



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-2

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: March 28, 2017

Date: March 20, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn
Subject: Letter of Support for AB 980 (Woods) Broadband Fiber Optic Cables: Priority Areas

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors ratify authorization for the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Assembly Bill 980 (Woods) will give entities working on broadband deployment tools needed to increase access to high speed internet. Further, AB 980 would use the "Dig Once" methodology and require Caltrans, as part of projects that are located in priority areas, as defined, to install broadband conduit capable of supporting fiber optic communication cables. Many individuals in rural communities do not have access to broadband, including entire towns, schools, hospitals, libraries and city government. AB 980 will help increase access to high speed internet.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.


Prepared by Kathy Hayes Signature 
REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson Seconded by Supervisor Fennell
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Bohn, Wilson
Nays
Abstain
Absent Bass
and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.
Dated: March 28, 2017
By: 
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE (707) 445-7266

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Jim Wood
Assemblymember, 2nd District
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 980(Wood) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 980 which will give entities working on broadband deployment tools needed to increase access to high speed internet.

Existing law provides that the California Department of Transportation, Caltrans, has full possession and control of state highways and associated property. Existing law requires the department to notify companies and organizations working on broadband deployment on its Internet website of specified department-led highway construction projects and authorizes those companies and organizations to collaborate with the department to install broadband conduits as part of those projects.

Many people in rural communities do not have access to broadband. In addition to individual residents, entire towns, including schools, hospitals, libraries and city governments have no access.

AB 980 would use the "Dig Once" methodology and require Caltrans, as part of projects that are located in priority areas, as defined, to install broadband conduit capable of supporting fiber optic communication cables. If priority areas are identified by appropriate entities, Caltrans can install conduit during planned road work, which can mitigate costs when cable is installed at a future date.

Californians view the Internet as a basic necessity. A strategy known as "dig once" helps lower the cost of laying down new high-speed Internet cables by making it unnecessary to tear up the streets every time a company wants to reach new homes with its underground network. Dig-once policies recommend laying a single tube, or conduit, in the ground through which all Internet wires can run. Once there, any company can add fiber cables through existing conduit — cutting the cost of broadband deployment by up to 90 percent, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

Communities with broadband enjoy educational, social and economic advantages that result in both short- and long-term economic benefits. Short term, a community can experience increases in business and job growth, such as being able to use e-commerce to expand business and compete in today's economy. Long-term, these benefits can include population and income growth and an improved local tax base.

Dozens of cities and counties throughout California have adopted local "dig once" policies, including Mendocino County, Santa Cruz, Fresno, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Richmond, Riverside County, San Jose, Culver City, Vallejo, and Winters. The state should follow their lead.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Virginia Bass

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh
