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APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2010

Call to order took place at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call was taken with all members present: Mr. Ahmadi, Ms. Camacho and Ms. Spano

Panel Counsel provided opening remarks relating to the meeting agenda and opportunity for public comment, and introduced California State Auditor Elaine Howle.

California State Auditor made a brief public statement and introduced each of the panel members.

Each panel member provided a brief public statement.

The panel discussed the selection of a chair person and elected an acting chair to facilitate the first meeting. Ms. Camacho made a motion to appoint Mr. Ahmadi as acting chair of the Applicant Review Panel; Ms. Spano seconded. There was no opposition to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ahmadi moved and Ms. Spano seconded a motion to limit to three minutes the amount of time each member of the public may speak on a matter. Ms. Camacho suggested that the panel should wait to assess the need to limit individual periods of public comment at a later time. Mr. Ahmadi withdrew his first motion and moved to leave the public comment session open in terms of the timing of each speaker; Ms. Spano seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Thereafter, the panel heard presentations by the following trainers:

Sam Walton, Redistricting Consultant, NAACP, presented a talk "Why Redistricting Matters" which provided introductory remarks on the Voters FIRST Act (Proposition 11) and the importance of the redistricting process. There were no questions or comments directed to Mr. Walton.

A 15 minute break was taken and the meeting reconvened at 9:55 a.m.



Ralph Pesquiera, the former Chairperson of the 2000 San Diego Redistricting Commission, spoke about his experiences as a redistricting commissioner in a presentation entitled “A Day in the Life of a Redistricting Commissioner.” Mr. Pesquiera responded to questions from the public.

Justin Levitt, Counsel for Democracy Project, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, presented “Redistricting 101 and the Legal Concepts That Apply to Redistricting in California,” which included training and orientation for panel members on the legal concepts that Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission will apply in performing their duties. Mr. Levitt responded to questions from the public throughout his presentation.

During Mr. Levitt’s presentation, a 10 minute break was taken with the meeting reconvening at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch break was taken between 12:31 and 1:00 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Kristen Clarke, Co-Director of the Political Participation Group of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund provided training on the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 entitled “An Overview of the Federal Voting Rights Act: Why Diversity Matters in the Context of Redistricting in California.” Ms. Clark responded to questions from the public.

Karin Mac Donald, Director and Nicole Boyle, GIS Analyst, of the Statewide Database and Election Administration Research Center, University of California Berkeley Law, Center for Research provided the panel with information on the practical aspects of redistricting and showed how redistricting software is used to draw political boundaries. Their presentation was entitled “Redistricting Experiences.” Ms. Mac Donald responded to questions from the public.

Mr. Ahmadi opened the floor for public comments. The panel discussed limiting the period of public comment. After a motion made by Mr. Ahmadi and seconded by Ms. Camacho, the panel unanimously voted to limit each person making public comment to two minutes per speaker.

Two individuals made public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

For full transcripts of this meeting, please refer to the website:

www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov