

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

Referral No. 2021.08
Assignment Date: 05/18/21
(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: 5/13/2021	Submitted By: LUIS ALEJO & CHRIS LOPEZ	District #: 1 & 3
Referral Title: Monterey County Broadband Joint Powers Authority		
Referral Purpose: Explore potential of creating a Monterey County Broadband Joint Powers Authority to facilitate regional governance, strategy, collaboration and partnerships on expanding broadband access and closing the digital divide throughout Monterey County.		
Brief Referral Description (attach additional sheet as required): The heartbreaking photo of the two little girls accessing the internet outside a fast food restaurant in East Salinas last August highlighted the digital divide crisis for many families in Monterey County and throughout our nation during this pandemic. Since then, County Superintendent Deneen Guss began working on addressing internet and broadband needs by forming a Broadband Task Force that have held regular meetings.		
Today, with unprecedented federal and state funding that will soon be allocated to address the digital divide and expand broadband access throughout California, including federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, a record state budget allocation this year and a potential \$10 billion broadband bond in 2022, there is an immediate need for local governments, including the Board of Supervisors, cities, school districts, special districts, universities and other community partners and institutions, to create a formal governance body to better facilitate regional strategy, collaboration and partnerships on expanding broadband access and closing the digital divide throughout Monterey County. There is also a need to also devise a strategic plan to expand access and digital literacy, and to facilitate affordability rates for county residents. A Broadband Joint Powers Authority should have equitable geographic representation from Salinas, North County, South County and the Peninsula, and place a priority for unserved, underserved and disadvantaged communities with the greatest needs and challenges in the county.		
Potential state and federal funding sources will likely prioritize regional governmental collaborative efforts and projects, as well as shovel-ready projects. A JPA may best position Monterey County to draw down competitive state and federal funding and resources for the benefit of our local communities and our families.		
Classification - Implication		Mode of Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial / Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Social Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>IT/Infrastructure</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation
		Requested Response Timeline
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Status reports until completed <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): ITD	Referral Lead: Eric Chatham	Board Date: 5/18/21
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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:

Department's Recommended Response Timeline

Date: _____

☐ 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.