



# **CETF Announces Susan Walters Is Joining National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

*CETF Issues A Warm Farewell As Senior Vice President Departs  
To Steward Opportunities In Biden Administration*

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**Los Angeles and Bay Area, California – July 13, 2022** – Today, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) announces the departure of Senior Vice President Susan Walters to become the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Regional Director of Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) with responsibility for the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Susan Walters was a founding team leader when CETF began operations in 2006. Walters contributed to strategic policy and grantmaking in order to guide augmenting financial resources and agreements negotiated as public benefits from corporate consolidations. Walters led multiple projects including CETF achieving success in the first decade (ending 2017) reaching of 98% broadband deployment and 80% home Internet adoption and, the same milestone goals ahead of the 2022 year. Most recently, Walters also collaborated with Los Angeles County to enroll as many residents as possible in the first ever federally funded affordable home Internet subsidy, establishing regional leadership within the county and across cities. Finally, Walters advanced CETF in collecting more than 5,000 supporters for the Digital Equity Bill of Rights.

“The CETF Board of Directors congratulates Susan Walters on her new role with NTIA. This is a wonderful opportunity for her to share the lessons learned from trailblazing work in California to share her expertise with the federal government,” said Chair of the CETF Board of Directors, Dr. Barbara O'Connor.

Reflecting on Walters accomplishments, CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak said, “It is with great appreciation and admiration that the California Emerging Technology Fund congratulates Susan Walters on her appointment as a Regional Director for NTIA. We are grateful to Susan for 15 years of leadership in accelerating broadband deployment and adoption in our Golden State. Susan’s dedication has tangibly advanced Digital Equity for millions of households throughout the state. California is sending its best to help NTIA and the Biden Administration to close the Digital Divide in the nation.”

NTIA Director of Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Evan Feinman, said “The entire NTIA team is excited to be joined by someone as accomplished and dedicated as Susan Walters. Her talent, experience, and passion will be tremendous assets as we take on the task of getting Internet for All Americans.”

Walters says, “The commitment and dedication of the CETF Board of Directors, President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak, and the entire team is extraordinary. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you. I look forward to continuing to address our collective goal of closing the Digital Divide in a way that enables equity and opportunity for all.”

**About California Emerging Technology Fund**

*CETF is a statewide non-profit foundation with the mission to close the Digital Divide in California. CETF provides grants to non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) to assist low-income households adopt broadband and become digitally proficient, leads and manages School2Home to successfully integrate technology into teaching and learning with deep parent engagement to close the Achievement Gap in middle schools in low-income neighborhoods, and promotes Digital Inclusion in public policy to achieve Digital Equity*