



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

April 27, 2021

Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Broadband for All Funding Plan

Dear Senator Atkins and Assemblymember Rendon:

The County of San Bernardino writes in support of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)-led coalition request for a one-time appropriation of \$8 billion to make a concentrated effort to help close the Digital Divide. With these funds, California can once again be a leader in digital access.

A recent report, the California State Broadband Cost Model, found that the cost of building 100 Mbps fiber connections to every unserved home and business in the state might be done with an investment of \$6.8 billion. Of the \$6.8 billion investment for access infrastructure, \$2.2 billion would construct a statewide middle mile network with open access fiber and \$4.6 billion would provide 100/10 Mbps fiber optics to locations currently without it. Together the middle mile and last mile can transform the educational, economic, and quality-of-life landscape of our state by providing these unconnected properties access to reliable broadband. An additional \$1.2 billion investment would help Californians take advantage of all that broadband promises by providing devices, digital skills training, service subsidies, and language access.

Investing in universal broadband access is an ideal use of one-time funds and the flexible funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. Expanding broadband access would both improve lives in the short-term and increase the speed and size of the economic recovery, thereby producing medium and long-term gains for all levels of government and the state's economy as a whole.

Even if the sum does not achieve the goal of access to every structure in the state, the progress made would be an enormous improvement over the current situation, and the state can continue using important tools such as the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program, general obligation bonds, federal funds, and other resources to complement and further these efforts.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports the request for a one-time appropriation of \$8 billion to help close the Digital Divide. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Maral Hernandez and (909) 387-4777 or Maral.Hernandez@cao.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curt Hagman

Fourth District Supervisor

Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Senators and Assembly Members
California State Association of Counties
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation