



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: General Services  
Department No.: 063  
For Agenda Of: 9/13/2011  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from: N/A  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** General Services Bob Nisbet, Director (560-1011)

Contact Info:

**SUBJECT:** A Resolution of the Board to join with the California Emerging Technology Fund in launching *Get Connected!* – a Public Awareness Campaign to Promote High-Speed Internet access to all Communities

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached resolution to join the California Emerging Technology Fund in launching and promoting *Get Connected!* —a public awareness program to close the Digital Divide—and declare 2011 as the target year for all residents, businesses and community organizations to *Get Connected!*; and
- b) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2).

**Summary Text:**

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) is a non-profit corporation established pursuant to requirements from the California Public Utilities Commission in approving the mergers of SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI. The merged companies will contribute a total of \$60 million over 5 years to advance broadband. High-speed communications is referred to generically as broadband and defined by the FCC as a speed of over 200 kilobits per second in at least one direction. Currently, 38% of all Californians and 40% of low-income households are not connected to the Internet with broadband, leaving more than 14 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at home.

The CETF's mission is to provide leadership statewide to close the "Digital Divide" by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband to unserved and underserved communities and populations and ensure that California is a global leader in the availability and use of broadband technology. This will be accomplished by making investments in programs and projects to improve Access, Affordability, Applications, Accessibility and Assistance to broadband—the "5As" of the Digital Divide.

Forty other counties in California have adopted similar resolutions and joined **Get Connected!**

Related to this action, in April 2011, the Board directed that a letter be sent to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requesting that the CPUC require Comcast Cable Communications to extend cable service to the communities of Los Alamos and New Cuyama as a part of their new State Franchise. The CPUC never responded to this letter. A second letter was sent on August 15, 2011 expressing again the County's concern that these two areas are underserved. This second letter specifically requested a response in writing.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Staffing Impacts:**

None

**Attachments:**

Resolution