

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

June 9, 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: State Budget Funding for Broadband – 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 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. As budget negotiations finalize, I respectfully urge the Senate and Assembly to incorporate language which keeps the full \$7 billion and allows local jurisdictions to access these funds, into the Legislature’s final budget.

As you all know, the pandemic has underscored the importance of making broadband accessible, reliable, and affordable for various aspects of modern life. California needs 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 modern access. Additionally, we support the construction of an open access “middle mile” fiber network so that all communities have the ability to tap into a quality network.

In order to bridge the digital divide and enhance existing infrastructure options, local governments and their partners must have access to these dollars. Complete funding with the ability for municipalities to access is critical, and I urge the Administration and Legislature to work together and ensure that these funds are part of the final State Budget.

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
Palo Alto City Council

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