communications Association (CalCom) is a statewide trade association representing 15 companies that provide telecommunications services to nearly every corner of California. Founded in 1917, today's CalCom member companies range from small high-tech, high-investment communications companies bringing reliable, high-quality service to the most rural and remote areas of the state to medium and large providers serving diverse rural, urban and suburban markets.

Together, CalCom members employ over 61,000 Californians, are the major employer in many rural communities and all of our members contribute thousands of volunteer hours and countless funds to local community organizations and projects. In addition to being active community sponsors and supporters, these companies and their employees provide the vital link (telecom & broadband) necessary for emergency services and economic growth to Californians throughout the state.

Calcom actively promotes the advancement of the communications industry through various forums consisting of member companies, suppliers, legislature, and the state commission in an effort to foster education about the industry and understanding of the issues facing its member companies. These forums include active committee membership, membership meetings, newsletters and magazines, technical symposiums, and technical training.

Active members are "incumbent local exchange carriers" as defined by Public Law 104-104 and certified by the California Public Utilities Commission. Associate members are those companies providing products and/or services to active members. All Suppliers to the member companies are encouraged to join the Association as Associate Members.

Telecommunications and beyond

CalCom members provide basic and enhanced telephone service that includes the highest possible commitment to quality service that is redundant and reliable during earthquakes, storms or power outages. CalCom members have made and continue to make significant investments in digital and fiber optic technology in California, investing billions of dollars to expand and upgrade communications services, including enhanced 911 emergency services and standby (or backup) power equipment.

CalCom members are committed to leading the industry in the development of an advanced communications network to support the latest technologies and services for residents and businesses throughout the state. Major infrastructure investments from small, rural companies and large, urban providers alike, bring enhanced voice services, widespread and faster broadband capabilities, and video to Californians.

Competition and Regulation

The communications industry is highly competitive with services being offered by a host of providers over different technology platforms including cable, satellite, wireless and VoIP companies. Many of Calcom's member companies provide wholesale services to these same competitors. Although all compete for many of the same customers, each is regulated differently. CalCom member companies are the ONLY companies that must operate under strict CPUC oversight of many aspects of their business. For example, CalCom companies operate under "carrier of last resort" regulation making us the de facto provider for ALL customers. In addition, as facilities-based providers, our companies provide and maintain the backbone network that provides 911 service throughout the state.

Our Members:

AT&T California

AT&T provides local and long distance voice service, high-speed Internet access and wireless service throughout a large part of California. As part of its three-screen integration strategy, AT&T is expanding its TV entertainment offerings.

AT&T has close to 50,000 employees in the state and has invested billions of dollars in its network infrastructure in the last 10 years. As a result of that investment, high-speed Internet access is now available to almost 90% of the customers in its service territory, with a commitment to reach 100% by through various technologies.

Calaveras Telephone Company

Calaveras Telephone Company is located in the central foothills of California and headquartered in the small town of Copperopolis. Founded by entrepreneur Jim Tower in 1895, Calaveras remains one of the last original single family owned telecommunications providers operating in the country today. Stringing telephone wires along fence posts earned Jim Tower the colorful nickname "Barb Wire Jim." It wasn't long before Tower earned a franchise with the famous Alexander Graham Bell and was thus one of the first telephone pioneers to do business with the original version of the Bell System.

Calaveras Telephone Company offers 100% underground buried service, and broadband capability nearly everywhere throughout its foothills service area. With a commitment to the latest technology, today it reaches every new development with a fiber-to-the-home architecture to ensure unlimited bandwidth capacity and 4,500 satisfied customers.

California Oregon (Cal-Ore) Telephone Company

Cal-Ore is located in Dorris, in the Butte Valley of northern California between Mt. Shasta and the Oregon border. Cal-Ore began offering telephone service in 1950 as Dorris Telephone Company. It soon expanded to include the communities of Macdoel and Tennant. In 1984 the company acquired the Tulelake and Newell exchanges and became Cal-Ore Telephone Company. Its service territory now covers nearly 850 square miles in Siskiyou and Modoc Counties and serves approximately 2,700 access lines. Cal-Ore uses predominantly buried copper and fiber to provide telecommunication services utilizing the latest technology to a very rural and diverse population.

Ducor Telephone Company

Ducor Telephone Company is headquartered in Ducor, California. It was first established in 1911 to serve this small rural community located in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The company was purchased in 1938 by the family of the current owner and it is still family owned and operated. In 1975 the Rancho Tehama Exchange, located west of the Corning/Red Bluff area, was added, serving the small rural residential community of Rancho Tehama. In 2000, the company expanded service to the small mountain community of Kennedy Meadows located in the southern end of the Sierra Nevada's. Kennedy Meadows is reached through microwave transmission over the mountains.

From approximately 40 rural customers in 1938, Ducor Telephone Company has grown to approximately 1,200 customers and over 1,500 access lines to. The past few years have seen Ducor evolve technologically with current efforts focused toward deploying advanced technology plant to provide broadband service to a customer base that is growing more and more sophisticated.

Foresthill Telephone Company

Foresthill Telephone Company is located in Foresthill, northeast of Sacramento and east of Auburn. Located between two forks of the American river and back dropped by the Sierra mountains, Foresthill is very isolated with a critical need for communications. Foresthill is a small gold mining town with buildings dating back to the mid 1800's. The company changed ownership in 2005 but remains family owned and operated, providing service to approximately 3,100 access lines with 21 employees in a mountainous region of about 250 square miles.

With the recent change in ownership, this area has been upgraded with fiber capacity to the world, added DSL service and capacity to approximately 95% of its customers, and incorporated a previously unserved community, Iowa Hill in its service territory through an AB 140 service grant.

Kerman Telephone Company

Kerman Telephone Company was incorporated in 1911 and purchased by its current owners, the Sebastian Family, in 1946. Over the years, Bill and Katey Sebastian have built a state-of-the-art telephone network, fulfilling the mandate of universal service and providing the highest quality service to their customers.

Today, Kerman telephone Company serves an estimated 5,400 customers over 175 square miles in western Fresno County. The company has approximately 80 full and part time employees and is the third largest employer in the Kerman area. Kerman continues to provide state-of-the-art communication services, such as DSL, to a diverse population spanning low-income agricultural customers to suburban commuters into Fresno. Kerman can offer broadband services to 100% of its customers through traditional DSL, fiber-to-the-home, or wireless serving options.

Pinnacles Telephone Company

Originally established as the Butts Telephone Company in 1908 by William Butts, so as to provide a "farmers' line" for telephone service from his ranch to his investment broker in San Francisco, the company was purchased by Rex and Loren Bryan in 1955. The Bryans later added the Berg Telephone company that served the New Idria quicksilver mines

south of the Panoche Valley. The name was changed to Pinnacles Telephone Company in 1975.

Pinnacles serves the exclusively rural service areas of the Idria Valley and the San Benito Valley south of Paicines. The subscriber base prior to 1990 was resident ranchers, two campgrounds and the Pinnacles National Monument. The 90's brought about an influx of retirees and Silicon Valley commuters along with FAX machines and the demand for Internet service. The population density remains sparse.

In 2006 a fiber route to serve the subscriber base was placed in service to improve reliability, provide faster DSL service and to provide a platform for new services. The company offers basic telephone service, custom calling features, DSL and voicemail services.

Ponderosa Telephone Company

In 1908 Harmon Bigelow owned and operated a stage line with service to and from parts of eastern Madera and Fresno counties. Harmon's wife wanted to be able to talk with her mother who lived about a mile away and so, with two mail order telephone sets and wire strung between the two houses, a network was started. This informal network was extended to the outside world at Clovis in 1912 and eventually evolved into the current Ponderosa Telephone Company, still owned by the Bigelow family.

Today, Ponderosa Telephone Company's service area is almost 4,000 square miles and includes areas like the town of Friant, which lies in the San Joaquin Valley at about 400 feet above sea level, as well as the mountainous country of the Sierra Nevada range. The company operates eight exchanges in the communities of Auberry, Big Creek, Cima, Friant, North Fork, O'Neals, Shaver Lake and Wishon, serving approximately 10,000 access lines and 9,000 customers. The newest exchange of Cima, located in eastern San Bernardino County, was formed in 1992 from previously unserved territory. Ponderosa employs 80 people and broadband access is available to approximately 95% of its customers.

Sierra Telephone

What was to become part of Sierra Telephone began in Mariposa in 1895 when the Sunset Telephone Company, with the help of subscriptions totaling \$2,000 from Mariposa residents, completed a telephone line from Merced to Mariposa. Shortly after acquiring the telephone system in Mariposa in 1953, the name was changed from Mariposa Telephone Exchange to Mariposa County Telephone Company by the new owner, Harry H. Baker, Jr.

Raymond Telephone Company was organized in 1908 by the late Archibald C. Shaw, an early day Raymond entrepreneur. The Raymond system was purchased from Shaw in 1944 by Harry and Marie Baker. In 1950 the company was purchased from Harry and Marie by their son Harry, Jr., the current President and Chairman of the Board. In 1953, the name was changed from Raymond Telephone Company to Sierra Telephone Company and The Mariposa County Telephone Company was added as a sister company. In 1984 the Mariposa company was merged into Sierra Telephone.

Sierra Telephone serves an 870 square mile area in Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties. A route-diverse fiber network further facilitates the deployment of high-speed broadband services and provides reliable, secure service of the highest quality. The mission of Sierra Telephone is to be the provider of choice for integrated telecommunications solutions, delivering exceptional products and services and excellence in Customer Service. Sierra

Tel President, Harry Baker enthusiastically encourages his employees to actively participate in – and support - the communities they live in.

In 1944 the Raymond Telephone Company consisted of about 100 telephones and two employees. Today Sierra Telephone has approximately 24,500 access lines and employs 195 people.

Siskiyou Telephone Company

Siskiyou Telephone serves 4,700 customers throughout a rugged, mountainous area slightly larger than the state of Connecticut. Due in part to its relative isolation, Siskiyou customers have come to rely heavily on the Internet for many of their needs. Like Internet customers everywhere, they are increasingly demanding higher bandwidth. Though Siskiyou currently provides DSL service to its entire service area, it is in the fifth year of constructing a fiber-based architecture which will support dramatically higher bandwidth far into the future. Siskiyou has also doubled the size of its digital microwave interexchange facilities to handle the increased load until the fiber interexchange facilities are completed. In addition, Siskiyou has changed its switching architecture to IP-based softswitches.

SureWest Telephone

SureWest Telephone is the largest local exchange carrier headquartered in California. SureWest Telephone serves over 110,000 access lines to approximately 100,000 homes and businesses, offering advanced communications products and services within an 83 square mile area in Sacramento and Placer Counties. SureWest Telephone has one of the highest miles of fiber optics per capita in the nation and is capable of providing voice and DSL service to 100 % of its service area. SureWest Telephone also has one of the highest percentages of residential DSL customers with over 30 percent of residents using our DSL service.

SureWest Communications, the parent company of SureWest Telephone, and its subsidiaries form one of the nation's leading integrated communications providers and delivers a triple play of services -- voice, digital video, and high-speed Internet services in the greater Sacramento metropolitan area. On its fiber network, SureWest is able to provide the fastest Internet in the nation with its lightning-quick synchronous speed of up to 50 Mbps and an industry leading assortment of high-definition channels for a true crystal clear viewing of your favorite local, sports, lifestyle, science and movie channels in the vibrant color, high-quality cinematic surround sound of high-definition television (HDTV).

Happy Valley Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Happy Valley Telephone Company was founded in 1954 and purchased by TDS Telecom in 1990. Happy Valley serves 3,500 access lines throughout Shasta and Trinity Counties. Available services include custom calling features such as call waiting and call forwarding as well as advanced calling services such as caller ID. TDS Telecom also offers TDS Internet services, voicemail and centrex services. In addition, approximately 89% of households have access to broadband through the company's DSL offering with 26% of customers subscribing to the service and a growth rate of about 30 customers per month.

Hornitos Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Hornitos Telephone Company serves the rural area west of Yosemite National Park. Founded in 1967, the company was later purchased by TDS Telecom in 1990. Hornitos

serves 650 access lines in this sparsely populated area. During 2007, the company completed a significant fiber project which, once approved by the Commission, will allow the company to begin offering advanced calling features such as Caller ID and Voicemail. In addition, the Company is in the planning stages for DSL and plans to begin offering broadband in late 2008.

Winterhaven Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom

Winterhaven Telephone Company serves a very small community in the very most Southeast corner of the state of California. Of the 72 square miles and 1,250 customers served, almost all of it is on tribal lands. Prior to 1988, the company now known as Winterhaven was a single exchange owned and operated by US West and was purchased by TDS Telecom in 1990. Customers enjoy access to advanced custom calling services, Caller ID, voicemail, Internet and Centrex services. DSL deployment is currently in progress and will be available to approximately 84% of households in 2008.

Volcano Telephone Company

Volcano Telephone Company's service area is primarily Amador County, an area of 416 square miles from the beginning of the foothills to the peaks of the Sierra. Volcano serves in excess of 11,000 access lines.

The company offers both analog and digital services for residential, business, educational institutions, and government agencies. Volcano has installed approximately 150 miles of fiber optic cable in Amador and Calaveras Counties to keep pace with the demands for enhanced services, quality and bandwidth availability to supplement copper line cabling. Volcano has deployed DSL which is available in approximately 99% of its service territory. Currently, about 45% of customers subscribe to the service or about 37% of our access lines. The penetration is continuing to grow every month.