

From: **Sasha L. Robinson** [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Apr 29, 2011 at 8:04 PM  
Subject: Los Angeles Input Hearing  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

I am writing to express my personal concern, and that of many friends and colleagues here in Los Angeles County, over the tone and content of the questions that were posed by Commissioner Filkins-Weber during the Los Angeles Input Hearing last night.

I have been casually tracking the Commission's Input Hearings and felt that last night marked an unfortunate departure from the formerly impartial proceedings that the Commission prided itself on. It appears the proceedings were hijacked by one rogue voice, without the explicit endorsement of the other 13 participants. I was disappointed that the rest of the Commission allowed this antagonistic dynamic to repeat throughout the evening for speaker after speaker, however, without intervening on the public's behalf until a member of the audience finally named the issue in a way that could not be ignored. However, I hope that this will not happen in the future; such incidents could come at a great cost for the CRC's work to engage the public in a way that creates fair maps.

The Commission's job is not to coerce or intimidate individual members of the public to be (or appear to be) impartial. Rather, Commissioners are to conduct **themselves** as Commissioners in an impartial manner. Not so long ago Commissioners were expressly selected to exercise sound judgment in their deliberations as they weigh various perspectives that were presented before them. Commissioners should treat all those who come before the Commission with the utmost of respect for their time and participation in the process - most notably, in the form of clear and

consistent standards. As an armchair critic I'd say that for the most part you've accomplished that. I trust that last night's performance was the exception and not the norm; representative of the Commission's biased minority, and not the impartial majority. Please don't prove me, and your many fans who supported the passage of Propositions 11 and 20, dead wrong!

Thus far this evening from the San Gabriel livestream I've not seen the same pattern repeat. Nonetheless, I would urge the Commission to clarify with some urgency, what protocol that will be followed during future Input Hearings - particularly the types of questions that Commissioners may (and may not) pose; disclosures that will be demanded from members of the public; as well as speakers' obligation to answer or not answer them. I would hope that the Chief Legal Counsel, and potentially the VRA Counsel, inform these discussions.

Thank you for your time and I wish you all the best as you move forward in this endeavor.

Regards,

S. L Robinson  
Los Angeles County