



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 5, 2021

PRESIDENT  
Dennis Rodoni  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

The Honorable California Senator Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
B03 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

VICE PRESIDENT  
Judy Arnold  
5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Subject: Support for your sponsored amendment to the Emergency Broadband Connections Act to include eligibility for local government-sponsored programs**

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
Damon Connolly  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla:

Katie Rice  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for your steadfast support for the Emergency Broadband Connections Act (EBCA), and express our support for the amendment you intend to offer to the Infrastructure Benefit Program to support equitable access to the internet for Marin's most at-risk residents during the COVID-19 pandemic has indeed enabled many to maintain critical internet access, keeping our community's children learning in a remote environment and workers connected to online resources and support.

Stephanie Moulton-Peters  
3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

In tandem with the goals of the EBCA, our Board has recognized the internet access inequities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. In the San Rafael Canal area, one of Marin County's both lowest income and most diverse neighborhoods, a survey conducted in the summer of 2020 found that:

Matthew H. Hymel  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Diane Patterson  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 42% said their internet was not fast enough to watch a video without it buffering
- 57% said they do not own a computer at home
- 44% said it was difficult to connect to the internet
- 61% reported having a wired internet connection in their home

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 7331 T  
415 473 3645 F  
415 473 6172 TTY  
[www.marincounty.org/bos](http://www.marincounty.org/bos)

Recognizing the paramount importance of network connectivity to education and employment during COVID-19, the County of Marin worked with other local agencies to build a free and public neighborhood-wide Wi-Fi network all Canal residents could access from their homes or public spaces. The network was launched in fall 2020.

Our Board is supportive of your efforts to amend the current Emergency Broadband Connections Act to include local governments as eligible funding recipients for expanded internet access programs like our Canal Wi-Fi project. With additional federal funding from the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, we could further expand network access in other at-risk communities in Marin County where broadband access is limited.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Rodoni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Dennis Rodoni, President  
Marin County Board of Supervisor

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congressman Jared Huffman