

# TOWNSEND

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EST TPA 1998

## MEMO

**To:** City of Cupertino  
Legislative Review Committee

**From:** Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

**Date:** March 12, 2021

**Subject:** Consider adopting a position on Assembly Bill 14 (Aguiar-Curry) Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund

---

### Summary

AB 14 would prioritize the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities throughout the state through the ongoing collection of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) surcharge. Specifically, the measure:

- Authorizes the ongoing collection of the existing CASF surcharge beyond the original sunset date of 2022;
- Creates a Broadband Bond Financing and Securitization Account, authorizing the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to issue bonds up to \$1,000,000,000 for the deployment of broadband infrastructure by local governments or nonprofits;
- Requires the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to develop a model for streamlined local land use approval and construction permit processes for broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity projects before June 30, 2022;
- Makes it easier for local governments to apply for CASF grants:
  - Currently, local governments are only eligible for CASF funding if no other service provider applies to fund a project in that area;
  - AB 14 would eliminate that requirement making it easier for local governments to be eligible for funding;
  - Allow for funding appropriated through the CASF to be used to match or leverage federal money for internet infrastructure;
- Identifies households with speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) downstream and three mbps upstream as "unserved" while maintaining the CPUC's prioritization of CASF projects in unserved areas where internet connectivity is at or below ten mbps downstream and one mbps upstream or areas with no internet connectivity;
- Requires CASF projects to provide broadband access at speeds of a minimum of 25 mbps downstream and 25 mbps upstream with a goal of 100 mbps downstream;
- Authorizes the CPUC to require each internet service provider to report information regarding each free, low-cost, income-qualified, or affordable internet service plan advertised by the provider;

---

State Capitol Office • 925 L Street • Suite 1404 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Phone (916) 447-4086 • Fax (916) 444-0383

Federal Office • 600 Pennsylvania SE • Suite 207 • Washington, DC 20003 • Phone (202) 546-8696 • Fax (202) 546-4555

Southern California Office • 1401 Dove Street • Suite 330 • Newport Beach, CA 92660 • Phone (949) 399-9050 • Fax (949) 476-8215

Central California Office • 744 P Street • Suite 308 • Fresno, CA 93721 • Phone (949) 399-9050 • Fax (949) 476-8215

Northern California Office • 300 Frank Ogawa Plaza • Suite 204 • Oakland, CA 94612 • Phone (510) 835-9050 • Fax (510) 835-9030

- Authorizes the CPUC to approve CASF applications to deploy or upgrade broadband services when an existing facility-based broadband provider is unwilling or unable to deploy broadband service;
- Ensures that anchor institutions are eligible for CASF grants; and
- Authorizes local educational agencies to report the estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning to the Department of Education.

According to the author, “The ‘Internet for All Act of 2021’ prioritizes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in California’s most vulnerable and unserved rural and urban communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds deposited into the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to provide communities with grants necessary to bridge the digital divide. AB 14 provides a vital pathway to connect California’s workforce to gainful employment, harness the life-saving technology of telemedicine, democratize distance learning, enable precision agriculture, and sustain economic transactions in the 21st Century E-Marketplace.”

### Status

AB 14 was introduced on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The measure has been referred to the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee and the Assembly Local Government Committee. The measure has not yet been set for a hearing date.

### Support

Since AB 14 has not yet been set for hearing, an official list of supporters is not yet available; however, the League of California Cities has taken a support position on the measure.

### Opposition

Since AB 14 has not yet been set for hearing, an official list of opponents is not yet available.

### Recommended Action

A) Adopt a support position on AB 14 and authorize the Mayor to send letters to the state legislature, unless the City Council decides to place this bill on a future Council agenda to consider as the full Council; Or B) Make a recommendation that the City Council take a watch position on AB 14.