

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF YUBA**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE YUBA
COUNTY BROADBAND MASTER PLAN AND) RESOLUTION NO.: 2021-154
PROVIDING DIRECTION ON COUNTY)
BROADBAND POLICY)**

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expand economic opportunities and bridge the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for available, reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband service is important to all residents, businesses and institutions and is desirable where residents and visitors work, live, learn and play; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables working from home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the county, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services; and

WHEREAS, high speed broadband enables greater civic participation and brings communities together, helps improve public safety and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and

WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources, so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property; and

WHEREAS, the Yuba County Broadband Master Plan has identified a series of best practices to facilitate public-private partnership toward the goal of affordable and reliable high speed broadband for all Yuba County residents, such as “dig once, dig smart policies,” master license agreements, broadband project permit streamlining, development code ordinance updates and broadband master environmental impact reports; and

WHEREAS, the Yuba County Broadband Master Plan has highlighted the need for verification of the broadband coverage data provided by the internet service providers to the California Public Utility Commission through outreach efforts which include the use of CalSPEED or other accurate measures of broadband reliability; and

WHEREAS, the Yuba County Broadband Master Plan has indicated that broadband service north of Highway 20 is unreliable, with a significant cause being the lack of middle mile broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, information listed in the Yuba County Broadband Master Plan notes that the economics of internet service provider business models have resulted in under investment in middle mile broadband infrastructure for low density rural communities such as those in the Yuba County foothill region, due to the expense of expanding middle mile broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, under investment in middle mile infrastructure in rural communities necessitates that the County seek alternative sources of funding to expand access to high speed broadband, such as state and federal grant funds, and public private partnerships with internet service providers on an individual project basis; and

WHEREAS, at least 32.1% of households within Yuba County are unserved at broadband service of at least 6 megabits per second (Mbps) download, 1 Mbps upload (6/1 Mbps), 34.5% of households are unserved at 10/1 Mbps, and 47.9% are unserved at 25/3 Mbps; and

WHEREAS, a goal of a minimum broadband speed capability of 25/3 Mbps by 2030 for all residential customers, and a goal of 100/20 Mbps by 2030 for all business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of the county is desirable; and

WHEREAS, County staff will return to the Board of Supervisors to seek approval for specific State and Federal grant funding requests, “dig once, dig smart” and other permit streamlining policies designed to facilitate the expansion of broadband service reliability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF YUBA, hereby:

1. Approves the Yuba County Broadband Master Plan as a foundation for future broadband policy; and
2. Supports the goal of a minimum broadband speed capability of 25/3 Mbps by 2030 for all residential customers, and a goal of 100/20 Mbps by 2030 for all business customers within the urban, suburban and rural communities of the county; and
3. Supports requesting grant funding from the State and Federal government for the expansion of broadband infrastructure and services; and

4. Supports the concept of “dig once, dig smart” policy whereby conduit is installed for future or immediate use for wireless internet towers, fiber optic or other comparable broadband network installation, whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway; and

5. Supports attempts to affect the deployment decisions of internet service providers by ensuring permitting fees are set at a reasonable level; reducing the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems in our communities; reducing the risks of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases; and providing opportunities for increasing revenue and creating new avenues for competitive entry.

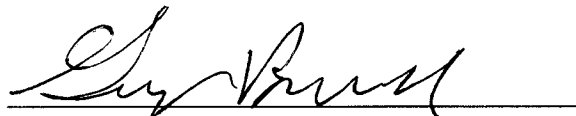
PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yuba, State of California, this 26 day of October, 2021 by the following vote.

AYES: Supervisors Vasquez, Blaser, Fuhrer, Bradford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Fletcher


ABSTAIN: None



Chair

ATTEST: Rachel Ferris
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MICHAEL CICOZZI
COUNTY COUNSEL

BY: 
Mary Pasillas, Board Clerk

BY: 
Sims Ely, Deputy County Counsel