



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 4
File #: 18-271

Board Meeting Date: 4/10/2018

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Warren Slocum
Subject: Resolution Supporting Net Neutrality

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a 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.

BACKGROUND:

On February 22, 2018, the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules in the Federal Register that repeal Net Neutrality for Internet service providers. Absent further action, these new rules will go into effect in April 2018. These new rules reverse a 2015 FCC decision that affirmed Net Neutrality, which had been in practice for many years prior.

Net Neutrality ensures public access for all users of the Internet without discrimination and prohibits service providers from regulating content going through their network or discriminating against certain traffic. The reversal of Net Neutrality rules would allow network providers, who in many regions have de facto monopolies or duopolies, to create Internet "fast lanes" and "slow lanes," resulting in higher prices for consumers and stifled innovation.

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

DISCUSSION:

The resolution affirms the County of San Mateo's commitment to support Net Neutrality, as stated in the attached resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this resolution is unknown at this time.