

## RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO'S STRONG SUPPORT  
FOR NET NEUTRALITY, AS WELL AS FOR EFFORTS OPPOSING THE RECENT  
DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RESCINDING NET  
NEUTRALITY AND URGING BOTH THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES  
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO  
RESTORE THE NET NEUTRALITY FRAMEWORK**

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**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

**WHEREAS**, on February 22, 2018, the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published rules in the Federal Register that repeal existing Net Neutrality rules for internet service providers, and, absent further action, these new rules will go into effect in April 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, these new FCC rules reverse a 2015 FCC decision affirming Net Neutrality, which had been in place for many years prior; and

**WHEREAS**, treating telecommunication providers as Common Carriers has been United States government policy for over 80 years and has well served both the public and business interests; and

**WHEREAS**, Net Neutrality ensures public access for all users of the Internet without discrimination and prevents service providers from regulating or discriminating against content going through their network; and

**WHEREAS**, having a utility to connect all residents of the United States to a communications platform is in everyone's interest, and it benefits all of us to have all others connected to the network; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the new FCC rules rescinding Net Neutrality would allow network providers, who in many regions have de facto monopolies or duopolies, to create Internet "fast lanes" and "slow lanes," raising prices for consumers and stifling innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo believes that Net Neutrality is critical for promoting innovation and the free flow of communication; spurring broad-based economic development; and supporting our entire community; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo believes that Net Neutrality is essential for bridging the "digital divide" and supporting democracy by ensuring that all residents have equal voices to participate in the democratic process and to become more engaged with the government that serves them; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of organizations, including large and small businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, have also publicly expressed their support for Net Neutrality; and

**WHEREAS**, recent polling shows that 83% of all Americans favor Net Neutrality and disapprove of the FCC's recent decision to repeal its protections; and

**WHEREAS**, almost half of the states in the United States, including California, are considering the adoption of laws or regulations to continue Net Neutrality within their jurisdictions or are suing the FCC seeking reinstatement of the 2015 Net Neutrality rules.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED** that the Board of Supervisors publicly announces its strong support for efforts challenging and opposing the FCC's February 22, 2018 decision rescinding Net Neutrality and calls upon both the judicial and the legislative branches of the United States government to take appropriate measures to restore the Net Neutrality framework.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the County Manager and other County officials are authorized and directed to distribute copies of this Resolution to appropriate federal, state, and local officials and agencies, as appropriate.

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