



**LAS VIRGENES - MALIBU  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 8:30 AM**

**MEETING INFORMATION AND ACCOMMODATION**

NOTE: The Governing Board of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments will be participating in this meeting at the teleconference locations noted below via remote video conferencing (Zoom). There will not be an in-person meeting location. Members of the public can participate electronically via Zoom.

**Remote Participation Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633984448?pwd=VHBOOEIOWHdyeklrTmdFaldXNIN2QT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3398 4448 • Passcode: 677842

**TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

- XXXXXXXXXXX, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Calabasas, CA 91302
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Hidden Hills, CA 91302
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Malibu, CA 90265
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Malibu, CA 90265
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Westlake Village, CA 91362
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Westlake Village, CA 91362
- XXXXXXXXXXX, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

A public agenda packet is available on the COG website: [lvmcog.org](http://lvmcog.org). Members of the Public who wish to comment on matters before the Governing Board have two options: 1. Make comments limited to three minutes during the Public Comment Period, or 2. Submit an email with their written comments limited to 1,000 characters to [terry@lvmcog.org](mailto:terry@lvmcog.org) no later than 12:00 PM on Monday, February 19, 2024. The email address will remain open during the meeting for providing public comment during the meeting. Emails received during the meeting will be read out loud at the appropriate time during the meeting provided they are received before the Board acts on an item (or can be read during the Public Comment Period). For any questions regarding the virtual meeting, please contact [terry@lvmcog.org](mailto:terry@lvmcog.org) or (818) 968-9088.

**LAS VIRGENES-MALIBU COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 8:30 AM**

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Governing Board Roll Call:

Alicia Weintraub, Calabasas, President  
Penny Sylvester, Agoura Hills, Vice President  
Eniko Gold, Hidden Hills,  
Paul Grisanti, Malibu  
Kelly Honig, Westlake Village

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2, the Governing Board is prohibited from discussing or taking immediate action on any item not on the agenda unless it can be demonstrated that the item is of an emergency nature, or if the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Consent Calendar items will be approved in one motion unless removed for separate discussion or action.

- A. January 16, 2023 Draft Minutes – Attachment (page 4-6)
- B. February 2024 Financial Statement – Attachment (page 7-8)

Recommended Action: Approve Consent Calendar

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Tax Protection and Government Accountability Act – Attachment (page 9-13)
- B. Executive Director’s Report – Attachment (page 14-15)
- C. City Updates: Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, and Westlake Village

**6. PUBLIC SAFETY, LEGISLATIVE AND AGENCY PARTNER UPDATES**

- A. Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department – Captain Jenn Seetoo
- B. Los Angeles County Fire Department – Chief Drew Smith
- C. Los Angeles County – Supervisor Horvath’s office
- D. California Highway Patrol – Casey Ramstead, PIO, West Valley Station
- E. League of Cities – Jeff Kiernan (page 16-19)
- F. Updates from Legislative Staff and Agency Partners (page 20-23)

**7. ACTION ITEMS**

A. AT&T Application with California Public Utilities Commission – Attachment  
(page 24-32)

**8. GENERAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**9. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Technical Advisory Committee: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 8:30 AM

Governing Board: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 8:30 AM

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Draft Minutes**  
**Governing Board Meeting**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING - VARIOUS LOCATIONS**  
**January 16, 2023**

*The Governing Board conducted the meeting, via Zoom, and in accordance with the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act.*

1 – Call to Order: President Gold called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Roll Call of Governing Board members/alternates present:

Alicia Weintraub, Calabasas, President  
Penny Sylvester, Agoura Hills, Vice President  
Eniko Gold, Hidden Hills, President  
Paul Grisanti, Malibu  
Kelly Honig, Westlake Village

The following non-voting Governing Board Alternate members participated in the meeting:

Ray Pearl, Westlake Village  
Doug Stewart, Malibu  
Jeremy Wolf, Agoura Hills

2 – Approval of the Agenda:

**ACTION:** Alicia Weintraub moved to approve the agenda. Paul Grisanti seconded. The Motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Gold and Governing Board members, Grisanti, Honig, Sylvester, and Weintraub.

**NOES:** None.

3 – Public Comment Period: The Executive Director stated that he had not received any electronic public comments and no one participating in the meeting offered public comments.

4 – Election of Officers

President Gold announced that pursuant to the COG Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement, which states a Governing Board Representative shall be elected annually to the position of President and Vice President at the first regular meeting of the Governing Board in January.

**ACTION:** Kelly Honig nominated Alicia Weintraub for President. Second by Penny Sylvester. There were no other nominations. The Motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Gold and Governing Board members, Grisanti, Honig, Sylvester, and Weintraub.

**NOES:** None.

President Weintraub thanked Eniko Gold for all her work as COG President in 2023.

President Weintraub opened the nominations for Vice President.

**ACTION:** Kelly Honig nominated Penny Sylvester for Vice President. Second by Paul Grisanti. There were no other nominations. The Motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Grisanti, Honig, and Sylvester.

**NOES:** None.

5 – Consent Calendar: A) November 14, 2023, Draft Minutes; and B) January 2024 Financial Report.

**ACTION:** Kelly Honig moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Eniko Gold seconded. The Motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Grisanti, Honig, and Sylvester.

**NOES:** None.

6.A – Presentation by Southern California regarding rate changes: President Weintraub welcomed Andrew Thomas and Shue Cheng from SCE. Shue Cheng presented slides and explained current and proposed rates. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

6.B – Regional Smart Cities Fiber Network: President Weintraub welcomed Will Morat and Jory Wolf, both from Entrust (formerly Magellan), who presented an update on the design engineering for the COG's fiber project. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

5.C – Metro Traffic Reduction Study: President Weintraub welcomed Karen Swift and the Metro team, who gave the presentation. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

5.D – Executive Director's Report: The Executive Director highlighted his report. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

7.A – Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department: Captain Jenn Seetoo provided an update from Lost Hills/Malibu Station.

7.B – Los Angeles County Fire Department: Chief Drew Smith provided an update from County Fire.

7.C – Los Angeles County: Supervisor Horvath’s office was not represented at the meeting.

7.D – California Highway Patrol: Casey Ramstead, PIO, West Valley Station provided an update from the Highway Patrol.

7.E – League of Cities: Jeff Kiernan called attention to his update in the agenda and highlighted several points. Kelly Honig provided an update from the Contract Cities Legislative Tour.

7.F – Updates from Area Legislators and Agencies: Nancy Frawley provided an update from Assemblymember Irwin’s office.

8.A – Confirm Metro Memorandum of Understanding Increase in Reimbursement for 2024 for Metro Board Deputy: President Weintraub asked the Executive Director to present the item.

ACTION: Penny Sylvester moved to confirm the Metro MOU Increase in Reimbursement for 2024 for Metro Board Deputy. Paul Grisanti seconded. The Motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Grisanti, Honig, and Sylvester.

NOES: None.

9. – Comments and Request for Future Agenda Items: President Weintraub asked if any of the city managers wanted to provide an update from their city. There were no other comments or requests for future agenda items. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

10. – President Weintraub announced the next meeting dates: Technical Advisory Committee meeting is February 7, 2024, 8:30 AM and the Governing Board meeting is February 20, 2024, 8:30 AM. She also noted the 2024 meeting calendar was included in the agenda.

11. – Adjournment: President Weintraub adjourned the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Dipple  
Executive Director



Agoura Hills, CA

# Detail Report Account Detail

Date Range: 01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024

Account		Name				Beginning Balance	Total Activity	Ending Balance
<b>Fund: 096 - COG Fund</b>								
<u>096-4190-552000</u>								
Contract Services						357,407.32	35,332.05	392,739.37
Post Date	Packet Number	Source Transaction	Pmt Number	Description	Vendor	Project Account	Amount	Running Balance
01/25/2024	APPKT02995	012524	115035	COG Services for January 2024	06798 - Gabriel M. Graham		6,600.00	364,007.32
01/25/2024	APPKT02995	012524	115057	COG January 2024	04965 - Terry Dipple		15,470.00	379,477.32
01/25/2024	APPKT02995	012524	115040	COG Admin Support for January 2024	07352 - Jessica Flores		1,000.00	380,477.32
01/25/2024	APPKT02995	012524	115060	COG Services for January 2024	07404 - Vivian Rescalvo		12,262.05	392,739.37
<b>Total Fund: 096 - COG Fund:</b>						<b>Beginning Balance: 357,407.32</b>	<b>Total Activity: 35,332.05</b>	<b>Ending Balance: 392,739.37</b>
<b>Grand Totals:</b>						<b>Beginning Balance: 357,407.32</b>	<b>Total Activity: 35,332.05</b>	<b>Ending Balance: 392,739.37</b>

Agenda Item 4.B  
 (Consent Calendar)

# Fund Summary

Fund	Beginning Balance	Total Activity	Ending Balance
096 - COG Fund	357,407.32	35,332.05	392,739.37
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>357,407.32</b>	<b>35,332.05</b>	<b>392,739.37</b>



**Governing Board Agenda Report**

**DATE:** February 20, 2024  
**TO:** Governing Board and Alternates  
**FROM:** Terry Dipple, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Initiative No. 21-0042A1, The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act

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**OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governing Board with information on the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act which has qualified for the November 2024 ballot. The measure would revise the California Constitution with provisions that limit voters' authority and input, adopt new and stricter rules for raising taxes and fees, and may make it more difficult to impose fines and penalties for violation of state and local laws.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Governing Board consider taking action to oppose the measure and schedule it as an action item at a future meeting. It is further recommended that each city consider taking action to oppose the measure.

**BACKGROUND**

The proposed constitutional initiative is sponsored by the California Business Roundtable. According to Cal Cities, the measure puts billions of local government tax and fee revenues at risk statewide with related core public service impacts. The measure could have significant negative impacts on city operations and core service delivery.

**MAJOR PROVISIONS**

**Fees and Charges**

- Except for licensing and other regulatory fees, fees and charges may not exceed the "actual cost" of providing the product or service for which the fee is charged. "Actual cost" is the "minimum amount necessary." The burden to prove the fee or charge does not exceed "actual cost" is changed to "clear and convincing" evidence.
- Requires fees and charges paid for the use of local and state government property and the amount paid to purchase or rent government property to be "reasonable."

These fees and charges are currently allowed to be market-based. Whether the amount is “reasonable” (introducing a new legal standard aiming to force below market fee and charge amounts) must be proved by “clear and convincing evidence.” The standard may significantly reduce the amount large companies (e.g., oil, utilities, gas, railroads, garbage/refuse, cable, and other corporations) will pay for the use of local public property.

- Prohibits fees on new development based on vehicle miles traveled.

#### Taxes

- Taxes and fees adopted after Jan. 1, 2022, that do not comply with the new rules, are void unless reenacted.
- Invalidates *Upland* decision that allows a majority of local voters to pass special taxes. The measure specifies that taxes proposed by the initiative are subject to the same rules as taxes placed on the ballot by a city council.
- Expressly prohibits local advisory measures which allow local voters to express a preference for how local general tax dollars should be spent.<sup>5</sup>
- Requires voter approval to expand existing taxes (e.g., Utility, Transient Occupancy) to new territory (e.g., annexations) or to expand the tax base (e.g., new utility service)
- New taxes can only be imposed for a specific time period.
- City charters may not be amended to include a tax or fee.
- All state taxes require majority voter approval.

#### Fines and Penalties

- May require voter approval of fines, penalties, and levies for corporations and property owners that violate state and local laws unless a new, undefined adjudicatory process is used to impose the fines and penalties.

### **DISCUSSION/ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

On Jan. 4, 2022, the California Business Roundtable filed the “Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act” or AG# 21-0042A1. On Feb. 1, 2023, the measure qualified for the November 2024 ballot.

The League of California Cities, along with a broad coalition of local governments, labor and public safety leaders, infrastructure advocates, and businesses, strongly opposes this initiative.

Local government revenue-raising authority is currently substantially restricted by state statute and constitutional provisions, including the voter approved provisions of Proposition 13 of 1978, Proposition 218 of 1996, and Proposition 26 of 2010. The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act adds and expands restrictions on voters and local government tax and fee authority.

## **Fees and Taxes**

Local governments levy a variety of fees and other charges to provide core public services.

Major examples of affected fees and charges are:

- Nuisance abatement charges, such as for weed, rubbish, and general nuisance abatement to fund community safety, code enforcement, and neighborhood cleanup programs.
- Commercial franchise fees.
- Emergency response fees, such as in connection with DUI.
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport charges.
- Document processing and duplication fees.
- Transit fees, tolls, parking fees, and public airport and harbor use fees.
- Facility use charges, fees for parks and recreation services, garbage disposal tipping fees.

Virtually every city, county, and special district must regularly (e.g., annually) adopt increases to fee rates and charges and revise rate schedules to accommodate new users and activities. Most of these would be subject to new standards and limitations under threat of legal challenge. Based on the current volume of fees and charges imposed by local agencies, including council-adopted increases to simply accommodate inflation, Cal Cities estimates the amount of local government fee and charge revenue at risk is approximately \$2 billion per year including those adopted since Jan. 1, 2022. Over ten years, \$20 billion of local government fee and charge revenues will be at heightened legal peril.

Examples of City's affected fees and charges include:

Hundreds of local tax measures were approved in 2022 that likely do not comply with the provisions of the initiative. Nearly \$2 billion of annual revenues from these voter-approved measures will cease a year after the effective date of the measure, reducing the local public services funded by these measures, unless the tax is re-submitted for voter approval.

Reductions on local government tax revenues have impacts on core services and infrastructure including fire and emergency response, law enforcement, streets and roads, drinking water, sewer sanitation, parks, libraries, affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health services.

Examples of City's affected revenue measures and service impacts include:

### **Fines and Penalties**

Under existing law, cities are required to provide due process before imposing a penalty or fine for violation of its municipal code:

1. A local agency must adopt administrative procedures that govern imposing fines and penalties, including providing a reasonable period for a person responsible for a continuing violation to correct or remedy the violation [Gov't Code 53069.4].
2. Notice must be given to the violating party before imposing the penalty; and give the party an opportunity to be heard and present any facts or arguments [*Merco Construction Engineers v. Los Angeles Unified School District* (1969) 274 CA 2d 154, 166].
3. The fine may not be "excessive" [U.S. Constitution amendments VIII and XIV].

The initiative converts administratively-imposed fines and penalties into taxes unless a new, undefined, and ambiguous "adjudicatory due process" is followed. This provision may put at risk authority to impose fines and penalties for violations of state and local law.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act will take billions of dollars away from local government services statewide.

ATTACHMENT: Cal Cities fact sheet

# Top 5 Reasons Cities Should Oppose the **Corporate Tax Trick**

An association representing California's wealthiest corporations — developers, oil, insurance, and drug companies — is behind a deceptive November 2024 statewide ballot proposition that would revise the state Constitution, creating new loopholes that enrich corporations at the expense of residents and our communities. **Here are the top 5 reasons cities should oppose this dangerous and undemocratic measure.**



## **1 Jeopardizes Funding for Vital Local Services**

According to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, this measure would significantly reduce funding for state and local services. It **could force billions of dollars in cuts** to fire and 911 emergency response, law enforcement, services that support homeless residents, and much more.



## **2 Opens the Door for Frivolous Lawsuits Against Cities**

The measure contains intentionally vague language that **will encourage hundreds of frivolous lawsuits against cities and local governments** — costing taxpayers millions and blocking investments in local vital services.



## **3 Attacks Voter Rights**

This measure fundamentally changes our constitution to **make it far more difficult for voters to pass measures** to fund local services. It also includes a hidden provision that **would retroactively cancel measures recently passed by voters** — undermining the decisions of local voters. It would also limit voter input by prohibiting local advisory measures, where voters provide direction to politicians on how they want their local tax dollars spent.



## **4 Allows Wealthy Corporations to Avoid Paying Their Fair Share**

Creates major new constitutional loopholes that **allow wealthy corporations to avoid paying their fair share** for the impacts they have on our communities. It shifts the burden and **forces individual taxpayers to pay more.**



## **5 Opposed by a Broad Coalition**

This measure is **opposed by a broad, bipartisan coalition** of cities and counties, firefighters, nurses, teachers, environmental groups, unions, and business leaders across the state.

**Governing Board Agenda Report**

**DATE:** February 20, 2024  
**TO:** Governing Board and Alternates  
**FROM:** Terry Dipple, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Project Update

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**OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this report is to update the Governing Board on the status of COG projects and other items of interest.

**2024 Homeless Count** – Tuesday, January 23, the COG partnered with LAHSA and Calabasas for the SPA 2 Homeless Count. The volunteer staging location was the Calabasas Senior Center. Volunteers that participated in the count included Congresswoman Julia Brownley who was joined by Governing Board members and alternates, along with councilmembers from Calabasas and Westlake Village. The official count numbers will be available in several months as LAHSA has a lengthy process it goes through with the state and federal government to finalize the numbers.

**Homeowners' Insurance Town Hall** – As a follow up to the request by the Governing Board following the presentation by Julia Juarez from the Insurance Commissioner's Office at the November 2023 COG meeting to hold a town hall meeting. Julia and Nancy both agree that a virtual event would be the most effective way to reach many people. The Commissioner's office has offered to host the event as their Zoom account can accommodate up to 3,000 participants. I will update the Governing Board once we have some of the logistics worked out.

**Request for Special Meeting with Supervisor Horvath** – I compiled some questions regarding county homeless services that I was planning to discuss with Supervisor Horvath's staff. After sharing them with President Weintraub, she felt it would be best to meet with Supervisor Horvath to discuss how the COG could work with her and the county to address homeless services. Since the Board of Supervisors meeting conflicts with the COG meeting, she asked me to submit a request for the Governing Board to meet with Supervisor Horvath. The original date requested does not work for the Supervisor so I will work with her staff and President Weintraub to find a new date for the meeting.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan** – The COG's HMP was submitted to Cal OES, who has responded with a request for information. The consultant is addressing the request and will be resubmitting the week of February 19. The final HMP will then be resubmitted to Cal OES, who will review and forward it to FEMA for final approval.

**Measure M and R Projects** – The COG Measure M funding allocations were approved by the Metro Board on January 25. On February 13, Metro issued the Letter of No Prejudice which will allow Hidden Hills to immediately move forward with their phase of the Regional Smart Cities Fiber Network. On February 14, the COG's Highway Working Group held its quarterly meeting with Metro to discuss on-going and projected funding for new projects.

**Regional Smart Cities Fiber Network Project** – The design engineering portion is moving forward as planned and the consultant and cities continue to meet every other week. We are scheduled to go over alternatives for the area of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road near the tunnel where we may not physically be able to underground new conduit. The consultant's scheduled for on-site field work has experienced delays due to the rain. Field work is now expected to start in mid-March and take 30 days to complete. We anticipate the final design engineering and bid package to be completed in time for the COG to go out to bid in June 2024. The Governing Board and Metro allocated \$5 million in Measure M funding for 24/25 and I anticipate construction beginning in the fall of 2024.

**Los Angeles County Homeless Grant** – I recently discussed with the County Homeless Initiative team the amount of funding the COG will receive from the Local Solutions Funds for FY 24-25. The COG will receive \$182,250 for FY 24-25. This amount is in addition to any unallocated funds for the current or prior contract year that will roll over.

**TO: LAS VIRGENES MALIBU COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES**

**RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 2/20/2024 MEETING  
(AS PREPARED FEB 15)**

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Did you read the Division's February newsletter? Check it out to see additional details on many of the items and events in this document.

### **FEBRUARY 16 INTRODUCTION DEADLINE IN THE LEGISLATURE**

The deadline to introduce new legislation was Friday, February 16 and (because this is being prepared before that deadline) Cal Cities is expecting a flood of bill introductions in the next 24 hours.

### **FIRST LOOK AT NEW LEGISLATION – WEBINAR FOR MEMBERS**

Cal Cities lobbyists will be furiously going through these new bills and providing a first glance at them during a webinar on March 5th from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Cal Cities members can register for that webinar [HERE](#) and – while this is more for city staff than elected officials – Cal Cities recognizes that many of you may be busy with the election that day, but if you are interested in viewing a recording, please register as everyone registered will receive the slides and a copy of the recording in the days after the event.

### **RETAIL THEFT**

Cal Cities and the Division are prioritizing retail theft and the increase in crime. We will be working with other stakeholders in this space including the Police Chiefs, Retailers, Sheriffs, and Chambers of Commerce to find solutions to this problem. With the creation of a Select Committee on Retail Theft, the Assembly is also prioritizing this issue and the Governor recently announced several legislative proposals, but it should be noted that the Governor is not suggesting amendments to Prop 47, which could limit the impact.



The Select Committee on Retail Theft had a hearing in West Hollywood on Friday, February 9 where Division President Dieringer and Cal Cities Public Safety Lobbyist Jolena Voorhis both provided public comment. Cal Cities is also part of a coalition of business, local governments, and public safety organizations that submitted a letter to the Governor and Legislature suggesting three pillars to addressing the rise in theft.

Speaker Rivas, Assembly Member Zbur, and Minority Leader McCarthy held a press conference to announce the introduction of the California Retail Theft Reduction Act on February 15. Although language isn't available as of printing of this document, legislators indicated this legislation would address increasing penalties, aggregation, diversion programs for repeat offenders, fencing, and the ability to arrest.

### **Division General Membership Meeting on Retail Theft on March 7**

The Division will also take up Retail Theft during our March 7 general membership meeting from 6 – 8:30 PM at the USC Hotel with two special guest speakers: Pedro Nava of the Little Hoover Commission and Lt. Michael McComas of the LAPD Organized Retail Theft Task Force. Details and registration for that meeting can be found [HERE](#).

### **SINGLE USE PLASTICS, RECYCLING, AND ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION**

Draft regulations were recently released for SB 54, the single use packing and plastic legislation from 2022. Cal Cities will be engaging with Cal Recycle over the next year on the regulations, as well as the Producer Responsibility Organization representing plastic producers who have the extended responsibility of managing plastics through the end of their life cycle, including reimbursement to local jurisdictions implementing these recycling programs. Cities are implementing Cal Recycle's SB 1383 organic waste diversion regulations; however, Cal Cities anticipates significant legislation to be introduced to reform SB 1383 following the analysis conducted by the Little Hoover Commission released in August 2023, which called upon the Legislature to put a complete pause on implementation of the statewide program. Cal Cities will continue to advocate for progress but will be weighing in on legislation to ensure city interests are protected if changes to the program are forthcoming.

**THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT** Cal Cities is a co-sponsor of AB 817 (Pacheco) which passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee in January and will continue to move through the legislative process. This measure would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing nondecision-making legislative bodies that do not have the ability to take final action to participate in two-way virtual

teleconferencing without posting their location. (see the related Guide to the Brown Act below)

## **CITY LEADERS SUMMIT**

If your city is at all concerned about the issues being discussed in Sacramento, Cal Cities wants you to join us at City Leaders Summit on April 17 – 19. This event is our biggest advocacy event of the year and we need your help to make it successful. During this three-day event, you will have a chance to hear from Cal Cities lobbyists and others about the key topics being discussed at the Capitol this year and then we encourage you to meet with your legislators and speak to them directly about the issues you are most concerned about. Details and registration for the City Leaders Summit can be found [HERE](#).

## **CAL CITIES' BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT PROPOSITION 1**

In December, Cal Cities Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly to support Proposition 1 on the March ballot. This measure makes substantial changes to the Mental Health Services Act and includes a \$6.4 billion bond to fund over 11,000 new behavioral health beds. In addition to supporting Proposition 1, Cal Cities Board directed staff to engage in the regulatory process and pursue legislation to implement reasonable oversight of licensed recovery housing and sober living homes to ensure the safety and success of those receiving services and support.

## **OPEN AND PUBLIC: A GUIDE TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

The newest edition of Open & Public is now available.

Open & Public VI: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act is a valuable tool designed for local government officials, the public, and news media on California's open meetings law for local agencies. First published in 1989, Open & Public VI builds upon the previous five editions. The newest edition of this guide reflects the current law as of November 2023.

Printed copies are available for \$35, or \$30 if you purchase 15 copies or more. A digital version is also available for Cal Cities members to download at no cost via the Cal Cities website.

## **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY RESOURCES: GET YOUR COMMUNITY READY FOR MARCH 5**

Ballots began arriving in mailboxes in mid-February and voting will continue until Primary Election Day on March 5. Make sure you voters in your community have the resources they need no matter if they want to mail in their ballot, deposit their ballot in a drop box, or vote in person at one of the many vote centers.

Share these links on social media or tell people to visit [LAVote.gov](http://LAVote.gov) when you are speaking around the community: · [How to Return a Mail Ballot](#) · [Find a Ballot Drop Box](#) · [How to Vote In-Person](#) · [Track Your Mail Ballot](#)

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 20 at 2 PM: Organic Waste Recycling and Food Recovery Roundtable.
- February 21 from 2:30 - 4 PM: Coastal Cities Quarterly Forum.
- March 5 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM: 2024 Legislative Briefing: New Legislation Overview. See details above.
- March 6 - 8: Planning Commissioners Academy (Long Beach)
- March 7 from 6 - 8:30 PM: Division General Membership Meeting (USC Hotel). See details above.
- March 13 - 15: Public Works Officers Institute (Monterey)
- April 17 - 19: City Leaders Summit – Registration Now Open! (Sacramento)
- May 8 - 10: City Attorneys Spring Conference -- Save the date! (Rancho Mirage)
- October 16 - 18: Annual Conference and Expo -- Save the date! (Long Beach)

**Subject: SCAG Update February 2024**  
**To: LVMCOG Governing Board and Executive Director**  
**From: Rachel Wagner, SCAG Sr. Government Affairs Officer;**  
**wagner@scag.ca.gov**

**ACTION GREENPRINT DATA STANDARDS APPROVED** Today, the SCAG Regional Council adopted data standards to govern the future development and use of the SoCal Greenprint tool. The Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee convened during the second half of 2023 to inform the creation of these data standards, which define parameters for identifying, evaluating, maintaining, updating and communicating the purpose of data in SoCal Greenprint data and mapping tool. In January, the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee advanced proposed data standards to the Regional Council with a recommendation to adopt.

News from the President

### **CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS**

SCAG is now accepting applications for officer positions for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, due to SCAG no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. After reviewing applications, the Nomination Committee will forward its recommendations for consideration at the April 4 Regional Council meeting.

The Regional Council will present its slate of incoming elected officials on May 2 at the SCAG Regional Conference & General Assembly at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert.

### **ACTION:**

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

SCAG Regional Council President Art Brown recently appointed members to the Bylaws and Resolution Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Scholarship Committee data-driven decision-making tools. For more information, visit [scag.ca.gov/reap2021](http://scag.ca.gov/reap2021).

## Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

- Hon. Cindy Allen, Chair (Long Beach/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Frank Yokoyama (Cerritos/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Gil Rebollar (Brawley/ Imperial County)
- Sup. Luis Plancarte (Imperial County)
- Hon. Marty Simonoff (Brea/ Orange County)
- Hon. Art Brown (Buena Park/ Orange County)
- Hon. Rocky Rhodes (Simi Valley/ Ventura County)
- Hon. Jenny Crosswhite (Santa Paula/ Ventura County)
- Hon. Damon L. Alexander (City of San Bernardino/ San Bernardino County)
- Sup. Curt Hagman (San Bernardino County)
- Hon. Jan C. Harnik (RCTC/ Riverside County)
- Hon. Maricela Nava (Perris/ Riverside County)

## Nominating Committee

- Hon. Jan C. Harnik, Chair (RCTC/ Riverside County)
- Sup. Luis Plancarte (Imperial County)
- Hon. Ali Saleh (Bell/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Larry McCallon (Air District Representative/ San Bernardino County)
- Hon. Jose Luis Solache (Lynwood/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Marshall Goodman (La Palma/ Orange County)
- Sup. Vianey Lopez (Ventura County)

## Scholarship Committee

- Hon. Ray Marquez, Chair (Chino Hills/ San Bernardino)
- Sup. Luis Plancarte (Imperial County)
- Hon. David J. Shapiro (Calabasas/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Margaret Finlay (Duarte/ Los Angeles County)
- Sup. Vianey Lopez (Ventura County)
- Hon. Keith Eich (La Cañada Flintridge/ Los Angeles County)
- Hon. Kathleen Kelly (Palm Desert/ Riverside County)
- Hon. Jan C. Harnik (RCTC/ Riverside County)
- Hon. Steve Manos (Lake Elsinore/ Riverside County)
- Hon. Andrew Masiel (Tribal Representation)
- Hon. Valerie Amezcua (Santa Ana/ Orange County)

## INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZES SCAG WITH '2023 PUBLIC AGENCY AWARD'

SCAG was honored with the 2023 Public Agency Award at the Inland Empire Economic Partnership's Annual Dinner and Awards Reception earlier this month. Executive Director Kome Ajise received the award.

## **News from the SCAG Executive Director**

### **PROPOSED STATE BUDGET WOULD CUT FUNDING FOR REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM**

The February Regional Council meeting agenda included an informational item on Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed state budget, which proposes a reduction of \$300 million for the Regional Early Action Planning program of 2021 (REAP 2.0). SCAG released a statement urging the governor to reconsider these funding cuts, which would severely limit cities' and counties' ability to address the state's housing affordability crisis. In the past year, SCAG has awarded more than \$192 million in REAP 2.0 funding across the six-county region to projects designed to thoughtfully,

strategically and sustainably accelerate housing production. These projects play a critical role in increasing housing supply and providing more affordable housing options.

SCAG is working to assess the specific impacts of the proposed cuts and will partner with key stakeholders to use the state budget approval process to advocate for the protection of critical housing programs funded by REAP 2.0.

### **PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITIES DISCUSSION: TRANSIT RECOVERY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

The Feb. 1 Regional Council meeting featured a panel discussion on the trajectory of public transit in Southern California as transit operators work to recover ridership lost during and after the pandemic. David Aguirre, executive director of the Imperial County Transportation Commission; Darren Kettle, chief executive officer for Metrolink; Michael Pimentel, executive director for the California Transit Association; and Seleta Reynolds, chief innovation officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority discussed methods for integrating transit service across systems and modes, how and where to strategically develop infrastructure to grow ridership, and which policies can also help grow and maintain ridership. The presentation will be available on the Regional Council video archive.

The full Executive Director's Report is available here: [Executive Report](#).

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**FEBRUARY 6th Aviation Technical Advisory Committee 8th Equity Working Group 15th Technical Working Group 20th Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee 27th Toolbox Tuesday: Data Tools and Research from the Latino Policy**

and Politics Institute 27th Transportation Conformity Working Group MARCH 1st  
San Bernardino County Mobile Workshop 6th Executive Administration Committee  
7th Special Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees 7th Regional Council 19th  
Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee 21st Technical Working  
Group 26th Transportation Conformity Working Group 27th Regional Transit  
Technical Advisory Committee 27th Modeling Task Force

**Governing Board Agenda Report**

**DATE:** February 20, 2024  
**TO:** Governing Board and Alternates  
**FROM:** Terry Dipple, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** AT&T's Application with the California Public Utilities Commission

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**OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governing Board with information on ATT's application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to be relieved of its obligation as Carrier of Last Resort. The application is currently pending before the CPUC.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Governing Board oppose AT&T's application with the CPUC to be relieved of its obligation as Carrier of Last Resort. A letter of opposition is attached for your consideration.

**BACKGROUND**

A Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) is a telecommunications service provider that must provide basic telephone service (typically landline service) to any customer requesting it within a specified area. ATT's application to be relieved of its COLR obligation covers most of their service territory throughout California, including the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village. Landline service in Malibu is provided by Frontier and the community is not affected by AT&T's application. Besides the four COG cities, there are other mountain communities as well as high fire districts with landline services being affected, including Paradise in Butte County.

All the COG cities are in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and as recently as November 2018 residents received mandatory evacuation orders ahead of the Woolsey Fire. Many of those evacuation orders came over traditional landlines that AT&T is proposing to eliminate. AT&T's planned replacement to traditional landlines is AT&T Mobility or a different voice service. The flaw in this strategy is they both rely on cell technology which is subject to failure in the event of a wildfire or earthquake that may damage cell towers.

Sophia Soudani, Deputy District Director for Supervisor Horvath, arranged a meeting on February 8 with representatives from CPUC, President Weintraub and Agoura Hills Mayor Illece Buckley-Weber that I attended. Hope Christman, the new CPUC liaison stated if the COG was going to oppose AT&T's application it should make its position known early in the process to help shape the outcome of the proceeding. We asked if the CPUC would



consider holding a public meeting in the COG area as the only in-person meeting is being held in the city of Indio, which ironically is not in the AT&T service area. Ms. Christman agreed to elevate our request. There are two virtual public meetings on March 19: 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

I spoke with AT&T claims it is not cancelling landline service in California, and none of their traditional copper-based customers will lose access to voice service. Their representative said AT&T is focused on enhancing the network with more advanced, higher speed technologies like fiber and wireless, which consumers are demanding and that no customers are being disconnected. When I questioned the very limited wireless service in the COG cities, the representative blamed Calabasas for its restrictive cell tower ordinance as one of the problems.

The CPUC could deny ATT's proposal, approve it as filed, require changes to the proposal, or another outcome. Until the proposed decision is released, the outcome is not known.

Representatives from CPUC and AT&T have agreed to participate in the Governing Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT: AT&T's fact sheets

March 1, 2024

President Reynolds  
California Public Utilities Commission  
405 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94102

RE: Opposition to AT&T's Applications for Targeted Relief from its Carrier of Last Resort Obligation and Relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation (A.23-03-003 and A.23-03-002)

The Governing Board of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (COG) voted to oppose AT&T's applications for targeted relief from its Carrier of Last Resort obligation and relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation. Four of the five COG cities, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village are within the territory AT&T seeks to withdraw from and relinquish its obligation to provide landline service. The COG strongly objects to AT&T's applications for targeted relief from its Carrier of Last Resort obligation and relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation for the following reasons:

1. Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village have been designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by CAL Fire and wildfires are not uncommon in the region. As recently as November 2018 residents of these communities received mandatory evacuation orders ahead of the Woolsey Fire. Many of those evacuation orders came over traditional landlines that AT&T is proposing to withdraw its obligation to provide basic telephone service. AT&T's planned replacement of traditional landlines is AT&T Mobility or a different voice service. The flaw in this strategy is they both rely on cell technology which is subject to failure in the event a wildfire destroys cell towers.
2. Southern California is overdue for an earthquake which would likely also disrupt cellular service. Traditional landline service has been shown to be much more likely to survive such an event. Area residents and businesses look to traditional landlines as a "lifeline" to obtain information when disaster strikes.
3. Much of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village are in mountainous terrain which makes cell services in many locations throughout the cities spotty at best. AT&T's application reduces communication options for area residents and businesses and leaves our communities in a vulnerable position during natural disasters.
4. Neither is Voice Over Internet Protocol a reliable option as power outages and internet connectivity would also be compromised in either an earthquake or a wildfire.

The Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments respectfully requests that the California Public Utilities Commission deny the applications by AT&T for Targeted Relief from its Carrier of Last Resort Obligation and Relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation.

Respectfully,

Alicia Weintraub  
President

cc: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov via email  
Hope Christman, Local Government and Community Liaison, CPUC via email

# AT&T California



## WHO WE ARE


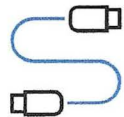









**AT&T is committed to investing in California** to expand coverage and improve connectivity in more communities. AT&T is committed to keeping our customers and communities connected—both through investing in our networks and in working with state and local governments to efficiently build out broadband networks to help close the digital divide. Across the State, AT&T California's External and Legislative Affairs team is working with state and local leaders, like yourself, to not only bring Californians the best possible network, but to support and sustain healthy, thriving communities.

As technology evolves, we're continuing to make substantial investments in wireless capabilities and fiber to reach more customers with faster speed technologies. In California, we're focused on enhancing our network with more advanced fiber and wireless services, which Californians need for work, school and entertainment.

We are sharing information with you about AT&T's networks in California—as well as examples of AT&T California's support for our communities. Whether it is for public safety, education, or support for vulnerable communities, all of our work involves strong collaborations with local officials and organizations.

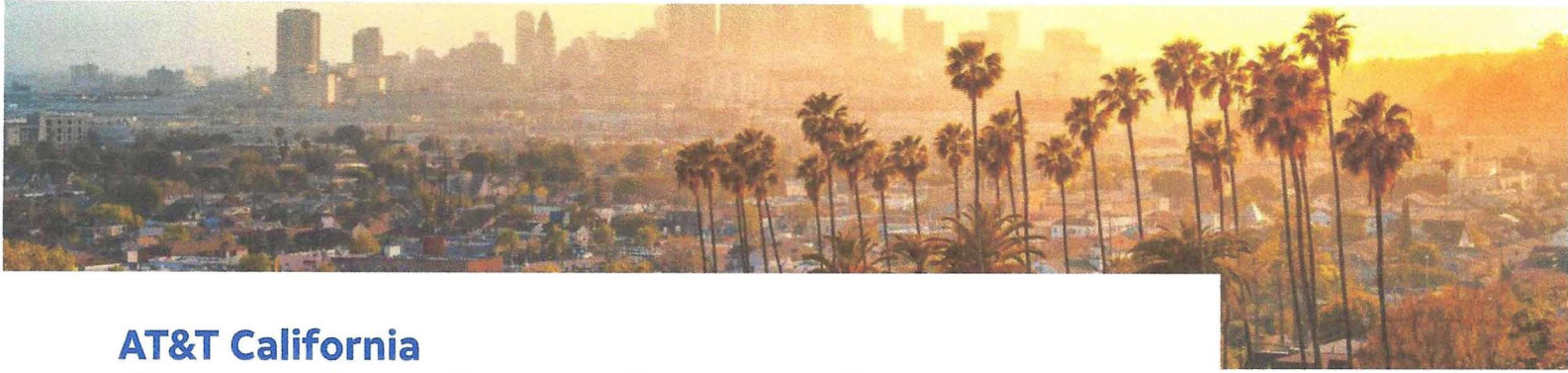
We look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding communications policy, network enhancements, our community outreach efforts and more. Thank you for your shared dedication to the people of California.

## AT&T CALIFORNIA AT A GLANCE

 <b>~\$8.6B</b> invested by an AT&T in our California network from 2020-2022	 <b>~10M</b> strand-miles of fiber optics in California as of October 31, 2022	 <b>99.8%</b> of California's population covered by the AT&T Mobile Broadband network as of January 7, 2022	 <b>\$1.9B+</b> AT&T California spent more than \$1.9 billion with diverse suppliers in the state in 2022.
 <b>5,832</b> wireless upgrades made in California in 2020-2022, including 761 new cell sites	 <b>\$1.3B+</b> generated in local and state taxes by AT&T in California in 2021	 Committed to be carbon neutral across AT&T's global operations by 2035	 We're proud to be a union-friendly employer and one of the largest employers of union-represented employees in America. We are the only major U.S. wireless company with a fully union-represented non-management workforce.
 FirstNet, built with AT&T, provides first responders with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need it.	 <b>~20K</b> California Employees <b>43K+</b> California Retirees	 <b>1,247</b> Retail locations in California as of May 5, 2023	

[attconnects.com/California](https://attconnects.com/California)





# AT&T California Committed to a Better Tomorrow

AT&T is proud of our commitment to California's communities. Below are a few examples of our investment in the communities where our employees live and work.



## Advancing Digital Equity in California

- In 2023, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation amplified their commitment to California's communities with a significant investment, focusing on a \$2 billion initiative to expand digital inclusion and bridge the connectivity gap across underserved areas.
- AT&T is investing in our fiber network to meet the demands for reliable, high-speed connections today—and in the future. In 2022 and 2023, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians and the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians both announced new projects with AT&T that will bring AT&T Fiber to more than 400 homes and 500 residential and small business locations, respectively.
- We've opened seven AT&T Connected Learning Centers in California, including two on Tribal land—at the Rincon Reservation in San Diego County and the Boys & Girls Club of Pinoleville Pomo Nation in Ukiah—that are providing highspeed AT&T Fiber internet, Wi-Fi and technology resources in under-served communities.
- In 2023, AT&T donated more than 4,000 free devices to students and families to help bridge the digital divide through our collaboration with community-based organizations across the state, including Dev Mission, BAYCAT, 826 Valencia, Mission Bit, Paradise Teen Center, The Village Project, The Fresno Center, Community Coalition of South Los Angeles, Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles and The RightWay Foundation.
  - AT&T partnered with Human-I-T to provide more than 500 laptops to five California Tribal communities to help students and families fully participate in our digital world.
- AT&T donated \$50,000 to the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to help low-income households across the state get connected to the Internet and become digitally skilled. The program's Digital Navigators will connect individuals and families to computing devices, Internet access, and digital literacy training, all in an effort to help close the digital divide.



## Supporting Our Communities

- In Los Angeles, we support organizations like Brotherhood Crusade, Proyecto Pastoral and Homeboy Industries to help support efforts to serve at-risk and underserved communities.
- We made a significant financial donation to the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's Congressional Internship program to empower students from underserved communities.
- Through Believe Bay Area<sup>SM</sup>, we expanded economic empowerment in black and underserved communities in the Bay Area with 80 scholarships to online academics through Dev/ Mission and VetsInTech.
- Since 2018, AT&T has supported Trevor Text and TrevorChat, The Trevor Project's digital crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ youth available 24/7. We have contributed \$1.7 million over the past three years, which has helped the organization modernize and transform their suicide prevention capabilities.



## Providing Aid to Communities Impacted by California Natural Disasters

- Following severe storms and flooding that impacted California in 2023, AT&T provided \$20,000 to Ventures to support those affected and meet the ongoing critical needs of the Spanish speaking residents of the Pajaro community.
- AT&T donated \$200,000 to the California Fire Foundation to support immediate, short-term relief to survivors of disasters to meet their basic needs such as food and clothing.
- During the Dixie Fire, AT&T provided \$30,000 in relief to the Almanor Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund, the American Red Cross Gold Country Region and the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center.



## California Network Modernization: FAQ

### **Will California customers lose service?**

- No California AT&T customer will be left without service.
- We are simply seeking an approved process to help consumers transition from outdated services to modern services.

### **Does this mean that customers won't have a home landline?**

- No. We are not cancelling landline service in California, and none of our California traditional copper-based customers will lose access to voice service.
- We are focused on enhancing our network with more advanced, higher speed technologies like fiber and wireless, which consumers are demanding.

### **Will California consumers have access to 911 services?**

- No customers are being disconnected.
- Our customers will continue to have access to 911, and newer digital voice services have access to 911 and use technology that makes it quicker and easier for customers to reach first responders.

### **Will Californians access to affordable services?**

- Today, Californians have access to mobile wireless and VoIP alternatives that are at least as affordable as copper-based landline service.
- AT&T also offers Access from AT&T, which provides low-cost internet service for eligible households with plans up to \$30/mo. and speeds up to 100Mbps where available.

### **How will California's rural residents be impacted?**

- No AT&T California customer is being left behind.
- We're working to transition our remaining consumers who use traditional copper-based phone service to upgrade to newer technologies from us or other providers.
- We are focused on enhancing our network with more advanced, higher speed technologies like fiber and wireless, which consumers are demanding.

### **What about location accuracy of 911 calls for wireless and VoIP phones?**

- Today, 911 operators can locate you nearly anywhere—from the side of a highway to inside your home—all thanks to decades of innovation in wireless location accuracy technologies.<sup>1</sup>
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires that providers of interconnected VoIP telephone services using the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to meet Enhanced 911 (E911) obligations. E911 systems automatically provide emergency service personnel with a 911 caller's call-back number and, in most cases, location information.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ctia.org/news/blog-the-wireless-industrys-commitment-to-9-1-1-location-accuracy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/voip-and-911-service>



### **What are the benefits for California’s seniors using wireless services?**

- According to the Pew Research Center, 94% of seniors (65 and older) in America own a cellphone of some kind, and 76% of seniors own a smartphone (Pew Research) including 94% of those 65 and older.<sup>3</sup>
- The benefits to senior of using modern technology include for telehealth services, staying connected with loved ones, keeping mentally fit, having access to emergency alerts and the ability to track and manage health conditions.
- It’s imperative that California’s seniors have access to and continue to adopt high-speed internet and newer technologies, to increase access to much needed services, connect with loved ones and to improve quality of life.

### **What will happen to residents in areas where cell service may not be as strong?**

- Our analysis based on data from the CPUC and FCC showed that 99.7 percent of consumers within our service territory have at least three viable alternative options for voice service.
- These include services other than wireless, such as VoIP services provided by cable companies.
- For customers who do not have alternatives available, we will continue to provide service until such time as an alternative is available.

### **What about backup power for VoIP phones. What is the cost? How long does the backup battery power last?**

- AT&T offers a 24-hour battery backup option for AT&T Digital Phone (VoIP). Customers can also buy a backup option that lasts for less time.<sup>4</sup>
- For VoIP phones, consumers can buy reliable external backup power systems online, at local electronics stores, or directly from the phone providers from anywhere from 8 to 48 hours. Costs vary for backup batteries for VoIP, but options can be found for around \$40.

### **Are prices for broadband and phone service increasing faster than inflation?**

- The current price of AT&T residential copper-based landline service in California is \$37.50 per month. There are both bundled and non-bundled VoIP and wireless alternatives costing a similar amount or less than the current \$37.50 per month price.
- Mobile wireless providers offer prepaid and postpaid wireless plans at price points below or comparable to those for AT&T’s copper-based service. Managed VoIP services that broadband providers offer over their cable, fiber and fixed wireless networks are generally less expensive than copper-based landline voice services.
- According to a 2023 study, prices for broadband experienced a 18% drop year-over-year in the price of providers’ most popular broadband speed tier and a 6.5% drop year-over-year in the price of providers’ fastest speed tier.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/mobile/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.att.com/support/article/u-verse-voice/KM1041593/>

<sup>5</sup> 2023 Broadband Pricing Index (BPI) – USTelecom



### **Is Access from AT&T available for new and existing customers?**

- Yes. AT&T has no plans to discontinue Access from AT&T program.
- We continue to offer the Access program, which provides low-cost internet service for eligible households with plans up to \$30/month and speeds up to 100Mbps where available. To learn more, visit <https://att.com/access>.

### **What are the eligibility criteria for Access from AT&T?**

- The following programs will continue to be used to determine eligibility for Access from AT&T: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for California residents, National School Lunch, or with a household income below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.
- New Access from AT&T customers can go through an application process where they submit documentation for review.

### **Why is AT&T exiting programs such as Lifeline that provide service to low-income customers?**

- Californians can continue to choose from among a number of providers if they want to participate the federally supported Lifeline program.
- A CPUC report found that about 85% of Lifeline customers in California already obtain the Lifeline benefit for wireless services.<sup>6</sup>
- We also offer the Access program, which provides low-cost internet service for eligible households with plans up to \$30/month and speeds up to 100Mbps where available

### **What is a COLR?**

- One of the applications that AT&T submitted, if approved, would remove AT&T's obligation under California law to provide traditional landline phone service in a large portion of our service territory in California – known as Carrier of Last Resort (COLR).
- AT&T's COLR obligation means that we must provide traditional landline phone service to any potential customer in our service territory.
- However, the COLR obligation no longer makes sense given that almost everyone in our service territory can choose among several comparable or lower-priced wireline and wireless alternatives to traditional telephone landlines for voice service.

### **Why did AT&T file for COLR relief in California?**

- We've seen a precipitous decline in demand for telephone services provided over our copper networks.
- This application seeks targeted COLR relief for areas in our California service territory where facilities-based alternative options for voice service already exist.
- Our commitment is that consumers currently in our California service territory will retain access to a service connection, whether from us or another service provider.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M478/K367/478367564.PDF>



**Doesn't California need a COLR provider?**

- We believe that the COLR obligation is outdated and no longer necessary given that nearly everyone in our California service territory already has or can choose among several comparable or lower-priced wireline and wireless alternatives to copper-based landlines for voice service.

**Why doesn't AT&T just maintain the copper-based network?**

- Our copper network is incapable of meeting these modern, data demands, and as such, it is now vastly underutilized.
- We cannot continue to support two networks, and the time has come for us to switch to a modern network.

**What happens to households who do not have access to alternative services?**

- Our commitment is that customers currently in our California service territory will retain access to a service connection, whether from us or another service provider.
- For customers who do not have alternatives available, we will continue to provide service until such a time as an alternative phone service or provider is available.
- We are participating in eight in-person and virtual public forums for stakeholders and customers to provide input into our proposal.

**Is AT&T just profiting off discontinuing landline?**

- We are not cancelling landline service in California, and none of our California customers will lose access to voice service if the CPUC approves our application.
- We spend more than a billion dollars a year in California maintaining our legacy network and set of services that are used by a small and rapidly declining number of customers. Those dollars would be better spent on more advanced, higher speed technologies like fiber and wireless, which consumers are increasingly demanding over outdated copper-based services.
- In California, we invested nearly \$8.6 billion in our wireless and wireline network infrastructure from 2020-2022.

**Would we sell portions of business to another service provider?**

- None of our traditional copper-based landline customers in California will be left without service.
- We are simply seeking an approved process to help consumers transition from an antiquated copper network to modern services. Our goal is for customers currently in our California service territory to retain access to a service connection, whether from us or another provider.
- We are focused on investing in services that will meet our rural customers' needs today and in the future. Resources we spend on maintaining an antiquated copper network are resources we can't invest in our networks to help close the digital divide.