

## 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