



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
D-4

For the meeting of: April 19, 2016

Date: April 11, 2016
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn and Supervisor Virginia Bass
Subject: Support for SB 1212 (Hueso) – Telecommunications – 211 Information and Referral Network

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign a letter in support of SB 1212.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: SB 1212 would enhance the status and system of the 2-1-1 information and referral network to provide coordinated services and resources to all California residents and facilitate the expansion of 2-1-1 services into those counties in California where they are lacking and facilitate access to disaster preparedness, response and recovery information and referral services uniformly in the state, especially in hard to serve rural areas, through a universally available telephone service. The Board is sending a letter in support of this very important legislation.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support

Signature *Rex Bohn*

Signature *Virginia Bass*

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Bass
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Lovelace, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: April 19, 2016
By: *Kathy Hayes*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

April 19, 2016

Honorable Benjamin Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1212, regarding 2-1-1 Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of your SB 1212. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and your understanding of the critical need for all areas of the state to be connected with vital services in times of a disaster.

As you know, the 2-1-1 Information and Referral network connects people with local services that addresses needs, such as food insecurity, housing resource instability, and mental health. During an emergency, 2-1-1 also provides important information regarding evacuations, return routes, access to basic needs like food and water, assistance with rumor control, shelter availability, traffic closures and more. This information is provided in a local and meaningful way, as well as being available in over 150 different languages.

In addition to providing direct assistance to callers, the 2-1-1 disaster response network has helped leverage public safety resources by reducing the number of nonemergency calls to 911, freeing up emergency responders to then respond to true life-or-death situations.

While the benefits of 2-1-1 during a disaster are numerous, there are unfortunately still areas in the state that remains unconnected to this critical service. Specifically, 21 counties located in some of the most rural areas of the state do not have a 2-1-1 connection, which leaves them lacking in information and potentially access to local services during an emergency when their need is the highest.

It is imperative that the state invest in ensuring that all residents have access to information and assistance during times of disaster. Your SB 1212 is an important step in achieving this goal. We look forward to working with you and your Senate colleagues to ensure passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh