

From: **James Wright** [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Jan 30, 2011 at 2:50 PM
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT on outreach meeting for COI
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regarding the discussion to define the Commissions outreach efforts on 1/20.

One good online resource depicting the California State Senate Districts is:
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/senplan/senate.htm>

The idea of having public testimony sessions in each of the 40 State senate districts has much merit ... providing that certain large geographic areas of the state be served with additional meetings and certain high density areas have fewer meetings. to wit:

One or more teams should tour the northern part of the state holding morning/afternoon/evening meetings covering additional communities of Senate districts 1, 2 and 4.

- 1 - three or four meetings (Alturas, Susanville, Portola, Truckee) of Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada and Placer counties
- 2 - two or three meetings (Santa Rosa, Eureka, Fort Bragg, Crescent City) of Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino and Humboldt counties
- 4 - two or three meetings (Yuba City, Chico, Redding, Weed) of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yuba, Nevada and Sutter counties

One or more teams should tour the eastern part of the state holding morning/afternoon/evening meetings covering additional communities of senate districts and communities of the eastern Sierras and the Mojave high desert areas.

- 1 - two meetings (South Lake Tahoe, Markleeville, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes) in El Dorado, eastern Amador, Alpine, eastern Calaveras, Mono counties
- 18 - three meetings (Bishop, Big Pine, Lone Pine, Ridgecrest, Barstow, Needles) in Inyo, eastern Kern, eastern San Bernardino counties. Note that Tulare county and western Kern county can be served in the district 16 meeting while western San Bernardino county can be served with the district 31-32 meetings as part of the Inland Empire.
- 37 - two meetings (Indio, Blythe) in eastern Riverside county. Note that western Riverside county can be served with the district 31-32 meetings as part of the Inland Empire.

Furthermore, it is entirely possible to combine meetings in areas where the senate districts are tightly packed (Bay Area and Los Angeles regions). Therein, the people may not know which district they reside in and also have the most reason to want their City to remain whole because they know its boundaries and identify with it. So, in these areas, meetings focused on specific cities should be established. Some, especially for Los Angeles, may need to be multi-day meetings.

In short, the Commission should first identify the list of sixty or so cities where COI meetings are to be held. Staff, should determine specific locations within these cities and arrange them into routes with meetings on successive days along the route keeping in mind minimum necessary travel between each. Then the Commission can assign three person teams (one each Republican, Democrat, Other) to each route and they can get started collecting public testimony. Also consider sending only one Commissioner to certain very small and very remote locations (with audio recording equipment).

Other members of the Commission can, of course, attend any of the meetings. They need not be on the dais, but may and probably should sit with the audience.

In several of these instances, the team can easily start at one end of the area and proceed by rented van or car through the list of locations with a couple of meetings per day (morning/evening) and on successive days. Flying to many of these locations is problematic to impossible, even if you had access to private general aviation aircraft and pilots.

As to recording the proceedings, a Video/Audio team (one person with equipment?) can accompany each survey team and create a package at each meeting to be posted on the Commission website as soon as possible after the meeting(s). I don't think each meeting needs to be live streamed, but some do, especially in the high density urban centers. Court reporters or other transcription services may be readily available locally.

One thing to keep in mind, having collected information in a location, it is essential that, later on, that location receive feedback on the impact of that information. Determination of the list of sites to be revisited and when can wait until later in the process.

Thank you,
Jim Wright
a voter from San Jose