

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair  
Assembly Local Government Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 2421 (QUIRK) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce (GCVCC) in urgent support for Assembly Bill 2421 by Assemblymember Bill Quirk. This bill would enable mobile communications providers to more quickly install backup power generators at existing cell sites in preparation for the coming wildfire seasons and possible power shutoffs by electric utilities. During a wildfire or other public safety emergency, mobile communications are critical for sharing information with the public and saving lives. And now in light of COVID-19 quarantine orders, safeguarding wireless access to health services, distance learning, and one another is increasingly important. This bill will help ensure the continuity of such communications.

The GCVCC is a business membership organization representing the Coachella Valley with almost 1,400 active business members. We support our members through legislative advocacy, education, networking, and other community-based opportunities. The GCVCC has expressed great concern around our valley's overall communication infrastructure, traditionally lacking the necessary buildout and redundancy found in metro markets. We believe our area is particularly vulnerable to network interruptions, and AB 2421 could help to address some of those concerns.

AB 2421 streamlines the local permitting process for back-up power equipment at cell sites, while safeguarding final permitting authority with the local jurisdiction. This legislation would only apply to low-emission fixed emergency standby generators that have been certified by the California Air Resources Board.

California's Legislature should use every tool available to prepare for the growing threat of wildfires, power outages, earthquakes and other disasters. For these reasons we strongly urge you to support AB 2421.

Sincerely,



Joshua R. Bonner, IOM  
President and CEO  
Greater Coachella Valley Chambers of Commerce

Cc: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus