

August 22, 2016

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

**Subject: Recommend re-appointment of Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval to the
Public Utilities Commission**

Dear Governor Brown:

As members of the Oversight Committee of the **North Bay-North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC)**, we recommend that PUC Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval be re-appointed for another term on the Commission.

The four counties of Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties have taken on the issue of broadband because of its vital importance to our economies, and we have seen first-hand how substandard or lack of broadband has negatively affected our residents, businesses and anchor institutions. We joined together in 2014 to form the **North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC)** as the most cost-effective and efficient method to address this pressing matter. By joining forces we share our knowledge, skills, and resources to ensure that our plans provide the capacity, access, diversity and network stability that will be needed for the long-term future.

Over the past two years we have worked with legislators and the PUC to advance the deployment of broadband infrastructure and services throughout our counties with a focus on rural communities. Commissioner Sandoval has proven herself to be very knowledgeable about the telecommunications industry in this time of technology transition. Equally important she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the telecommunications broadband needs of California residents, businesses and anchor institutions, especially in rural communities.

As the lead Commissioner focused on this major area of the Commission's mission, she has supported the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), the state program for last-mile broadband deployment that is helping to connect thousands of rural residents to the Internet.

For instance, two "last mile" projects in rural Marin and Sonoma Counties, which our consortium facilitated, were recently approved for CASF funding. While this welcome progress there are still many communities in our four counties that are "unserved" or "underserved".

We recognize many areas of the state have made strong progress towards ubiquitous broadband with newer broadband technologies, unfortunately there are many rural, tribal, and less densely populated areas, like the rural communities in our counties, that have not made progress and are being left behind. And worse yet, legacy services are being neglected and withdrawn before newer alternative services are in place, creating gaps in the quality of services to our residents, businesses and anchor institutions. As one example, our public safety capabilities in rural California are increasingly vulnerable for lack of a robust, resilient and redundant broadband infrastructure.

Commissioner Sandoval understands the broadband needs and issues in California. During her current term she has traveled extensively around the state to meet groups of residents, business leaders and local government officials, even in the most remote tribal areas, to listen and gather information about their needs for broadband services. Because she

understands our needs she is able to represent us at the Commission, in Sacramento, and in Washington D.C. She is our voice in these arenas.

Commissioner Sandoval's concern is genuine, refreshing and rare; we need public servants such as her who will work hard for the people of California.

Please re-appoint Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval to another term as a PUC Commissioner.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom West, Consortium Manager, for the
North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium Oversight Committee
Steve Kinsey, Marin County Supervisor
Dan Hamburg, Mendocino County Supervisor
Diane Dillon, Napa County Supervisor
Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor

cc: NBNCBC Management Team