

For Immediate Release
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Statement from Mayor Sam Liccardo re: Governor Brown's Veto of SB 649

San Jose, Calif. – Late last night, Governor Jerry Brown announced that he had vetoed SB 649, a bill that would have given telecom companies wide latitude to install wireless equipment on public streetlights and other infrastructure at below-market rates. [Read the Governor's veto message](#). Mayor Sam Liccardo, who strongly advocated against SB 649, issued the following statement:

"I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to Governor Brown for his veto of SB 649.

"Over the past few months, mayors, consumer advocates and residents across the state voiced their concerns that this proposal would allow private telecom companies to install their equipment on public infrastructure at below market rate costs, with little local input and – most importantly – without any guarantee that the benefits of such expansion would be brought to low-income and rural communities. I'm grateful that the Governor heeded these concerns and stood up for the public.

"Despite the serious concerns I had with this specific piece of legislation, I believe that we should all embrace the opportunity of greater broadband deployment, at better speeds, with the latest technology to the benefit of all Californians.

"I would welcome the opportunity to work with the bill sponsors, members of the legislature, local officials, as well as representatives from the telecom industry, to develop balanced policies that will promote speedy and equitable deployment of 5G service. We can reduce regulatory barriers and streamline permitting to aid the deployment of next-generation broadband service, while also ensuring that 5G deployment benefits the entire community – including the millions of Californians who remain on the wrong side of the digital divide."

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