



## QUESTIONS about WIRELESS

- **Isn't wireless required for emergency use?**

All emergency communications use regular cell phone service, not 5G, now and for the foreseeable future. We don't need more cell towers to call 911; the CPUC has already implemented a Resiliency Plan so that critical macro towers will be backed up for 72 hours after the power is lost. (5G only works in certain areas; unlikely to be adopted for widespread emergency use.)

- **Isn't wireless required during wildfires and natural disasters?**

Actually, wireless antennas and associated equipment cause wildfires: Three major California wildfires in or adjacent to Los Angeles County have been linked to telecommunications equipment:

- Malibu Canyon Fire (2007)
- Woolsey Fire (2018 – \$6 billion fire in Malibu & throughout Los Angeles County)
- Silverado Fire (2020 – merged with a second fire in Irvine and caused the evacuation of 130,000 people; significant property loss)

- **Won't wireless close the Digital Divide more quickly?**

No. It will saddle underserved communities with an inferior service for years. Is that the message the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors wants to send to these communities?

- **Is wireless infrastructure private and secure?**

Common sense tells you that wireless is inherently less secure than fiberoptic. A 2020 GAO report warns the 5G network "introduces national security risks as malicious actors seek to exploit these new 5G technologies."

- **Isn't fiberoptic too expensive?**

Over time, fiberoptic will prove to be much more economical, as wireless requires expensive upgrades to try to keep pace with technology demands. Fiberoptic is ready for the future, and the economic benefits pay for fiber within 5 – 10 years. With federal dollars available for underserved areas, fiber is more affordable for LA County than ever before.

- **Isn't wireless infrastructure energy efficient and climate friendly?**

Exactly the opposite is true. Fiberoptic needs minimal power support; transmitting antennas require large amounts of power. The energy footprint of wireless is many times that of fiberoptic.

## FACTS about closing THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- **Everyone agrees:**

Underserved communities in Los Angeles deserve access to reliable, affordable, safe, high-speed internet access.

- **There are two types of broadband connections:**

Wireless and fiberoptic. Compared to fiberoptic, wireless is slow, expensive, unreliable, easier to hack, prone to fires, not able to handle future speed requirements, and not yet proven safe.

- **Federal dollars are available to close the digital divide, but priority will be given to projects that provide "end-to-end fiber-optic connections" because they are superior to wireless. A decision to go with wireless broadband now may extinguish the possibility of federal funds.**

- **This is a social justice issue.**  
Underserved communities deserve the same quality broadband as much of the rest of the world. (e.g., underserved communities should not be screwed again when it comes to broadband.)

- **A decision for the future.**  
Choosing wireless broadband over fiberoptic will saddle underserved communities with an expensive and inferior technology for many years to come.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR expressing your concerns.**

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