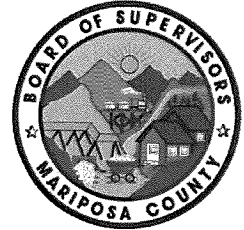


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-421

MEETING: July 20, 2021
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: Ratify a Letter of Support for the Governor's Broadband Proposal

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify a Letter of Support for the Governor's Broadband Proposal to Invest \$7 Billion to help close the Digital Divide.

Flexible funding for broadband included in the American Rescue Plan Act and a recent report finding that 100 Mbps fiber can be built to all unserved homes and businesses for \$7 billion dollars have created an opportunity to connect the unconnected and improve affordability and speeds for all Californians.

The Governor's plan would invest in a transformative public infrastructure project lending itself to a long-term solution of services and affordability.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board routinely approves or ratifies letters of support that it determines to be in the best interest of the county.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve. Staff would notify recipients of a retraction in that event.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter of support for Broadband (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

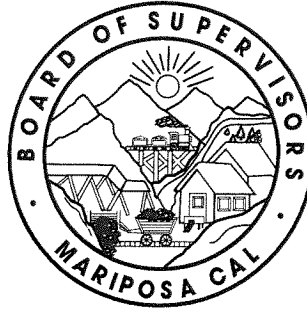
MOVER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

SECONDER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 TOM SWEENEY
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 WAYNE FORSYTHE
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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11986

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar- Curry
Assembly member, 4th District
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Governor's Broadband Proposal – SUPPORT

On behalf of Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, we urge the immediate passage of the Governor's proposal to invest \$7 billion to make a serious, concentrated effort to close the Digital Divide.

The flexible funding for broadband included in the American Rescue Plan Act and a recent report finding that 100 Mbps fiber can be built to all unserved homes and businesses for less than \$10 billion dollars have created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to connect the unconnected and improve affordability and speeds for all Californians.

The Governor's plan would address all of the most serious issues that cause the Digital Divide. It would invest in short-term affordability supports for those with access but without the means to connect. It would commit \$3 billion to last-mile construction efforts in a way specifically designed to leverage further funding from local agencies and service providers.

Perhaps most importantly, the plan would invest in a transformative public infrastructure project to build a statewide open access middle mile network, which would reduce the costs for all last-mile projects, giving the state a bigger bang for its buck. But beyond that significant benefit, a statewide open access middle mile network is also the only long-term solution to the issues of universal service and affordability. It would make it more cost-effective and therefore more likely for new service providers to build into communities—representing about half of all connections statewide—suffering under a local broadband monopoly.

Using the state's financial resources to expand broadband is a public good that is both moral and practical, but also urgent. The best time to close the Digital Divide was 20 years ago, but the second best time is now, not next year or two years from now. Committing \$7 billion to this effort would be the state's most serious effort yet to try to close the Digital Divide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marshall Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marshall Long, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Frank Bigelow