



February 15, 2023

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 415 (Rodriguez) Office of Emergency Services: broadband communications grant program: fairgrounds.**  
**Notice of SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representative of California (RCRC) are pleased to **support** your AB 415. This measure would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish a grant program administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to allocate funds to fairgrounds most in need of broadband infrastructure and most often are used in response to emergencies.

AB 415 is a step forward in improving California's emergency response preparedness. City and county leaders throughout the state have identified collaboration with other city, county, state, and federal governments to secure resources for broadband infrastructure as a critical means to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery. As such, we recognize the need for investments in infrastructure for sites designated for emergency response use. California's fairgrounds often host emergency response operations, from serving as evacuation centers for people and animals, to hosting mass vaccination clinics, to being base camps for emergency responders. Several fairgrounds in the state are not equipped with enough broadband or have aging infrastructure that is unable to support a large-scale emergency response operation.

As noted above, broadband infrastructure at these sites range from aging to non-existent. With the creation of this grant program within CalOES, funds can be available to fairgrounds that lack critical broadband capabilities sufficient to support an emergency response operation. As California faces more frequent and intense wildfires, continues to fight a global pandemic, braces itself for earthquakes, and looks to protect residents from many other future emergencies, fairgrounds must be outfitted with broadband infrastructure that can adequately resource emergency responders throughout the state.

For these reasons, our organizations support AB 415 (Rodriguez) and urges the passage of this important emergency response preparedness measure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Damon Conklin (CalCities) at [dconklin@calcities.org](mailto:dconklin@calcities.org), Kalyn

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Dean (CSAC) at [kdean@counties.org](mailto:kdean@counties.org), or Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at [trhine@rcrcnet.org](mailto:trhine@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,



Damon Conklin  
Cal Cities



Tracy Rhine  
RCRC



Kalyn Dean  
CSAC