



# Board of Supervisors

Nathan A. Miley  
Supervisor, District 4

September 1, 2021

California Public Utilities Commission  
Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear CPUC Commission,

As an Alameda County Supervisor and as the founder and President of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, I have made community access and equitable delivery of services pillars of my public life. Oftentimes this involves advocating for those overlooked and without a voice, and that is why I reach out to you today.

SB 156 is an historic effort to close the digital divide, but the Middle Mile fiber segments proposed by the CPUC Commission circumvent the communities in my district already farthest from access. The proposed segments along the I-580 would primarily serve those with existing high-speed internet. Instead, my office would like to propose a different path for this fiber backhaul, originating at the southernmost point of Route 185 (a state highway more commonly referred to as International Boulevard and East 14th Avenue), north to the I-880 interchange, and into West Oakland. This fiber line would bisect the most under-connected areas of Oakland and enable Alameda County to support last mile connectivity to our constituents. In Silicon Valley's backyard, our district has the technical skill and political will to deploy fiber to the premises and wireless technology with an expansive reach. OakWifi - a pilot program implemented with \$7.7 million dollars of CARES Act funding - shows what we are capable of accomplishing. With high-capacity fiber (a pull of at least 488 count) and switches at each intersection, Alameda County can utilize our expertise and invest in areas deemed uneconomic by private internet service providers.

Finally, the Commission cannot limit the definition of priority areas to counties with a disproportionately high number of unserved households because that overlooks the wide disparities that exist within counties. Instead, the State should factor in population density or absolute number of under-connected households within a last mile connection to not repeat America's long documented history of divestment in marginalized urban communities. Broadband access is a necessity, especially now in the times of COVID. Students need broadband to access their education, families to connect with social services, and the elderly to restore social connection, telehealth, and more. Community-based organizations like the Greenlining Institute, Hack the Hood, Girls who Code, and our Public Library system are rooted in our community, teaching the digital literacy skills to harness the full capabilities of the digital world. Organizations like Tech Exchange and our public schools have provided tens of thousands of devices and tech support to our community.

With a more equitable map, the CPUC can help provide that final component: high-speed internet access. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact my Oakland Office at (510) 272-6694 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

NATE MILEY

Vice President

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Keith Carson, President – Alameda County Board of Supervisors