

From: Maddy Arredondo
To: [CA Broadband Council](#)
Cc: PAIUT3N8V INDIGENOUS GROWR; Kevin D. Townsend; Liz Zendejas; [REDACTED] Marlon Jimenez; Megan Gourd; Meldrick Meza; Andrea Benally; Barbara Wolfin
Subject: Broadband: Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council Tribal Input
Date: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:04:14 PM
Attachments: Broadband Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council Tribal Input.pdf

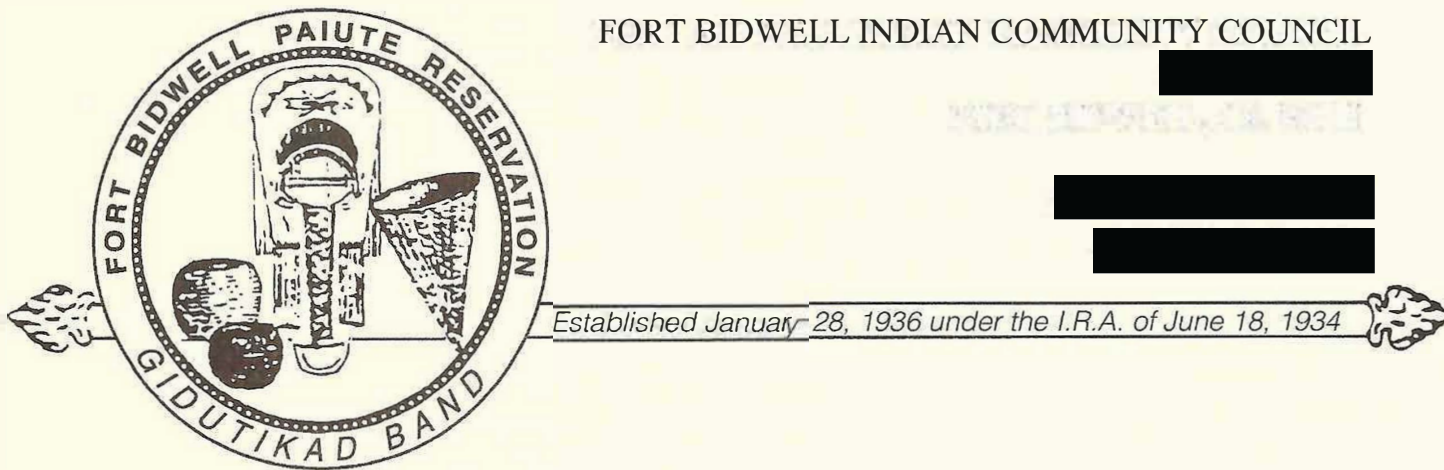
Hello California Broadband Council,

The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council would like to respond to your request for tribal input on Executive Order N-73-20. Please find attached our input letter.

Thank you for your interest in the voices of California's tribal communities, we look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,
Madeline Arredondo
FBICC Council Member

FORT BIDWELL INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



December 10, 2020

The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council would like to provide input regarding California State Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20, in order to inform the policies and practices being developed to increase broadband access statewide.

The Fort Bidwell Indian Community is located in rural northern California, and internet access and mobile networks have always been very limited. Currently, our reservation has internet in our tribal administration buildings which is critical for continued operations, and in very few households, which may be slower and more expensive. Members of the community have tried to reach out to local network providers to receive internet and the problem companies run into has been that there are not enough fiber optics in the area to provide any more services, especially because of our rural location. These issues leave our reservation disconnected as the rest of the country moves forward in technology.

The Fort Bidwell Indian Community is unique in that approximately 75% of our tribal membership resides off reservation. In order to make decisions as a sovereign nation, staying informed and connected is critical. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many to telework and distance learn, but our community does not have the resources or accessibility to be able to stay home and protect themselves and others from the virus. The youth in our community are used to traveling an hour one way, to attend a consolidated school but with distance learning in place, most of our school age children have no other option but to attend classes in-person. Another valuable use of the internet is Warner Mountain Indian Health's telehealth program. This program was implemented before the pandemic due to the severity of needs in our location, and expanded broadband is needed to continue to provide critical health services.

It is the position of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council that the State can be the most helpful in advocating for our Tribe's broadband needs by maintaining meaningful communication, information sharing, and training with tribal nations. It is important that key players in this Executive Order understand the need, including financial needs, that all California tribes are experiencing, especially rural and underserved tribal communities. Tribal nations are the hardest to reach population, especially in regard to broadband, but the benefits of following through with providing broadband to tribal communities would be robust. It is absolutely vital that the necessary steps to lay fiber optics or internet via satellite bridge the digital divide for our tribe's success and to create an equal opportunity for access in information. It is important to

continue engaging partnership between the State, the California Broadband Council, the industry, and of course tribal governments, to educate policy makers and further efforts already in place.

Thank you for displaying interest and allowing input of tribal communities, we look forward to hearing more about the progress of the State's broadband goal.

Respectfully,

Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council

Kevin Townsend, Chairman

Nick Foltz, Vice Chairman

Liz Zendejas, Treasurer

Andrea Benally, Secretary

Meldrick Meza, Council Member

Germain Ruvalcaba, Council Member

Megan Gourd, Council Member

Marlon Jimenez, Council Member

Madeline Arredondo, Council Member