

Attachment B

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Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 16, 2022

Communications Division

Attn: California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Letter of Support for the Application for Local Agency Technical Assistance by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and County of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County and the cities within the county are currently collaborating in the development of a regional strategy for Broadband for All. This year considerable data has been collected related to broadband speeds and resident needs, and community engagement meetings have been conducted to begin development of local collaborative strategies. What remains is the building of capacity to continue these efforts. Organized as a “hub and spoke” model and coordinated by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), the County and each of the 8 cities have invested in the development of the strategy. Likewise, the County and SBCAG intend to apply for LATA funding on behalf of all, pending Board approval. The two applications for \$500,000 each, are summarized as follows.

SBCAG submittal– Regional Joint Powers Agreement - There is a need to establish a public sector organization to provide oversight, operations, and maintenance of public assets both within city jurisdictions and the unincorporated areas. At this time, formation of a joint powers authority (JPA) is envisioned. Of particular interest is the technical support provided to the smaller cities.

County of Santa Barbara planned submittal – Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and high-level network design - The purpose of this funding is to perform the work necessary to complete a regional EIR to accelerate broadband. Additional policy consideration such as dig once policies and standardized approaches for permitting approvals at the regional level will also be investigated, coordinated, and adoption sought.

Together these proposals have been designed to complement one another and occur in alignment with the county-wide broadband strategy as coordinated by the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast with the active participation of public and private stakeholders.

The County Board of Supervisors support the applications and potential award of LATA funding on behalf of our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors