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**Wi-Fi IN COUNTY PARKS**

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation strives to provide residents and visitors with quality recreational opportunities across its 182 County parks. Free Wi-Fi service is currently available at only 30 County parks. While other parks offer computers, the lack of Wi-Fi access renders them inadequate for many park users' needs. Technology plays an ever-important and influential role in enhancing customers' park experience to increase access, mobility, and data insight. Offering free Wi-Fi at all county parks would benefit many residents who would otherwise have no access to the Internet. Many children in afterschool programs cannot complete their homework without Internet access. Park patrons of all ages would benefit from Internet access to enable them to easily obtain information about parks, reserve picnic areas and other amenities, register for recreation programs, and sign up to volunteer at their local parks.

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Internet availability increases access to jobs, educational opportunities, civic engagement, and critical public services.

According to a study conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California, 36 percent of county residents have no access to the Internet. Providing free Wi-Fi service in our parks and open spaces is an effective step toward bridging the digital divide among socio-economic levels to ensure our diverse communities, including children and patrons who are vulnerable or experiencing homelessness, have access to information, including details about county resources and services. In unincorporated communities, parks serve as community hubs, and for many residents, are the only government facilities they interact with on a regular basis.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE**, that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Internal Services Department, in collaboration with the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Chief Information Officer to report back during the Board's Supplemental budget process on:

- A. An approach that can be used to provide a new and free Wi-Fi service, with open access to all social media sites for the public at County parks; and

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- B. A feasibility study with a cost-benefit analysis to provide free public Wi-Fi service at all County parks; including one-time and on-going costs and identifying funding opportunities, including external grants and partnerships.

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