

January 25, 2023

Alice Reynolds, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

**RE: Modifying Last Mile Funding Priority Areas Map**

Dear President Reynolds,

I write to express the City of Long Beach's substantial concern related to the recently released California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) map of eligible areas for SB 156's \$2 Billion Last Mile grant funding program. The City is committed to advancing digital inclusion, and Long Beach has been a leader in this field. However, the CPUC's current priority area map restricts the City from leveraging critical federal resources to advance digital equity and inclusion efforts for residents, workers, and businesses in Long Beach.

The City of Long Beach is committed to addressing the digital divide through the implementation of the City's [Digital Inclusion Roadmap](#), which focuses on ensuring that everyone in Long Beach has equitable access to and use of digital literacy training, the Internet, technology devices, and other digital resources. For the past 12 years, Long Beach has been named a Top 10 Digital City by the Center for Digital Government. While new technological advancements have helped the City achieve this recognition, a large portion of the Long Beach community does not have access to and use of in-home Broadband Internet. The CPUC's decision to restrict eligibility to areas that include "unserved locations that lack 25/3 Megabits per second broadband service from wireline, nonlegacy services," has disqualified Long Beach's highest need communities.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach requests that the Commission reconsider the criteria for selecting priority areas for distribution of the \$2 billion last-mile construction funding to ensure that urban underserved areas are included.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA  
City Manager

