



September 14, 2009

Elaine M. Howle  
California State Auditor  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Recommendations on Proposed Regulations – Citizen's Redistricting Commission**

Dear Ms. Howle:

In order to prevent any possibility of the appearance of unfairness, we recommend that the names of the applicants remain confidential, even from staff, as the applications begin the preliminary process. Staff should make all preliminary evaluations based solely on qualifications and as such have no need to know the names of the applicants.

Even the Applicant Review Panel should not know the names of the qualified candidates until after they have selected the final 120 applicants based solely on qualifications. Once the ARP begins the process of personal interviews, then and only then should the names be made available to staff.

This would absolutely insure to the public that the process was completely unbiased and fair.

It would seem that this simple, yet important step would go a long ways toward showing the public that their wishes for fairness and impartiality are being taken seriously by the CA State Auditor.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Paredes  
Executive Director