

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A COMMITMENT TO CONSIDER EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AS A PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR EVERY HOME, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRAINING FACILITIES AND BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo recognizes that reliable and affordable high-speed internet access is essential for every resident, educational institution, training facility, and business within the County, thereby contributing to the overall public welfare and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, approximately 7% of County of San Mateo residents have little to no access to high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, many lower-income communities can be disproportionately excluded from access to high-speed internet, which exacerbates existing inequities in opportunities for telehealth, education, employment, and business development; and

WHEREAS, digital inclusion efforts, including educational and training programs, are vital for bridging the digital divide and empowering residents with the skills necessary to thrive in a digital economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports initiatives aligned with state and national goals for universal broadband access, recognizing that equitable internet access is a public necessity; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously initiated efforts to assess and improve digital connectivity, including the development of a digital connectivity map to identify existing infrastructure and gaps in service; and

WHEREAS, like electricity and water, internet access should be considered a public utility, as it is essential to equality of opportunity, access to other public goods, and access to education;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County declare a commitment to work towards and advocate for treatment of equal access to high-speed internet as a public necessity for all residents, educational institutions, training facilities, and businesses in San Mateo County.

* * * * *