

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2030
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT- AB 2163 (Rivas): Rural Broadband and Emergency Infrastructure Grant Act of 2020.

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your bill, AB 2163 (Rivas). This bill would establish the Rural Broadband and Emergency Infrastructure Grant Act of 2020 to ensure that all California fairgrounds are equipped with adequate broadband and telecommunications infrastructure to support local, regional, and state emergency and disaster response personnel and systems.

Monterey County has areas where residents have no access to broadband at all, given the rural and remote nature of areas within the region. Providing access to broadband at our County fairground during emergencies and disasters, would provide residents a sense of relief and security. This bill would require the Department of Technology, Department of Food and Agriculture, Public Utilities Commission, California Broadband Council, and Office of Emergency Services to jointly develop the Rural Broadband and Emergency Infrastructure Grant Program to provide each California fairground with grant moneys to support broadband and telecommunications infrastructure deployment.

For these reasons, Monterey County supports AB 2163. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Chris Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator Monning
Senator Caballero
Assemblymember Stone
California State Association of Counties