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Transportation
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February 25, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102

RE: Broadband Funding Acceleration and the Digital Equity Coalition—SUPPORT

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioners Rechtschaffen, Shiroma, Houck, and Reynolds:

The City of Arcata is writing to request the immediate allocation of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) collections into the Regional Consortia, Public Housing, and Adoptions Accounts so that we can accelerate progress in closing the Digital Divide and achieving Digital Equity.

We support the overall approach set forth by the Digital Equity Coalition and join with them in encouraging you to exercise the Commission's authority to:

- Focus on achieving as much progress as possible in the next 3 years with the goal to get all low-income households connected to the Internet.
- Establish Commission policy to allocate at least \$225 million in the next 3 years into the key 3 Accounts to achieve tangible results.
- Rely upon past rulemaking for these CASF Accounts and expedite any further rulemaking that you deem essential so that digitally-disadvantaged residents can benefit now.

We urge you to work closely with the Digital Equity Coalition which is comprised of experienced leadership organizations with established track records in both: (a) convening stakeholders to partner on building broadband networks; and (b) mobilizing to get all low-income households online. These leaders know how to launch outreach in language and in culture, provide digital literacy training with standardized outcomes, and assist households sign up for affordable home Internet service. This is a pivotal moment in time for all of us to reboot the way we serve the public. The public interest will be served by the Commission working closely with the Digital Equity Coalition and we thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Stacy Atkins-Salazar, Mayor
City of Arcata

Cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov, Ciara.Emery@mail.house.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, Ruth.Valenzuela@asm.ca.gov

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