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Date: March 14, 2024  
To: Board of Directors  
Submitted by: David Aranda, Interim General Manager  
Presented by: David Spath, Board President  
Subject: Approval of A Letter to the CPUC and AT&T Strongly Opposing the Removal of Landlines in California

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**Recommendation**

With Board approval the attached letter would be sent to the CPUC and the Board may direct copies of the letter be sent to various government officials.

**Background**

Board President Spath can verbally better inform the Board regarding AT&T's request to the CPUC to abandon providing landline service in California.

The attached draft letter provides the concern that all residents should have should AT&T's request be granted.

**Exhibit**

- Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission



## Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District

Item 10a

March 5, 2024

California Public Utilities Commission  
Ms. Alive Busching Reynolds, President  
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Ms. Busching Reynolds,

I am the writing on behalf of the constituents of Kensington who are served by the Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District (KPPCSD) regarding the application from AT&T to discontinue providing landline (copper wire / POTS) service in California. We are concerned that, in the event of a disaster, residents of Kensington could be cut off from communication with local emergency services. Kensington has been designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The risk of wildfire is, therefore, significant and communicating with residents during a wildfire event is critical to saving lives. Relying solely on mobile networks to communicate evacuation orders is problematic. As you know, on February 22, 2024, AT&T experienced a complete shutdown of their cellular service which emphasizes the need as to keep landline services for public safety.

Landlines are known for their reliability, especially during emergencies or natural disasters. Unlike mobile networks, landlines are less prone to disruptions caused by network congestion or power outages. Although the hard-wired service can experience an issue, the duration and frequency of such outages are usually lower compared to mobile networks.

Mobile networks do not provide good indoor coverage in certain parts of Kensington and many residents rely on their WiFi system to obtain reliable coverage. Landlines, on the other hand, have wider coverage and can often be relied upon in areas where mobile signals are weak or unreliable.

Landlines are directly connected to emergency services, making it easier for them to trace the resident's location in case of an emergency call. This can be crucial when you are unable to provide your exact location or if you are in a situation where every second counts.

California Public Utilities Commission

March 4, 2024

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In closing, Landlines can still function during power outages as they are powered by the telephone line itself. On the other hand, mobile phones require battery power and may not be usable if the battery is drained and there is no way to recharge it.

I urge you to reject AT&T's application as submitted until a comprehensive state-wide assessment can be completed.

Sincerely,

David P. Spath, President

Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District