

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FILED

10/15/21
02:59 PM

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding
Broadband Infrastructure Deployment and to
Support Service Providers in the State of
California.

Rulemaking 20-09-001

(Filed September 10, 2020)

**REPLY COMMENTS OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, DISTRICT
9 ON THE ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING**

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October 15, 2021

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Pursuant to the September 9, 2021 Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling,¹ the
Communications Workers of America, District 9 (“CWA”) submits the following attachments:

- Four statements of support for broadband access from rural communities in Fresno County;
- A proposed addition to the middle-mile network that would serve these communities; and
- A letter from the president of the Central Valley Leadership Round Table supporting these efforts.

As described in the cities’ statements, these communities support a set of principles that includes a social contract for universal broadband service, prioritization for publicly-supported broadband deployment in low-income communities with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps and preference for fiber, that all new housing developments should be built with fiber, and that employers receiving public funds should agree to provide good wages, benefits, training, safety programs, job security and career paths.

¹ *Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Broadband Infrastructure Deployment and to Support Service Providers in the State of California, R.20-09-001, Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling (Sep. 9, 2021).*

CWA wishes to clarify that it is neutral with respect to the regulation of prices of these services and does not have a position on whether a low-cost program should be required for lessees of the state's middle mile network. However, to the extent that policymakers require affordable options for low-income households, programs like Access from AT&T should be the model.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stan Santos

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Dated: October 15, 2021