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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**NANCY SKINNER**  
NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR  
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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE  
HOUSING  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Aug. 21, 2023

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

## **RE: Request to Reinstate I-580 Middle-Mile Segments to Phase 1**

Dear Director Bailey-Crimmins,

I am writing in support of reinstating the I-580 middle-mile segments to MMBI Network - Phase 1, and to reverse the planned divestment of approximately \$10.8 million in middle-mile funding from Senate District 9, which includes communities historically underserved by broadband.

In East and West Oakland, in my district, more than one-fifth of residents lack broadband access due to outdated telecommunication infrastructure, monopolistic markets, and unaffordable rates. However, thanks to the 2021 state budget, which I helped negotiate as chair of the Senate Budget Committee and which included a major investment in broadband, we have the opportunity to achieve Broadband for ALL and ensure that affordable, high-speed internet access is a reality for everyone.

Yet despite this historic opportunity, the Department of Technology recently reduced the funded broadband network from 44 miles to 20 miles in my district, which at an estimated \$455,000 per mile, amounts to a \$10.8 million divestment in East Oakland, with the proposed network being slashed by approximately 55%.

Therefore, I urge you to reinstate the I-580 middle-mile segments to MMBI Network - Phase 1. The rationale behind this request is as follows:

- Reinstating this segment in Oakland fulfills the commitment made by GOLDENSTATENET in November of 2021, honoring the two years of ongoing community time, feedback, and support to actualize the original plans.
- Reinstating the I-580 middle-mile segments to the fully funded Phase 1 would reduce the currently proposed 55% broadband cuts to 27%, which more closely aligns to the 17% cuts statewide.

If the I-580 segment is not moved to Phase 1, many of my constituents will remain disconnected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy Skinner'.

Nancy Skinner  
State Senator, District 9