



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of San Diego

2010 OCT 15 AM 9 24

THOMAS J. WASTYSZKA
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1800 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

DATE: October 19, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: EXPANDING INTERNET ACCESS TO ALL FAMILIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview:

There are thousands of families throughout San Diego County who cannot go online to pay bills, look up information on health issues, apply for school, sign up for emergency response notifications, or even seek for a job. High-speed internet access, also known as "broadband," is essential to our society in a digital world and global economy.

Every federal, state, and local government in the United States of America uses the Internet to communicate with its citizens. The County of San Diego is a leader among governments by harnessing the Internet to improve our ability to provide services to the public. In fact, the Center for Digital Government recognized the County of San Diego for creating the "Best Local Government Website" in the State in 2009.

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) provides statewide leadership to close the "digital divide" by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband to low income, unserved, and underserved communities and populations. CETF is sponsoring a statewide initiative titled "Get Connected!"

The overall goal of the "Get Connected!" initiative is to secure California's fair share of broadband technology funds from the federal government, and to help communities that lack the telecommunications technology necessary to access high-speed Internet.

The time is approaching where members of the general public who do not have digital literacy will have trouble functioning in society. By approving this resolution the Board of Supervisors is officially on record as supporting CETF efforts to encourage adoption of broadband technology across California.

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRWOMAN PAM SLATER-PRICE AND SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS:

1. Adopt the attached resolution in support of the California Emerging Technology Fund's "Get Connected!" initiative to close the digital divide in California.

2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include in the County's Legislative Program support for legislation and legislative efforts to improve broadband accessibility in San Diego County and throughout California.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chair's signature to be sent to all 18 cities within the County of San Diego encouraging them to support the "Get Connected!" initiative.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations.

Background:

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) has been established as a non-profit corporation pursuant to orders from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in approving the mergers of SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI in 2005.

One of CETF's primary goals is to increase the use of computers throughout California. Without computers and computer literacy, neither availability nor access to broadband will ensure use. Low use of computers is at the heart of the digital divide. CETF is responsible for fostering public/private partnerships to garner community support for broadband access improvements throughout California.

CETF is attempting to secure support from all 58 counties for its "Get Connected!" initiative. The following counties have so far endorsed the resolution: Alameda, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Nevada, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity and Tulare.

The overall goal of this initiative is to secure California's fair share of broadband technology funds from the federal government. This campaign is designed to help rural communities that lack the broadband infrastructure, aid the urban poor and disadvantaged communities that do not have the computers and affordable connections to the Internet, and assist disabled populations that lack technology accessibility.

The San Diego Futures Foundation, a local non-profit that helps improve access to computers in San Diego, has endorsed the "Get Connected!" initiative, and has requested support from the Board of Supervisors. In early spring 2011, the San Diego Futures Foundation is hosting a "Get Connected!" fair for more than 1,000 low-income, disconnected residents. This fair will increase access to technology through multiple approaches including informing attendees of discounted connectivity, offering low-cost computers, and conducting informative workshops on Internet safety and training.

This Board has always been very supportive of improving services through technology. Most recently, at our respective requests, the Board has directed staff to expand the public's ability to

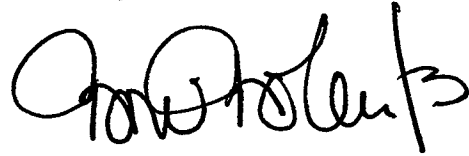
comment at our meetings through online means, and enhance the County's emergency notification system by procuring an emergency alert system specifically designed for people with hearing impairments.

By approving this resolution the County is endorsing the efforts of the "Get Connected!" campaign and keeping in line with our vision to provide a County that is safe, healthy, and thriving.

Respectfully submitted,



PAM SLATER-PRICE
Chairwoman
San Diego County Board of Supervisors



RON ROBERTS
Supervisor
Fourth District

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM
INFORMATION SHEET

**SUBJECT: ENHANCING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

SUPV. DIST.: Three and Four

COUNTY COUNSEL APPROVAL: Form and Legality Yes N/A
 Standard Form Ordinance Resolution
Review Board Letter Only: Yes No

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REVIEW: Yes No
4 VOTES: Yes No

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES Yes No

CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL: Approved N/A

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTION: N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE: N/A

CITIZEN COMMITTEE STATEMENT: N/A

CONCURRENCES: N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENTS: District Three and District Four

CONTACT PERSON(S):	Mark Olson	531-5533	MS A500
	Jason Farran	531-5544	MS A500

DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

MEETING DATE

RESOLUTION

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Get Connected!

Declaration of Support for *Get Connected!*

On the motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the following resolution is adopted:

WHEREAS, closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in the County of San Diego and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego finds and declares that high-speed Internet access, referred to generically as “broadband” and including both wireline and wireless technologies, is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego recognizes that California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of broadband and other information technologies, however Californians’ adoption and use of broadband technology is only approximately equivalent to the national average; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego acknowledges that 38% of all Californians and 40% of low-income households are not connected to the Internet with broadband, leaving more than 14 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at home; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is committed to helping families and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient and realizes that the use of broadband can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is committed to helping students obtain the highest-quality education possible incorporating digital literacy and understands that high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices both at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and recognizes that broadband is a strategic “green” technology that decreases greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on foreign oil by enabling e-government and the provision of more services online; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is committed to Digital Inclusion and increasing citizen participation in the public process through expanded engagement using broadband; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego recognizes that it has the opportunity to impact broadband deployment and adoption in its several local government roles and responsibilities,

including as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego welcomes the opportunity to partner with the California Emerging Technology Fund along with the Governor, Legislature, other local governments, civic leaders, community organizations, employers, labor representatives, educators, and policymakers to encourage adoption of broadband technology; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of San Diego hereby joins with the California Emerging Technology Fund in launching and promoting *Get Connected!*, a public awareness program to close the Digital Divide, and declares 2010 and 2011 as target years for all residents, businesses and community organizations to *Get Connected!*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors directs the County Administrative Officer and other appropriate departments to determine how to optimize the use of broadband technology to inform and engage residents to increase citizen participation in the public processes of governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors will seek to cooperate and share the results of *Get Connected!* with neighboring jurisdictions and other public agencies and shall post this resolution on the County of San Diego website and send a copy to the 18 cities within the County of San Diego for appropriate distribution to other local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors authorizes the use of their name as champions of *Get Connected!* on the websites of the California Emerging Technology Fund (www.CETFund.org and www.GetConnectedToday.com) and in printed materials pertaining to *Get Connected!*