

From: Swanson, Rochelle
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:20 AM
To: CA Broadband Council
Subject: Public Comment

Dear Broadband Council,

On behalf of Crown Castle, the nation's largest shared telecommunications infrastructure provider installing, operating and maintaining broadband for a variety of customers including K-12 school districts, local governments, universities, ISPs, and cell phone carriers, we applaud the Council's efforts. We share your desire to accelerate broadband deployment in the state to improve the quality of life for all Californians regardless of income level or geographic location. Your actions are needed now more than ever due to COVID and the public's increased reliance on broadband infrastructure for remote work & school, telehealth, and commerce. We ask that the State Broadband Action Plan you will be working on in the coming months include collaboration with the private sector and installers of broadband and most importantly, include requirements or recommendations for local governments to utilize best practices to expedite existing and future permit approvals for broadband projects around the state. This will help ensure that the thousands of pending broadband permits around the state as well as the projects made available by the California Advanced Services Fund will be deployed as quickly as possible by local governments so that Californians can benefit from internet connectivity in 30-90 days instead of years. Twenty-eight other states already have laws in place to ensure the quick deployment of broadband (wireline and wireless internet) but unfortunately, California is not one of those states. Some local governments in California utilize best practices to streamline permit approvals for broadband deployment, however many local jurisdictions take years to approve permits that are being approved in 30-90 days in best-practice jurisdictions. With furloughs and impacts, it will be important to identify ways that support local government in being able to embrace and process best practices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Swanson

ROCHELLE SWANSON
Government Affairs Manager
Northern California

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