



August 31, 2020

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic transmission

Dear Commissioners:

Congratulations on being selected as the new California Citizens Redistricting Commission. We are writing today with an observation and suggestion about public comment based on the first days of your meeting.

You have all expressed your understanding of the importance of public input to your process. You are correct. Public comment is not simply a formality – something that must be done to get to the end of your meeting. The purpose of public comment is to inform you as public officials, and to shape the decisions to be made through understanding the insights, desires, and opinions of the people most affected by your decisions.

When technical difficulties with public input arise, the appropriate response from the official body should be to slow down, and sometimes halt, the decision-making process. This is true even if it is late on a Friday afternoon, and you feel you have already come to a consensus as a commission. It is important to ensure that you have heard and fully digested the public input.

Public input – listening to it, comprehending it, and being open to the possibilities that what you learn might require a change to what seems to be a foregone decision – should be an integral part of how you do your work. At times, this will lead to frustration, and a sense of moving backwards rather than forward. Ultimately, it all works to create good decisions. This is all part of the public process.

Your commitment to spending a significant part of your time in the service of California as Commissioners is greatly appreciated. Your work will make California a place in which we all have a voice and representation in our government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President