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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**San Jerardo Cooperative Broadband Project: Celebrating Public-Private Partnerships  
*Community Invited to Celebration***

(Marina, CA, Sept. 6, 2022) - [Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#) (MBEP) is celebrating the successful implementation of a campaign to bring high-speed broadband to households in the San Jerardo Cooperative as part of [Equal Access Monterey Bay](#), an initiative designed to close the digital divide for all residents of the Monterey Bay region by bringing modern infrastructure and economically accessible connectivity to communities where ISPs could not otherwise break even. Every household at the San Jerardo Cooperative is now wired for high-speed broadband, provided at no charge to them for the next five years.

Completion of the San Jerardo Co-op initiative marks a real success story for Monterey County. This project is a collaboration with Equal Access Monterey Bay, Cruzio Internet, MBEP, the Monterey County IT Department, [Central Coast Broadband Consortium](#) (CCBC) and community organizations. Funded by a CPUC grant to Cruzio, the San Jerardo Co-op demonstrates how focused public-private collaborations can address complex challenges and serves as a model for addressing the digital chasm in other communities.

Community is invited to celebrate the completion of the project which will provide free high speed broadband. Representatives from Monterey Bay Economic Partnership and [Cruzio Internet](#) will be joined by residents of the farmworker housing community, local and state elected officials, and representatives from the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) (CPUC) for a ribbon-cutting on:

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 7

**Location:** San Jerardo Cooperative, 24500 Calle El Rosario, Salinas.

**Time:** Celebration begins at 4 p.m., program runs from 5-7 p.m.

Invited guests include [California Public Utilities Commissioner](#) Darcie L. Houck, former CPUC Commissioner Guzman-Acevez, U.S Rep. Jimmy Panetta, State Sen. Anna Caballero, Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez, Alisal Union School District Superintendent Jim Koenig, and Monterey Bay Economic Partnership President and CEO Tahra Goraya.

"High-speed internet is truly essential to how we live and work today, to how we access health care and education, public services and social connection," says MBEP President & CEO Tahra Goraya. "Bringing broadband to San Jerardo Cooperative lifts up not only its residents but the region as a whole, with a positive impact on economic growth and household income, business development and job creation."

***About Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP):***

***[Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#) (MBEP) is a regional member-supported nonprofit organization consisting of public, private, and civic entities located throughout the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. Founded in 2015, our mission is to improve the economic health and quality of life in the region.***