



Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento,
Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Riverside, Stockton

June 11, 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 Big City Mayors Coalition**

Dear Governor Newsom, Chairperson Skinner, and Chairperson Ting:

We write to express our strong support for Governor Newsom's proposal to invest \$7 billion as part of a plan to expand broadband infrastructure, increase affordability, and enhance access to broadband for all Californians. Additionally, we respectfully urge the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees to incorporate a similar plan into the Legislature's final budget.

As you all know, the pandemic has underscored the importance of making broadband accessible and affordable for educational, employment, and health purposes. 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—specifically, we appreciate and support the Governor's proposal to create a public financing program that backs municipalities, non-profits, cooperatives, and others to access long-term financing which will unlock their potential to build 21st century access. Additionally, we support the construction of an open access "middle mile" fiber network which will ensure that all communities have multi-gigabit capacity delivered to them. We recommend the planning phase for this complex infrastructure be done in collaboration with the federal government to ensure a coordinated national approach. We also respectfully urge additional funding especially for urban communities of color that have historically been left behind that may not see the near-term benefit of investment in the middle mile and require additional resources now to increase access to devices, receive affordable, sustainable connectivity, and participate in digital literacy programs.

In order to achieve universal 21st century ready access and end the digital divide, the state must fully embrace its role and responsibility to directly build the infrastructure while enabling local community choices. We thank you for recognizing the critical importance of broadband infrastructure and overall broadband expansion, and urge the Administration and Legislature to work together and ensure that these funds are part of the final State Budget.

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego



London Breed
Mayor
City of San Francisco



Jerry Dyer
Mayor
City of Fresno



Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento



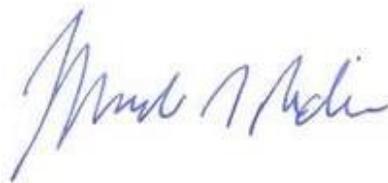
Robert Garcia
Mayor
City of Long Beach



Libby Schaaf
Mayor
City of Oakland



Karen Goh
Mayor
City of Bakersfield



Harry Sidhu
Mayor
City of Anaheim



Vicente Sarmiento
Mayor
City of Santa Ana



Patricia Lock-Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside



Kevin Lincoln
Mayor
City of Stockton

CC: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly