

From: Jagjit Dhaliwal
To: [CA Broadband Council](#)
Cc: Kehoe, Bill@LACounty
Subject: Broadband Action Plan - Public Comments from the County of Los Angeles
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:12:46 PM
Attachments: [11-19-20 Broadband Memo.pdf](#)

Dear California Broadband Council Members,

On behalf of the County of Los Angeles, thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment as your Council embarks on the development of a new State Broadband Action Plan. Please find attached the comments from the County. Please let us know in case of any questions.

Thanks & Regards,

Jagjit

Jagjit Dhaliwal ("JD")

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Deputy Chief Information Officer
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November 19, 2020

TO: California Broadband Council Members

FROM: William S. Kehoe *William S. Kehoe*
 Chief Information Officer

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COMMENTS ON THE STATE BROADBAND ACTION PLAN

On behalf of the County of Los Angeles (County), thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment as your Council embarks on the development of a new State Broadband Action Plan.

Within the County, the Digital Divide is an equity issue that has become more evident during COVID-19. As workplaces and schools have shut down and forced families to work from home, those without broadband access and/or computers are at a severe disadvantage in their ability to effectively work and learn remotely. The 2019 Census data estimates that 5.5% of the County's households do not have a computer and 11.9% lack a broadband internet service. These households are disproportionately located in low income areas and are predominantly represented by Black and Latino families.

The County is supportive of the Broadband Action Plan and stresses the following considerations:

1. Mapping and Data efforts require collaborative partnerships with the Private Partners (e.g., Communication Providers) to validate locations without broadband access.
2. Broadband access may be categorized as an essential utility for residents and can be provisioned and deployed like other essential services (e.g., water, electricity) by municipalities or unincorporated County jurisdictions.

3. The execution strategy requires a programmatic view that considers all public services potentially requiring broadband access (e.g., health services, social services).
4. The Adoption strategy must focus on sustainable and holistic solutions (e.g., grants, philanthropic efforts, ongoing funding sources, and access to tools, services and devices, as well as access to broadband) rather than one-time support to communities in need. Streamlining existing utility commission oversight rules and processes would expedite the program's success.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jagjit Dhaliwal, Deputy CIO, at [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance!

FAD:TJM:WSK:JD:pa

[https://lacounty-my.sharepoint.com/personal/palmaguer_cio_lacounty_gov1/Documents/Documents/11-19-20 Broadband Memo.docx](https://lacounty-my.sharepoint.com/personal/palmaguer_cio_lacounty_gov1/Documents/Documents/11-19-20%20Broadband%20Memo.docx)