

BARBARA LEE
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
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Agriculture, Rural Development
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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September 6, 2023

Director Liana Bailey-Crimmins
California Department of Technology
707 3rd Street, 2nd Floor North
West Sacramento, CA 95605

RE: Prioritize Equity by Improving Mapping & Reinstating I-580 Middle-Mile Segment

Dear Director Bailey-Crimmins:

I am writing to express my concern for the process employed by the State of California to allocate the Federal government's investment in broadband infrastructure, which has led to a planned divestment of approximately \$13.2 million from the 12th District of California. Senate Bill (SB) 156, which created the middle mile network, is funded through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLFRF") program established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. As a member of Congress, it is our Office's responsibility to ensure that federal funds are appropriately spent and comply with the rules issued by the U.S. Treasury Department.

In alignment with the key principles of the SLFRF funds, I respectfully request that the California Department of Technology ("CDT") take the following actions:

- 1. Uncouple funding decisions from the State Broadband Map until CDT makes significant revisions:**
The first [key principle of SLFRF](#) is that recipients prevent waste. On July 26, #OaklandUndivided provided testimony at the California Broadband Council Meeting that 18 clusters labeled unserved in the wealthiest communities in Alameda County are demonstrably served (see Appendix A). The preponderance of evidence provided to CDT from Alameda County indicates a structural issue that threatens to perpetuate divestment in low-income Black and brown communities statewide. The challenge process is not designed to remediate inaccuracies at this scale. As such, it is critical that federal funding is uncoupled from the demonstrably inaccurate State Broadband Maps until they undergo extensive revision.

- 2. Reinstate the I-580 middle-mile segments to MMBI Network - Phase 1:** These demonstrably inaccurate maps prevent the promotion of equitable delivery of government benefits and opportunities to underserved communities, which is another key principle of SLFRF. While only 17% of the statewide broadband network will be cut due to inflation, the State is proposing cuts of nearly 59% in CA-District 12. This totals a \$13.2 million divestment in public dollars from one of the least connected areas in the state. Reinstating the I-580 middle-mile segment to the fully funded phase 1 is the first step in reducing the disparate impact already caused by these maps in my district.

The importance of broadband accessibility cannot be overstated. Students and employees alike depend on internet access in their daily lives. I urge the California Department of Technology to take expeditious action in considering my requests for the betterment of my constituents and all Californians. Thank you for giving my request full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress