



"Citrus Capital of the World"

# City of Santa Paula

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December 6, 2022

Communications Division  
Attn: California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)  
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Application for Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) by the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG)**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written by the City of Santa Paula in support of the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) application for funding from the CPUC through the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program.

Our community has suffered from digital inequities, and the lack of connectivity has adversely affected our citizens, both young and old. The impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic have shown how critical internet access is. With continued and increased reliance on high-speed internet for homework and remote learning, telemedicine, telework, and everyday activities, our community has an urgent need for fast and reliable broadband internet service.

As a result, and in anticipation of the funding available to the region for development of the middle and last mile networks, the VCOG Board unanimously voted for VCOG to submit a grant application to support the analysis, planning, and organizational development necessary to provide regional oversight in collaborative deployment of broadband infrastructure.

VCOG is a voluntary joint powers authority representing all 10 cities of Ventura County as well as the County. VCOG's goal is to facilitate cooperative subregional and regional planning, coordination, and technical assistance on issues of mutual concern. The benefits that will stem from this funding will bring economic prosperity and digital equality throughout Ventura County. It all will begin with the funds from LATA.

As a result, the City of Santa Paula offers its full and strong support to the VCOG for the work that will be completed with the LATA funds. The work VCOG will do is an important step in the path towards deploying high-speed broadband service to all those in our area.

Sincerely,

Jenny Crosswhite  
Mayor