

BEFORE THE
FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-49

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OF
SUPPORTING BROADBAND
INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES

IN THE MATTER OF:
Supporting Broadband
Infrastructure In Rural
Communities

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout the Central Valley build hundreds of new homes and apartments, which are limited to 20-year-old internet technology and speeds as low as 6 Mbps.

WHEREAS, selected high-income neighborhoods and cities receive optical fiber with speeds over 100 times faster, or up to 1 Gbps (1000 Mbps).

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission opened a proceeding, Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 and is gathering evidence, data, and testimony regarding Telecommunications and Internet Service Providers in California.

WHEREAS, California broadband providers have avoided regulatory oversight of access, affordability, and the reliability of high-speed internet, to the detriment of rural communities and low-income inner-city neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, elected leaders must advocate for rural and inner-city residents and their access to vital services, including health, education, social service, personal development, civic participation and inclusion in society, which rely increasingly on the internet.

WHEREAS, the State and Federal Treasuries are poised to provide funds for Broadband Infrastructure for unserved and underserved Californians.

NOW, THEREFORE, FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RESOLVES

1. Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) declares support for the CPUC proceeding, Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001, and regulatory oversight of Telecommunications and Internet Service Providers.
2. Fresno COG encourages community leaders and residents to provide statements in the above cited proceeding.
3. California must apply the social contract of universal service to internet access in the same manner as early electrification and telephone service.
4. Federal and State funds must prioritize the poorest and most underserved communities with a minimum speed of 100 Mbps and a preference for optical fiber.
5. All new housing developments should be built with optical fiber to homes and apartments.
6. Subscriber rates must continue to include affordable programs for low-income households.
7. Employers receiving public funds should agree to make every effort to employ a local workforce, including residents from low-income communities and provide:
 - a. Good wages, benefits, training, safety programs, and job security.
 - b. A commitment to support every employee's potential for a career path and permanent employment in the industry.
8. Fresno COG supports the request to Governor Newsom, the California Public Utilities Commission and pertinent State agencies for consideration of the proposed West Fresno County Fiber Network.

FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PASSED AND ADOPTED THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION on this 18th day of November 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Signed: __ David Cardenas, Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Fresno Council of Governments duly adopted at a regular meeting dated above.

Signed: __ Tony Boren, Executive Director