By Amy Sylvestri

San Leandro Times

San Leandro hopes to leverage the broadband internet loop into a full-on tech business boom, so the city has created a new position – Chief Innovation Officer – and hired Deborah Acosta to fill it.

Acosta comes from a similar position in Oakland and her job will be to attract businesses and

help the them collaborate with the city government. She is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and, prior to her work with the City of Oakland, she was in banking.

She told the City Council at Monday night's meeting that she will "bring an amazing Rolodex" to San Leandro as she lures companies.

Acosta's $185,000 salary will be funded jointly by the city and Patrick Kennedy, the president of OSIsoft and the driving force behind the Lit San Leandro broadband loop. Kennedy is paying 75 percent of Acosta's salary.

In a press release, Kennedy said his hope is that Acosta will "connect the dots" between San Leandro's new technology and the potential clients that could come to town.

Acosta says she's "pleased as punch" to get the job and that San Leandro is posed to be a major player as it is so centrally located in the Bay Area.

“San Leandro is starting to look at itself and see opportunities,” Acosta said.

Mayor Stephen Cassidy said that San Leandro is the only city in the East Bay to have a CIO and he foresees big things under Acosta’s guidance.

“She is going to be San Leandro’s ambassador to Silicon Valley,” said Cassidy. “She’s a real dynamo.”