

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.45
(ID # 14092)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, December 08, 2020

FROM : SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ: RESOLUTION NO. 2020-262 SETTING FORTH SUPPORT TO INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. ADOPT Resolution No. 2020-262, Supporting Increased Broadband Access to Underserved Communities Throughout Riverside County and Southern California, augmenting Resolution No. 2016-197, Riverside County's Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan, supporting improved broadband access and service throughout Riverside County and Southern California.

ACTION:


Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Chairman 12/4/2020

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 8, 2020
xc: Supvr. Perez

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

On September 20, 2016 the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 2016-197, which set forth support for Riverside County's Broadband Master Plan to facilitate the provision of high-speed internet connectivity to all residents and business throughout the county. This plan developed a Request for Participation (RFP) for the deployment of gigabit (1 Gbps) fiber services to all homes, businesses, and institutions countywide. However, the RFP resulted in no award to the regional and national respondents.

COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable, and affordable broadband services in all communities. Increasing access to broadband continues to be at the forefront of the state, region and county. The Coronavirus has brought to light just how important this work is as more individuals, families, and companies are using the internet to conduct day to day operations, work from home, attend school and interact with healthcare providers.

Considering the hardships experienced, all seven Southern California Counties, Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Imperial, Ventura and Riverside are forming a coalition to address the needs of our community. The goal of the coalition is to work collaboratively to successfully obtain funding that incentivizes internet service providers to build out broadband infrastructure in our region to those communities without service or experiencing poor quality service. Additionally, the coalition is seeking funding to provide low cost broadband service to qualified low income families throughout the region. Resolution No. 2020-262 is intended to lead to a collaborative effort among Southern California Counties to achieve these goals and to augment Riverside County Resolution No. 2016-197.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Resolution No. 2020-262

Attachment B: Resolution No. 2016-197

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-262

**SUPPORTING INCREASED BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES
THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND 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, expand economic opportunities and bridge 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 low-income and rural communities more apparent; and

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

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

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables working 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 can reduce impacts on the environment and 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, 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; 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

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

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

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

- 8. Supports working with collaborating jurisdictions to identify broadband opportunity zones in underserved communities; and
- 9. Upon identifying broadband opportunity zones, supports working towards the creation of a regional effort that would allow local jurisdictions to develop specific rules to expedite low cost broadband deployment by internet service providers, potentially including such features as: waivers for microprojects, deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved communities and implementation of fixed wireless or other broadband technologies in rural communities; and
- 10. Supports consistent expedited broadband permitting processes throughout participating jurisdictions; and
- 11. Supports the concept of "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.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of said Board

By 
Deputy