

California Central Coast Caucus

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October 21, 2024

Liana Bailey-Crimmins
Chief Information Officer and Director, California Department of Technology

Via Email: liana.bailey-crimmins@state.ca.gov and edmond.cheung@state.ca.gov

Subject: Central Coast Broadband Infrastructure Rollback

Dear Director Baily-Crimmins,

We, the members of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC), write to urge you to reverse the decision made by the Middle Mile Advisory Commission (MMAC) to roll back the promised buildout of badly needed broadband infrastructure in rural areas of the Central Coast.

The CLCCC consists of ten legislative officials representing Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. It aims to raise the profile of the Central Coast and to identify and prioritize predominant issues to this important region of California.

Rural and remote communities in California have a true need and justified expectations of significant expansion of critical broadband infrastructure. Building open-access broadband in rural and underserved areas provides critical public safety communications during fires, floods, mudslides, and other extreme weather events that are needed for the safety of our constituents.

Additionally, broadband provides a crucial leg up for the people who live in rural and underserved areas. It allows students to better access education, enables small businesses to remain competitive, and allows smaller Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to serve these regions in need that do not receive as much attention as other areas in California.

Many areas within the Central Coast region are in desperate need of this broadband infrastructure. Many people living within rural areas do not have access to reliable broadband, if at all. As a result, they may be especially vulnerable during emergencies if they cannot receive evacuation notifications. With the recent increase in natural disasters brought about by climate change, such as this year's winter storms, it is now more important than ever for constituents to have access to reliable emergency communications.

The rollback of this promised buildout would leave many of our constituents in their vulnerable states. Moreover, funds earned from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment grants may be left unutilized and ultimately used elsewhere. The constituents of the Central Coast need these funds for their safety, education, and economic viability.

For the reasons listed above, we urge you to ensure that the broadband infrastructure in the Central Coast region receives this much-needed build-out by reversing the decision to roll it back.

Sincerely,



DAWN ADDIS
Chair, Central Coast Legislative Caucus
Assemblymember, 30th District



MONIQUE LIMÓN
Vice-Chair, Central Coast Legislative Caucus
Senator, 19th District

The Central Coast Legislative Caucus

SENATORS

Anna Caballero, Monique Limón (Vice-Chair), John Laird, Henry Stern

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

Dawn Addis (Chair), Speaker Robert Rivas, Steve Bennett, Gregg Hart, Jacqui Irwin, Gail Pellerin