



# Permit Streamlining Report and Model Ordinance

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5/17/2024

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# Permit Streamlining Report and Ordinance

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- **Grounded in reality**

- Recognize the existence of **non-negotiables** and **do not** recommend CEQA reform or any other policy reform.

- **Consistency**

- State Permitting Playbook
- Recommendations from the FCC

- **Goals and Outcome**

- Universal Solutions and Streamlined ordinance
- Adherence to FCC Shot Clock (60 days)
  - **FCC Shot Clock is a mandate but not enforced**

# Taskforce, Interviews, Focus Groups

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- Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce (ReDIT)
- Interviews with ISPs
- Interviews with Local Jurisdictions
- Focus Groups
  - Two held on February 7 and 13
  - Initially comprised of SCAG/SANDAG jurisdictions
  - Morphed into statewide focus group (i.e, Santa Barbara, Tulare, San Joaquin)



# 10 Issue areas identified

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1. Lack of Transparent or Universal Permit Fees\*
2. Extra/Hidden Fees
3. Inclusive Zoning Practices
4. Public and utility facilities
5. Dedicated Staff
6. Resources for Small Jurisdictions
7. Enhanced utility mapping
8. Lack of Online Permit Portal
9. Lack of Administrative and Ministerial Reviews
10. Standardized Broadband Ordinance



# Permit Streamlining Report - Best Practices and Recommended Solutions

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- **Prescriptive (Technical Applied by other Jurisdictions)**
  - Micro trenching
  - Aerial Fiber
  - Mapping
- **Administrative (Recommended)**
  - Formation of Joint Powers Authority
  - On-call consultant or leveraging COGs (**Not MPOs**)
  - Inclusive Zoning Practices
  - Permit Fees



# Model Ordinance

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- Bulk of core problems are resolved in the ordinance
  - 7 out of the 10 issues have been resolved
  - 3 outstanding issues **cannot be resolved through** ordinance
    - Universal Permit Fees
    - Broadband Permit Processors, formation of JPA
    - Better Mapping
- **3 main chapters**
  - Chapter 1 – Traditional Wireless Facilities Permitting
  - Chapter 2 – Small Wireless Facilities in the Public Rights of Way
  - Chapter 3 – Underground and Aerial Fiber Development



# Core problems resolved by the Ordinance

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- Administrative Review Process
- Exclusion of Extra Fees
- Elimination of Restrictive Zoning
- Utilization of Public and Utility Facilities
- Clear Design Standards (i.e Wireless, Wireline, Micro trenching)
- Clear Visual Representation/flowchart for streamlined permit process
- Application checklist to guide staff and ISPs

# Findings and Feedback Received

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- Some Counties and Cities have well established practices and are **hesitant to change**
- Beneficial to smaller (sometimes poorer) local jurisdictions **(Vast Majority)**
- Positive feedback from Local Jurisdictions, Regional Broadband Consortiums, and State (Go-Biz and CDT)
- Proving to be **implementable**
  - City of San Diego
  - Santa Barbara County
  - City of Moorpark



# Next Steps

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- Soft Release\* – End of May
  - Final Draft Report to CETF
- Official Release – July to August (TBD)
- Board Presentations
  - SANDAG – June or July 2024
  - SCAG – August 2024
- Outreach and Marketing
  - **The Grand Tour** RBCs and State have agreed to distribute and post on their website
  - SCAG (**In progress, to discuss post GA**)