

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Referral Submittal Form**

Referral No. 2020.25

Assignment Date: _____
(Completed by CAO's Office)

SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:

Date: 9/6/2020	Submitted By: LUIS ALEJO & CHRIS LOPEZ	District #: 1 & 3
Referral Title: Addressing the Digital Divide in Salinas & Throughout Monterey County		
Referral Purpose: To support collaborative efforts to address the digital divide in partnership with local school districts, cities, the County of Monterey, and community partners to address the digital divide for our local students and all other county residents, and to advocate for solutions at the state and federal level.		
Brief Referral Description (attach additional sheet as required): Monterey County has a serious digital divide problem and a recent photo of 2 little girls outside a fast food restaurant in East Salinas has brought national attention to this crisis. According to the Monterey County Office of Education, at least 10,500 students do not have access to the internet and our children are being adversely impacted every day.		
<p>This referral requests the support of the Board of Supervisors and county IT staff for local collaborative efforts to address this issue. On September 4, a first joint meeting was held with school district superintendents, school board members, Salinas councilmembers and staff, Supervisors Lopez and Alejo and county staff, PUC Commissioner Martha Guzman, and community partners. The goal was to collaborate on short- and long-term strategies to bring universal broadband to all Salinas residents and to also address other parts of Monterey County. The goal was also to consider models of sharing costs among the various local governments to achieve the goals. Earlier this year, the City of Gonzales achieved universal broadband for all of its 9,000 residents and showed what is possible.</p> <p>At the state and federal level, this referral requests that the Board of Supervisors advocate at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) so that broadband internet access is regulated once again as a utility that is necessary for all Californians' daily lives, and support legislation to reform existing state programs to expand internet access, generate needed revenue and make it easier for local governments to obtain funding to move local projects forward more expeditiously. This referral also requests that Monterey County formally request and sponsor legislation for a universal broadband bond to be place on the 2022 election ballot to generate the billions needed to address the digital divide in California once and for all.</p> <p>This referral also requests a county-wide community survey as soon as possible to engage local residents on their needs and concerns regarding the digital divide, online student distance learning, and access to affordable internet service.</p>		
Classification - Implication		Mode of Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial / Minor	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy	Requested Response Timeline	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 month
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Status reports until completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Date: _____	

ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s) Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Board Date:
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REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Date:
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ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:

Analysis Completed By: _____

Date: _____

Department's Recommended Response Timeline

- By requested date
 2 weeks 1 month 6 weeks 6 months
 1 year Other/Specific Date: _____

REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:

Referral Response Date:

Board Item No.:

Referrals List Deletion:

Note: Please cc Karina Bokanovich, Rocio Quezada and Maegan Ruiz-Ignacio on all CAO correspondence relating to referrals.