



**SOUTH BAY CITIES  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

5033 Rockvalley Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90276  
(310) 377-8987  
sbccog@southbaycities.org  
www.southbaycities.org

April 28, 2005

The Honorable Pat Eklund, President  
League of California Cities  
1400 K Street, Ste. 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Broadband Communications

Dear President Eklund,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Technology Committee of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). I am also a Councilmember of the City of Hermosa Beach, one of the SBCCOG's member cities.

Since Verizon introduced its fiber to the premises initiative (FTTP) in Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach earlier this year, the Technology Committee has been pursuing a process of self-education about the various policy issues and possible viable municipal positions. For example, it has become clear that the South Bay may split between cities that have modern network infrastructures and those that don't on the basis of decisions made by incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs). At the same time, the ILECs tend to oppose private initiatives by competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) or public initiatives such as municipal Wi-Fi networks.

This task the Committee has undertaken is daunting. I am hoping the LCC can provide assistance in the following areas:

- Statistics on broadband deployment elsewhere in California
- Feasibility studies on municipal initiatives
- White papers on broadband from a municipal perspective
- Performance data from operating systems, especially those with significant municipal participation
- LCC reconnaissance on relevant legislation either vendor or government initiated, pending or planned
- Models of public-private partnerships available to California cities

We are also looking for information on right of way rules, and where and how fiber equipment will be installed. With a movement to underground utilities in many South Bay cities, we are looking for assistance in drafting local ordinances to control equipment location and its potential blight on a business or homeowner property. For example, based on initial information from Verizon, a doubling of equipment boxes will be required for FTTP for undergrounding.

In the case that you do not have relevant information to share, we would propose that the LCC invest in assembling the resources necessary to support California cities in their efforts to protect the public interest in the face of these significant private initiatives. The SBCCOG will be studying various policy options

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION**

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita Los Angeles Manhattan Beach  
Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills Rolling Hills Estates Torrance

over the next six months, including the possibility of funding research on the feasibility of public broadband networks in places that will not be well served by private initiatives.

Please let us know what information you have already developed and if the LCC will join us in developing better ways to connect California residents to the World.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Susan Seamans, SBCCOG Chair  
Councilmember, Rolling Hills Estates**

**Michael Keegan, Chair  
SBCCOG Technology Committee  
Councilmember, Hermosa Beach**

**cc: Chris McKenzie, Executive Director  
League of California Cities**