

January 25, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to clarify potential confusion about public access created by the public comment submitted by Douglas Johnson on January 16, 2021. Mr. Johnson cites several Election Code provisions relating to local redistricting. However, as relates to state redistricting, the relevant code section is Government Code Section 8253 (b) which states, "The Legislature shall take all steps necessary to ensure... procedures are in place to provide the public ready access to redistricting data and computer software for drawing maps. Upon the commission's formation and until its dissolution, the Legislature shall coordinate these efforts with the commission."

As referenced in the Commission staff's response, steps have been taken to allow the public to submit the boundaries of individual communities of interest (COI). The Legislature also agrees that the public needs to have the ability to submit district plans. As such, steps are underway, through funding to the University of California, to ensure the public has access to an online option once data is available that will allow members of the public to prepare and submit district plans.

The Legislature has referenced its intent relating to redistricting software in prior public presentations to the Commission, as have Commissioners in their public deliberations. Yet, as confusion appears to continue to exist, we wish to reiterate procedures are in place to provide the public ready access to an online tool for drawing and submitting maps, and we look forward to updating and coordinating with the Commission on these efforts in the future.

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