

*City of Palo Alto*  
*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re:     Broadband Infrastructure Funding  
       Letter of Support from the City of Palo Alto**

Dear Governor Newsom, Chairperson Skinner, and Chairperson Ting:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write to express my strong support for the state budget proposal titled "*Broadband for All Californians.*"

In order to build future-proof fiber connections to every unserved building and house in the state it is projected by the California Broadband Council that we will need a total of \$6.8 billion in state, federal, and private investments. Much like successes in other states, California will also need the ability to work with and empower local partners to deploy this infrastructure at large scale.

**Funding Request**

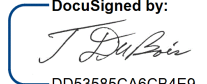
The City supports the \$7 billion proposed allocation to target and support infrastructure deployment. This includes:

- 1) The creation of a new sub-account (The Public Broadband Account) in the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to fund municipal, non-profit, and cooperative broadband projects, and to leverage additional federal funding;
- 2) Funding be allocated directly to local government agencies with prepared infrastructure plans to make a significant down payment on building-out future proof broadband infrastructure. Such funding should prioritize efforts to connect low-income unserved and underserved communities.

The City of Palo Alto has begun an effort to explore a Fiber to the Home project with the intention of creating more reliable, consistent, and available internet service locally. The proposed funding at the State would be beneficial to local efforts to advance this very important initiative.

I urge you to support this approach to appropriating available state and federal funds to supplement current state policy efforts, support municipal efforts to enhance connectivity, stimulate economic recovery, and ensure that every California student and household has access to high-quality broadband connectivity.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Tom DuBois

Mayor, City of Palo Alto

CC: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Josh Becker, California State Senate  
The Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly  
Palo Alto City Council  
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager

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