

From: Candelaria, Josh
To: [CA Broadband Council](#)
Cc: Beau Biller; Steven Wallauch
Subject: San Bernardino County Comments
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 11:36:42 AM
Attachments: San Bernardino County CA Broadband Action Plan Comment Letter.pdf

Please find the County of San Bernardino's comments.

Thank you,



Josh Candelaria

Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs
County Administrative Office

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www.SBCounty.gov

Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.

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County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

November 19, 2020

California Broadband Council
1325 J Street, Suite 1600
Sacramento, CA 95814-2941

Dear California Broadband Council Members:

The County of San Bernardino supports the State's broadband deployment efforts and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as your Council embarks on the development of a new State Broadband Action Plan.

The pandemic has emphasized and expanded the digital divide that exists between households that have efficient connectivity, and those that do not have connection or are underserved. As many have transitioned to working from home and distance learning, the need for affordable, reliable telecommunications services and resources is now more important than ever. In San Bernardino County, 27,199 households are currently unserved. Besides access, affordability is a prominent issue. As indicated by American Community Survey, slightly less than half of all households with incomes under \$20,000 reported having internet access. By comparison, about 93 percent of wealthier households with annual incomes exceeding \$75,000 were connected.

In San Bernardino County, to close the digital divide we have adopted a resolution with an overall goal to support broadband deployment and participate in a Southern California strategy for deployment. Our resolution calls for the review of internal policies that support deployment with the purpose to streamline the permitting of high-speed internet infrastructure and ensure permitting systems are in line with best practices. The expansion of broadband is meant to better the quality of life for our residents and increase our regional economic competitiveness by providing high speed internet. With the benefits to our economy and quality of life, we provide the following comments as the Council develops the State Broadband Action Plan.

In Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20, it directs state agencies to pursue a minimum broadband speed goal of 100 megabits per second download speed. As the council prepares a roadmap towards achieving this goal, we request you to consider upload speeds as well as download speeds, and we would recommend pursuing a minimum upload speed of 100 megabits per second to match the EO's recommendation for download speed.

To effectively achieve broadband deployment, it is necessary to continue identifying priority unserved areas, as well as focus on more specific information about unserved households in sparsely populated areas and those in small clusters in order to understand locations and characteristics of the unserved households. We suggest improving the data points provided in the California Broadband Map as it is a useful resource which shows areas in the regions that are unserved. It would be beneficial to provide additional data on the map or in spreadsheet form to better understand the unserved households in our County, such as street address. CPUC could also provide a layer on the map that separates unserved households from other unserved areas, i.e., vacant land, commercial, industrial, etc.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports and is looking forward to engaging with the council on broadband deployment. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

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

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors