

April 8, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 34 (Muratsuchi) Broadband for All Act of 2022
Letter of Support from the City of San Pablo**

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo, I write to express my strong support for Assembly Bill 34, the Broadband for All Act of 2022. If approved by the voters, this bill would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 to support a program that would be administered by the Department of Technology for purposes of providing financial assistance for projects to deploy broadband infrastructure and broadband internet access services.

The City of San Pablo has many parts of our community which are underserved and have limited wireless connectivity or poor connection to internet. In November 2020, the San Pablo City Council adopted a new SMART 5G/San Pablo Environment for Everything Digital (S.P.E.E.D.) Policy which underscores the importance of digital inclusion and closing the digital divide for our underserved community by supporting a variety of broadband, wireless, or SMART 5G projects from the public and private sectors.

As a result of this adopted policy, the City has already struck a partnership with Contra Costa County Library Services to fund 100 Wi-Fi "Hot Spot" devices to be placed in circulation for check-out to residents at the San Pablo Library (April 2021). Most recently, the City executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) to develop a new WCCUSD-provided Wi-Fi EdConnect Connectivity Project to assist students and families to connect to the WCCUSD's new wireless network to support distance learning programs (April 2021).

Additionally, the City has been focused on a long-term solution to bridging the digital divide by diligently working on a City-wide public fiber project in order to ensure that our most vulnerable neighborhoods have internet connectivity. Phase I was recently completed in September 2020 at a cost of \$1M which links all City facilities with high-capacity fiber in October 2020. Phase II of the City's public fiber project includes developing new broadband analytics needs assessment to determine which city neighborhoods are "dark areas" for future public fiber design and deployment.

As we continue to embark on our journey towards high quality broadband internet connectivity in San Pablo, we appreciate the shared goal between your office and our community, to build out high quality local internet capacity. The most vulnerable parts of our community would directly benefit from the programs and funding that this bond would provide.

As such, I strongly support Assembly Bill 34 and respectfully offer our City's partnership to ensure that this bill is successful.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc: San Pablo City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

bc: Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org