

de la Guerra, Sheila

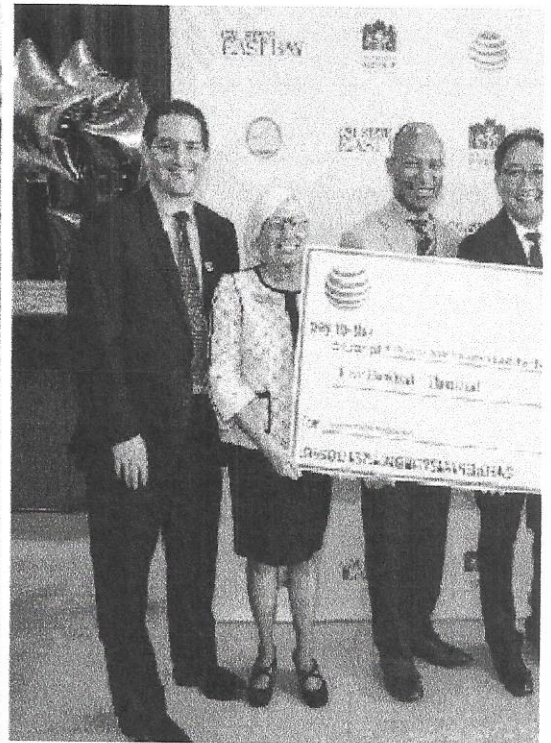
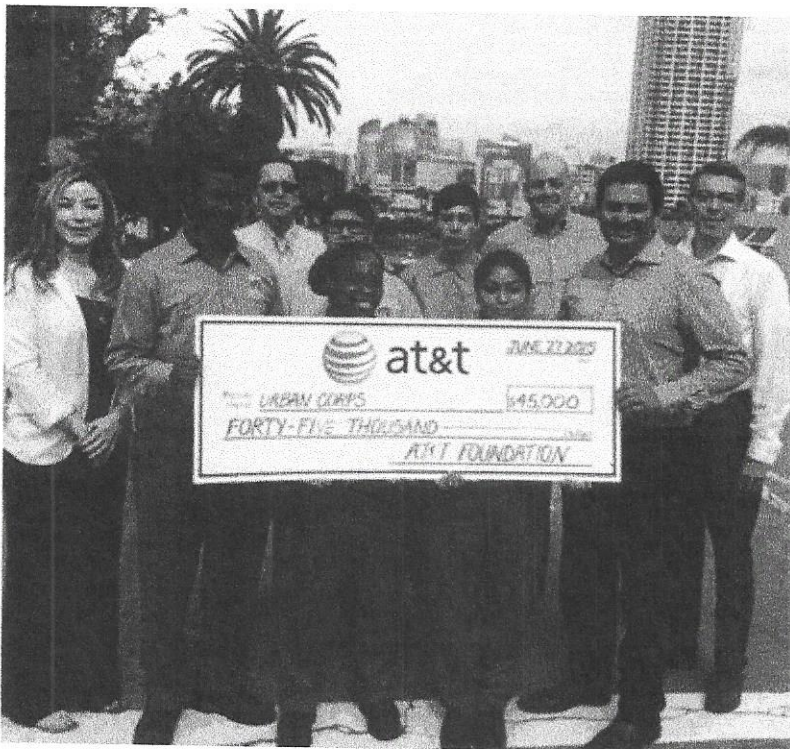
General Public Comment

From: K T <ktamazon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Ramirez, Angelica; sbcob
Cc: Ron Buckley
Subject: Public comment for Katie Mickey 9-21-21
Attachments: PC BOS 9-21-21.docx

Late
Dist.

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk of the County,
Please enter my public comment into the record. See attached and pictures below. I will speak my comment as well today at 9am.
Thank you.



Pictures: Senator Ben Hueso, (Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications) & AT&T Present \$45,000 Grant to Urban Corps of San Diego County, his district. Picture of the principal coauthor of AB 537, Assembly Member Quirk getting a \$1/2 million check for a project in his area from AT&T. (On the right.)

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Supervisor Williams, We thank you for writing to Governor Newsom requesting he veto two terrible wireless broadband bills SB 556 and AB 537. Remaining County Board of Supervisors we request that you do the same.

I quote Larry Ortega, President of Community Union, "Top officials formerly with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) told me that fees assessed on rate payers and paid by the state's utility HAVE NOT BEEN AUDITED in at least 10 years. No one within the CPUC can confirm - to this very day - if fees collected from rate payers, are fees paid by the state's utility. The *wild wild west* of the information age - has led to the digital divide crisis of today. Giving the wireless industry more deregulatory authority, while the entire checks and balances within the CPUC remains *out-of-whack* - is irresponsible.'

Dismantling our regulatory agency's (CPUC) credibility even further is their inability to confirm if the fees collected from landline customers for upgrades, are upgrades that were actually made. The CPUC Network Exam published in 2019 found the *smoking gun* that says fees collected from rate payers were not used to make upgrades to families living in the digital divide. Not fulfilling upgrade commitments is the root cause why millions and millions of children could not connect to the Internet during last year's pandemic crisis.'

Said differently, AT&T and Verizon - pre-Frontier, have had the luxury of being in a deregulated regime over the last decade with the expectation they would build-out a world-class telecommunication infrastructure, i.e. make upgrades to the network. The upgrades never came. So what happened to all the money? Almost \$1.5 billion in alleged overcharges has been estimated just in the last two years in California.'

Until the Governor can address the root causes of the digital divide; no further deference to the telecommunication industry should be gifted. SB556 and AB537 represent a gift undeserving of an industry who has and will continue to fail millions of our children when no accountability is present.'

There is a solution to closing the digital divide and that solution is Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)." Please join Das and Mayor Murillo and write to Governor Newsom **ASAP** to ask him to veto SB-556 and AB-537. Thank you.

Katie Mickey and Lesley Weinstock, Safe Technology for Santa Barbara County

