



# BOARD AGENDA FACT SHEET

<b>CLERK USE ONLY</b>
BOS ACTION
# _____

Executive Office \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department /Agency \_\_\_\_\_

April 27, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requested Board Date

**1. Request:**

Board Approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Only/Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schedule Hearing Time: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2. Requested Action:** *Type requested action below*

Adopt Resolution supporting increased broadband access to underserved communities throughout Southern California.

3. Cost \$ 0.00 Source: N/A
4. If approval of Contract, reviewed/approved by County Counsel on: N/A  
 By: N/A Action Request # N/A  
Assigned by County Counsel's Office
5. If approval of position allocation change, approved by Human Resources on: N/A  
 By: N/A
6. Electronic copy submittal date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Head/Agency Representative

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Back-up must be submitted 11 BUSINESS days prior to requested date. Back-up submitted must contain an Original and 6 copies. Copies must be submitted double sided and three (3) hole punched. Back-up must be submitted in a PDF format to [cobstaff@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:cobstaff@co.imperial.ca.us).

**CEO/CLERK USE ONLY:**

DATE STAMP

**BOARD DATE:** 04/27/21

Action \_\_\_\_\_ Filing \_\_\_\_\_

Consent x Presentation \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ CEO Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_ 07/21/21  
 CEO Date

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Tony Rouhotas Jr.**  
County Executive Officer  
[tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us)  
[www.co.imperial.ca.us](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us)



County Administration Center  
940 Main Street, Suite 208  
El Centro, CA 92243  
Tel: 442-265-1001  
Fax: 442-265-1010

April 20, 2021

Board of Supervisors  
County of Imperial  
940 Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

**SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution supporting increased broadband access to underserved communities throughout Southern California.**

Dear Board Members:

**Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced residents of the Imperial County to completely restructure the way we live, work and, learn and access to “broadband” (which includes both wireline and wireless technologies) has become essential to advancing public health, education and equity. However, not everyone has equal access to high-speed broadband and the pandemic has exposed the vast and damaging effects of the “digital divide.” Families left behind are concentrated among communities of color, low-income and rural households. As such, it is imperative that local governments address persistent differences in who has high quality internet access at home.

Broadband is an essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy. It is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for Imperial County residents and throughout California. And, it can enable the County to mitigate economic, educational and health disparities within underserved communities. The deployment and adoption of broadband is a major strategy to spur economic development because it improves productivity, which attracts more capital investment and generates jobs, while saving both time and money for consumers.

Although California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of information technologies and broadband, the use of broadband technology by California residents is only approximately equivalent to the national average and there is a significant Digital Divide that must be closed to remain globally competitive.

**Recommendation:**

Therefore, it is recommended that the Imperial County Board of Supervisors adopt the enclosed Resolution supporting increased broadband access to underserved communities throughout Southern California.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact to the County's general fund with the recommended action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Rouhotas, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Rouhotas, Jr.  
County Executive Officer

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF  
IMPERIAL SUPPORTING INCREASED BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED  
COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expands economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within underserved communities and/or areas (which include people of color, low income households, residents in rural areas, and senior citizens) more apparent; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that cost and household income is a primary barrier to broadband access.

WHEREAS, all residents, businesses and institutions need high speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables Work from Home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband is a “green technology” that reduces our impact on the environment, shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety, and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and

WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property; and

WHEREAS, to accelerate the deployment of broadband, the primary objective is to deploy private-sector capital as quickly as possible through improved public cooperation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby as follows:

1. Supports FCCs (United States Federal Communications Commission) and CPUCs (California Public Utilities Commission) rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to bridge the digital divide.
2. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020 that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California; and
3. Supports collaboration with broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortia, California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California; and
4. Determines that closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits; and
5. Supports the request for grant funding from the State and/or Federal government for a regional program that provides funding for free internet access for qualifying residents that bridges the economic digital divide; and
6. Supports a minimum broadband speed capability of 100 megabits per second today and 1 gigabit per second by 2030 for all residential and business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of our region; and
7. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to identify broadband opportunity zones in underserved communities; and
8. Upon identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports the adoption of an emergency ordinance which would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to expedite low cost broadband deployment such as: waivers for microprojects, deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved communities and fixed wireless or other broadband technologies in rural communities; and
9. Supports the adoption of consistent fees and expedited broadband permitting processes within collaborating jurisdictions; and

10. Supports the concept of “Dig Smart” and/or “Dig Once” whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Imperial, State of California, on this 27th day of April, by the following vote:

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Michael W. Kelley,  
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Blanca Acosta,  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER  
AND SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

OCTOBER 13, 2020

**ESTABLISHING PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED  
INTERNET AND BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the deep inequities that run through our communities. These inequities range from access to care and disproportionate health outcomes, to access to the high-speed broadband internet services needed to telework and to provide opportunities for distance learning while the Safer at Home Health Officer Orders are in place.

The pandemic has emphasized the importance of access to high-speed broadband internet and related resources as an essential means to access health services, education, economic resources, and job opportunities. The availability of broadband access and the devices to use it are critical to County residents as many jobs and industries are making a shift to virtual operations in order to maintain local business operations, public services, and distance education for students.

The pandemic has highlighted the digital divide that exists between those that have access to broadband and technology and those that do not. 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.

According to a study by the USC Annenberg School of Communications, nearly 1.5 million K-12 students in Los Angeles County have left in-person classrooms and attend classes virtually. The study also found that about 1 in 4 families with school-age children in Los Angeles County do not have the resources necessary for distance learning and these students are likely to fall behind in education during the pandemic. Many of the families without resources reside in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

-M O R E-

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

According to the American Community Survey Data for Los Angeles County, approximately 283,000 households do not have internet access. A survey by the Los Angeles Times and the California Department of Education described the impact of the digital divide and the lack of digital inclusivity. Results showed that 97% of households in high-income areas had internet access and 87% had a computer at home; while only 65% of low-income areas had internet access and 51% had a computer at home.

In addition, one of the few silver linings of the impact of the pandemic, has been the adaptation to technological solutions to address the inability to meet in-person. This includes the rapid use and integration of telehealth as an essential way to provide access to health care, especially for our most vulnerable populations. The rise of telehealth may be solution to individuals that cannot take time off from work or their other responsibilities to attend to their health needs.

During the COVID-19 crisis, funding was provided by both the public and private sectors to provide laptop computers and other devices to those in need; however, it quickly became apparent that unless connectivity was available, the devices were not as useful as intended. Access to connectivity, digital literacy, and the devices are essential components to closing the digital divide and ensuring digital inclusion for all.

The County currently provides public Wi-Fi access at many facilities, including parks, libraries, and community/senior centers. The County also recently launched a Wi-Fi Locator tool to help residents find and stay connected through free, local Wi-Fi.

However, these are temporary solutions and ultimately the County needs to focus on major, regional, telecommunications infrastructure, including collaborating with the telecommunications industry to support development of “best in class” infrastructure to provide connectivity and services, especially in underserved rural communities.

One area of opportunity is to streamline the permitting of high-speed internet infrastructure and to ensure the County’s permitting systems are in line with best practices. Current permitting ranges from ministerial encroachment permits for infrastructure within the public right-of-way, to discretionary Conditional Use Permits (CUP) for a traditional cell site located on private property or within public right-of-way.

Recently, the Department of Regional Planning, streamlined permitting for small cell wireless facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County by allowing them to be reviewed through Zoning Conformance Review procedure instead of the previously required CUP, considerably reducing the review cost and processing time. Continuing to explore best practices and learn from the experiences of local jurisdictions, such as the City of Long Beach, will help the County develop solutions to the streamlined and expedited permitting of such infrastructure.

The County has a unique opportunity to provide leadership in digital innovation by deploying advanced telecommunications networks and ensuring digital inclusion in the communities it serves. This may include updating policies, procedures, or ordinances, to incentivize the industry and provide consistent guidelines to standardize the process, while ensuring new installations meet the needs of residents and businesses.



**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Department of Regional Planning and County Counsel, to collaborate with public and private sector partners, including broadband, fiber, and cellular technology companies in the telecommunications industry, through *Infrastructure LA* and report back in 90 days, with a plan to:

1. Develop best practices for streamlining the permitting of high-speed broadband internet infrastructure, including modeling the County's practices after best practices learned from the City of Long Beach;
2. Explore public and private partnerships and develop recommendations for incentives, including leveraging local, state, and federal grant opportunities, to spur the deployment of broadband infrastructure in historically underserved and rural communities;
3. Develop a database and geographic information system (GIS) mapping viewer to catalogue and lay out major existing broadband infrastructure countywide to serve as the basis for a future needs assessment;
4. Explore potential revisions or additions to the County's General Plan to ensure unincorporated areas have sufficient access to high-speed internet;
5. Explore innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and related devices to disadvantaged communities; and
6. Explore innovative strategies and permitting fee structures to enable the timely review of permit applications for high-speed broadband infrastructure

# # #

KB:aso

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

March 9, 2021

**Support for Increased Broadband Internet  
Access in Orange County**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the need for easy, affordable access to broadband internet services in our communities; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband gives residents access to medical services and gives public health officials an improved ability to respond to threats like COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the “digital divide” in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband access is critical for businesses, schools, and other community institutions, and particularly for residents to work, live, learn, and thrive in our community; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband facilitates remote working, increases job efficiency, connects customers and businesses worldwide, and helps with regional economic growth; and

WHEREAS, effective emergency services rely on high speed broadband to access and relay lifesaving information in real time, protecting individuals from natural and manmade threats; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

1. Supports high speed broadband internet access for all residential and business customers in Orange County; and
2. Supports the adoption of consistent fees and simple broadband permitting processes across all collaborating jurisdictions; and
3. Supports the efforts of the Southern California Association of Governments, working with its members, to encourage and affect positively the deployment decisions of broadband providers; and
4. Supports the concept of “Dig Once” whenever possible whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-262**

3 **SUPPORTING INCREASED BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**  
4 **THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

5 **WHEREAS**, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that  
6 include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expand  
7 economic opportunities and bridge the economic divide; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable  
9 broadband services in all communities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within low-income and rural  
12 communities more apparent; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the County of Riverside recognizes that cost and low household income are the  
14 primary barriers to broadband access; and

15 **WHEREAS**, high speed broadband service is important to all residents, businesses and institutions  
16 and is desirable where residents and visitors work, live, learn and play; and

17 **WHEREAS**, high speed broadband enables working from home and remote workers, enhances  
18 business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners  
19 worldwide to goods and services; and

20 **WHEREAS**, high speed broadband is a “green technology” that can reduce impacts on the  
21 environment and shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources; and

22 **WHEREAS**, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical,  
23 behavioral, and oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to  
24 health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases; and

25 **WHEREAS**, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities  
26 together, helps improve public safety and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and

27 **WHEREAS**, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in  
28 real time from all available sources, so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the

FOR APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: *Melissa R. Cushman* 12/3/2020  
MELISSA R. CUSHMAN DATE

1 protection of lives and property;

2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED** by  
3 the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside in regular session assembled on December 8, 2020,  
4 that the Board:

- 5 1. Supports many of the goals of the United States Federal Communications Commission’s and  
6 the California Public Utilities Commission’s rules and regulations, and supports their  
7 programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to  
8 bridge the digital divide; and
- 9 2. Supports Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020, which  
10 seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks  
11 throughout California; and
- 12 3. Supports collaboration with Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San  
13 Diego and Ventura Counties, broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community  
14 college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband  
15 Consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other  
16 federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access  
17 throughout Southern California; and
- 18 4. Determines that closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community  
19 benefits; and
- 20 5. Supports requesting grant funding from the State and Federal government for a regional  
21 program that provides funding for free internet access for qualifying residents that bridges  
22 the economic digital divide; and
- 23 6. Supports the goal of a minimum broadband speed capability of 100 megabits per second  
24 today and 1 gigabit per second by 2030 for all residential and business customers within the  
25 urban, suburban and rural communities of our region; and
- 26 7. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to affect the deployment decisions of  
27 broadband providers by ensuring permitting fees are set at a reasonable level; reducing the  
28 cost of entry and operation of broadband systems in our communities; reducing the risks of

1 delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases; providing opportunities for  
2 increasing revenue and creating new avenues for competitive entry; and

3 8. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to identify broadband opportunity zones  
4 in underserved communities; and

5 9. Upon identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports working towards the creation of a  
6 regional effort that would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to expedite low  
7 cost broadband deployment by internet service providers, potentially including such features  
8 as: waivers for microprojects, deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved  
9 communities and implementation of fixed wireless or other broadband technologies in rural  
10 communities; and

11 10. Supports consistent expedited broadband permitting processes throughout participating  
12 jurisdictions; and

13 11. Supports the concept of “Dig Once” whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate  
14 use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation,  
15 whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-199

### SETTING FORTH SUPPORT TO INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY)

On Tuesday November 17, 2020, on motion of Supervisor Lovingood, duly seconded by Supervisor Gonzales and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

**WHEREAS**, the digital divide is defined as the lack of access to communication technologies, such as basic or high-speed internet, for underserved communities;

**WHEREAS**, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expands economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has expanded and perpetuated the digital divide within low-income and rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, reliable and affordable internet connectivity has become a fundamental necessity as work, education and social engagement have all moved online; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that cost and household income is a significant barrier to broadband access; and

**WHEREAS**, all residents, businesses and institutions are greatly benefited by having access to high speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play; and

**WHEREAS**, high speed broadband enables Work from Home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, high speed broadband is a "green technology" that reduces our impact on the environment, shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, high speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats and other diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, improves public safety, and makes our transportation systems resilient and efficient; and

**WHEREAS**, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources to coordinate emergency services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors:

1. Supports United States Federal Communications Commission and California Public Utilities Commission rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities that support broadband deployment opportunities to close the digital divide.
2. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020, which is attached as Exhibit A, that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California; and

3. Supports collaboration with local agencies and governments [such as, Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties], broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, Regional Broadband Consortiums, the California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California; and
4. Determines that closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits; and
5. Supports the request for grant funding from the State and/or Federal government for a regional program that provides funding for free internet access for qualifying residents that bridges the economic digital divide; and
6. Supports the provision of high-speed broadband for all residential and business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of our County; and
7. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to affect the deployment decisions of broadband providers; and
8. Upon identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports the adoption of an ordinance which would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to responsibly expedite low cost broadband deployment; and
9. Supports the adoption of consistent fees and broadband permitting processes within collaborating jurisdictions; and
10. Supports the concept of "Dig Once" whenever feasible whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES:	SUPERVISORS:	Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales.
NOES:	SUPERVISORS:	None
ABSENT:	SUPERVISORS:	None

\* \* \* \* \*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO        )        ss.

I, **LYNNA MONELL**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of November 17, 2020. Item #4, CCM.

LYNNA MONELL  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy





## RESOLUTION NO. 21-027

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT VENTURA COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, closing the digital divide provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access to existing and emerging services, and the expansion of economic opportunities and bridges the economic divide;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within lower-income and rural communities more apparent;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura recognizes that cost and household income are barriers to broadband access;

**WHEREAS**, all residents, businesses and institutions need high-speed broadband services where they work, live, learn and play;

**WHEREAS**, high-speed broadband enables work from home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers worldwide to goods and services;

**WHEREAS**, high-speed broadband is a “green technology” that reduces our impact on the environment and shrinks our regional carbon footprint, offsetting vehicle trips and use of resources;

**WHEREAS**, high-speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical, behavioral, and oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as COVID-19 and other diseases;

**WHEREAS**, high-speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety, and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and

**WHEREAS**, effective emergency services require using high-speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision-makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA  
HEREBY RESOLVES that it:**

1. Supports the rules, regulations, programs and funding opportunities of the United States Federal Communications Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission that support broadband deployment opportunities to bridge the digital divide.
2. Supports Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-73-20 signed August 14, 2020 that seeks to accelerate work towards closing gaps in access to reliable broadband networks throughout California.
3. Supports the County's collaboration with other local governments, broadband providers, school districts (K-12), community college districts, universities, community and business stakeholders, regional broadband consortiums, California Emerging Technology Fund, the State of California and other federal and regional organizations that have similar goals to increase broadband access throughout Southern California.
4. Determines that closing the digital divide provides long-term community benefits.
5. Supports the request for grant funding from the state and/or federal government for a regional program that provides funding for free and/or low-cost internet access for qualifying residents that bridges the economic digital divide.
6. Supports a minimum broadband speed capability of 100 megabits per second today and 1 gigabit per second by 2030 for all residential and business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of our region.
7. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to affect the deployment decisions of broadband providers.
8. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to identify broadband opportunity zones in underserved communities.
9. Supports the concept of "Dig Smart" and/or "Dig Once" whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway.

Upon motion of Supervisor Ramirez, seconded by  
Supervisor Huber, and duly carried, the Board hereby  
approves and adopts this resolution on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.



Linda Parks, Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura

ATTEST:  
Michael Powers,  
Clerk of the Board  
County of Ventura, State of California

By: Jon Key  
Deputy Clerk of the Board