

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, Second Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Via Livestream Zoom

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty

APPEARANCESCommissioners Present:

Alicia Fernandez

Isra Ahmad

Derric H. Taylor

Linda Akutagawa

Jane Andersen

J. Ray Kennedy

Sara Sadhwani

Patricia Sinay

Pedro Toledo

Russell Yee

Staff Present:

Anthony Pane

Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant

Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors:

Public Comment Moderator

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Interpreters

Also Present

Public Comment:

1. Samuel Sukaton, California League of California Voters
Education Fund
2. Dylan Johnson, SEIU California
3. Kimi Lee, Bay Rising
4. Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
5. Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters, California
6. Vanessa Green, Alliance San Diego
7. Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian
Law Caucus
8. Kirk Samuels, People's Bloc
9. Kristin Nimmers, California Calls
10. Aiyanna
11. Fayaz Nawabi, CAIR LA
12. Sky Allen, Inland Empire United
13. Deborah Howard, California Senior Advocates League
14. Jeremy Payne, Quality California
15. Speaker Number 15

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:00 PM

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Kristian and welcome everyone to the May 18th, 2021 California Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting, and we are calling this meeting to order. And we'll roll call. Is that going to be Ravi? Okay, thank you Ravi.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmed?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

Commissioner Andersen?

Commissioner Fernandez?

MR. SINGH: Here.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Andersen's here.

MR. SINGH: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?

1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo?

3 Commissioner Turner?

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

5 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez?

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

7 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Yee.

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

9 MR. SINGH: Chair, you have a quorum.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ravi.

11 And before we go to public comment, I just want to
12 let everyone know that we have a condensed meeting
13 scheduled today, and these are the following agenda items
14 we plan to discuss.

15 Agenda item five, which is our Executive Director
16 Report, agenda item 9F, as in Frank, Language Access; 9I
17 which is Data Management, if needed. 9J, Grants, if
18 needed. 9N as in Nancy, Public Input Meeting Design.

19 Agenda item 10, Legal Affairs, if needed. Agenda
20 item 13, which is the discussion of future meetings. And
21 after that, we will recess to close session.

22 So, with that, if we can go to public comment and
23 we'll take public comment now, and then prior to recessing
24 to close session.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Alright. And in order to

1 maximize transparency and public participation in our
2 process, the commissioners will be taking public comment by
3 phone.

4 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
5 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,
6 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
7 feed. It is 94417468697 for this meeting. When prompted
8 to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

9 Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a
10 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9.
11 This will raise your hand for the moderator.

12 When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
13 message that says "The host would like you to talk" and
14 press *6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,
15 please state and spell it for the record. You are not
16 required to provide your name to give public comment.

17 Please make sure to mute your computer or
18 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
19 during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be
20 alert for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please
21 turn down the livestream volume.

22 And again, I'd like to remind those calling in to
23 press *9 to raise their hand indicating they wish to
24 comment. We do have several raised hands at this time and
25 I will begin opening the lines.

1 Go ahead, the floor is yours.

2 MR. SUKATON: Hello? Confirming that you can hear
3 me.

4 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

5 MR. SUKATON: Excellent. My name is Samuel
6 Sukaton from the California League of Conservation Voters
7 Education Fund. Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner
8 Ahmad, I'm hoping you're going to chair a good meeting
9 today.

10 I'm calling just to lay down a CLCV's position on
11 a kind of continued conversation about deadlines. I do
12 want to flag given our research, we believe we're the only
13 environmental organization who's ever testified before the
14 CRC in its history. We have seven letters submitted from
15 the 2011 process. We had the pleasure of speaking to you
16 earlier this year, I believe in February.

17 And we take that responsibility rather seriously.
18 We have been standing in for a broad California community
19 of supporting habitat conservation, public lands, and
20 environmental justice communities. My predecessor, Dr.
21 Shockman, Eric Shockman attended nearly every CRC hearing
22 to the point where your predecessor said hello to him by
23 name.

24 I want that relationship not just for us, but for
25 the broader environmental community at large. Whether

1 that's People's Collective for Environmental Justice and
2 Human Empire, the Environmental Protection Information
3 Center in Arcata, the Mono Lake Committee.

4 With that in mind, we want to make sure we get
5 this right, and I want to make sure that the rest of the
6 environmental community participates as fully in this
7 Commission's deliberations as fully as we did in 2011.

8 With that in mind, we are going to continue urging
9 that the Commission take as much time, one, to thinking
10 about the schedule as necessary to make sure that
11 communities can submit maps, communities can comment,
12 particularly with kind of the disruption of the holiday
13 season that may change kind of the end of the process.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Sukaton. Thank
16 you. Next one, Katy.

17 COMMENT MODERATOR: Next caller. Go ahead, the
18 floor is yours.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Hello? To confirm you can hear me?

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. We can hear you. The
21 floor is yours.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Great. Good evening commissioners.
23 This is Dylan Johnson again, with SEIU California. I just
24 wanted to call in, wanted to thank you all again on behalf
25 of SEIU for the opportunity to participate in the labor

1 panel last week. We thought it was a really terrific and
2 an awesome discussion.

3 So, I just wanted to follow up on two points that
4 I made during the panel. First, I wanted to touch on the
5 potential for the Commission asking for supplemental
6 outreach fund. If the Commission feels that the additional
7 supplemental funds for outreach are necessary, we would
8 encourage the Commission to direct staff at this meeting to
9 prepare a budget for you to approve at your next meeting.

10 So, we were making the suggestion, is we're near
11 the end of the state budget cycle. So, understanding it
12 will be much easier to get that approved now than a month
13 from now -- so, if that is something that the Commission is
14 interested in.

15 I know there was some interest in requesting
16 additional funds for that outreach in order to front load
17 some of this work. We just encourage the Commission's
18 direct staff to do that at this meeting.

19 And the second piece I wanted to touch on is just
20 the continuation of that. So, we talked about on the panel
21 and I've commented about front loading the work. I know
22 there's a lot of concern around the timeline and doing some
23 of this outreach before the census data is released.

24 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. To ensure the schedule,

1 there's time for public input. So, the committee analysis
2 from the last Commission, they cited two reasons for
3 requesting the formation of the day be moved up from
4 December to August. And that was to allow for earlier
5 public education and outreach, and to allow for more time
6 to hire staff and consultant.

7 MR. MANOFF: 10 seconds.

8 MR. JOHNSON: So, I just really want to encourage
9 the Commission to front load some of that input from the
10 public on things like COIs and just other general public
11 input ahead of getting this out over the lines.

12 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you so much for your time as
14 always. And I look forward to continuing work together.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Johnson.

16 MR. MANOFF: Chair, point of clarification,
17 please. Would you like us to enforce a two-minute or a
18 three-minute time limit?

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Two-minute, please.

20 MR. MANOFF: Understood. Thank you so much.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: And we have other raised
23 hands, but I also would like to remind those callers in the
24 queue to press *9, to raise your hand indicating you wish
25 to comment. We do have several raise hands. There are a

1 few that are not.

2 MS. LEE: Hello.

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we are here. We can hear
4 you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

5 MS. LEE: Hi, my name is Kimi Lee. I am the
6 Director of Bay Rising. We're a network of over 30
7 grassroots organizations working with immigrants, working
8 class, disenfranchised people in the Bay Area in about five
9 counties. And we're calling today because we're concerned
10 about moving up any timelines and just the deadlines for
11 the maps.

12 And actually, we want to just make sure we can
13 extend that amount of time as possible for our communities
14 to have feedback. The CCRC was put into place by builders
15 to ensure a public redistricting process that allows
16 Republic participation and district lines that provide fair
17 and equitable representation.

18 So, communities are at the heart of why we have an
19 independent Redistricting Commission, and it will be those
20 communities that ultimately, will bear the impact of the
21 final maps for the next 10 years.

22 So, we really encourage you, please give us the
23 time we need and please don't rush this. Thank you.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, MS. Lee.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller. Go

1 ahead, the floor is yours.

2 MS. GOLD: Yes, good afternoon. It's Rosalind
3 Gold. On behalf of the NALEO Educational Fund, thank you
4 all so much. And we would very much like the Commission
5 when it is looking at its timelines and scenarios to make
6 sure it provides specific time for community members to
7 submit draft regional and draft statewide maps after the
8 statewide database releases its processed data, and before
9 the Commission itself starts to draw a line.

10 We are particularly concerned about the scenario
11 in handout 9A, the milestone scenario that has one place
12 where the Commission starts to draw lines immediately.
13 After this process, data is released, there's enormous
14 benefits for the Commission providing time to allow groups
15 to submit public draft regional and statewide maps.

16 Partly, because we will have the opportunity to
17 resolve conflicts and tensions regarding compliance with
18 the Voting Rights Act, regarding different communities of
19 interest. We can help the Commission if we're allowed to
20 provide you with drafts, maps, and navigate some of the
21 tensions that you will also have to navigate yourself.

22 We would note that giving us the time to submit
23 those maps before the Commission-

24 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

25 MS. GOLD: ... actually starts to do line drawing is

1 consistent with one of the earlier Gantt Charts, which
2 actually had a six-week period between release of process
3 data and the commission's actual first draft maps.

4 MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

5 MS. GOLD: There is also plenty for the Commission
6 to do during this time period before it starts to draw
7 lines. It can drill down on regional maps of communities
8 of interest. It can resolve some big picture questions.

9 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

10 MS. GOLD: So, there's lots for the Commission to
11 do. It can analyze the data that came from new statewide
12 database. There's lots for the Commission to do before it
13 actually starts to draw lines, to give community groups the
14 opportunity to present-

15 MR. MANOFF: Plus 15.

16 MS. GOLD: What we might want to call in some
17 cases, our unity map; draft maps after the data is out
18 before the Commission starts to draw its lines.

19 Thank you so much and happy to answer any
20 questions.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, MS. Gold.

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller.

23 We can hear you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

24 MS. HUTCHISON: Good afternoon, commissioners.

25 This is Helen Hutchison with the League of Women Voters of

1 California. I sent an email using the web interface on
2 Friday and got an acknowledgement, but I don't see it
3 posted. So, I'm just going to cover a little bit of it.

4 Most of it was just confirming comments from last
5 week about clarifying your definition of redistricting
6 matters and regularly providing the public with an
7 explanation of your policy. But one more thing that I
8 wanted to raise is that you are required to announce the
9 subject of your closed sessions as you go into closed
10 session.

11 Even if you don't intend to take any action or
12 going to take any action, you need to announce the subject.
13 And we would appreciate that. Thank you all again very
14 much.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Hutchison.

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller. Go
17 ahead, the floor is yours.

18 MS. GREEN: Hello, commissioners. My name is
19 Vanessa Green and I'm the Redistricting Program Manager for
20 Alliance San Diego, a partner in the IVE Redistricting
21 Alliance. We are a community empowerment organization
22 doing work to ensure participation from the San Diego
23 region in California's redistricting process.

24 We would like to comment on the CCRC's adoption of
25 a timeline that allows significant and thorough community

1 involvement in the process.

2 The work of residents and community groups is an
3 important part of the independent redistricting process.
4 They will collect and analyze COI data, develop VRA section
5 two compliant maps, analyze the 2020 data once it is
6 released in a usable format, engage, coordinate and develop
7 joint maps with other residents, community groups.

8 Seeing map proposals from a variety of community
9 groups and stakeholders will enrich your own map drawing
10 process and appreciation for the importance of community
11 input.

12 By maximizing time for public input and
13 engagement, the CCRC will give residents the opportunity to
14 provide clear, meaningful and responsive map submission,
15 feedback, and as a result can minimize the amount of
16 conflicting testimony it receives.

17 The public needs time to understand and analyze
18 the redistricting data when it becomes available. Drawing
19 initial maps, communicate with and work through potential
20 conflicts, prepare testimony on behalf of their maps,
21 understanding and analyze the-

22 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

23 MS. GREEN: ... in its draft maps. Provide feedback
24 on the Commission's draft maps and comment on the
25 Commissioner's final deliberation in the waning days of the

1 redistricting process. Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Green.

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller. Go
4 ahead, the floor is yours.

5 MS. MARKS: Thank you. Hello, commissioners. My
6 name is Julia Marks. I'm calling from Asian Americans
7 Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus. Thank you for your
8 time today.

9 I first, want to second the comments made by
10 previous callers uplifting the need for time for community
11 input through multiple stages of this process.

12 I'd like to provide some additional context on a
13 really important phase of the public input process, which
14 is the time after the statewide database releases data, but
15 before the Commission starts drafting district maps.

16 The Commission COI collection process is very
17 important, but COI is not the only source of valuable
18 public input. We do ask that you also plan for a period
19 where the public can propose draft maps before the
20 Commission starts drafting its own maps.

21 As a previous caller noted, there are multiple
22 steps that the Commission can take after data are released
23 before actually putting pen to paper to come up with
24 proposed district lines.

25 For example, the Commission can dig in on

1 complicated areas of COI or engage in VRA analysis while
2 community groups have some time to also work on draft maps
3 and propose those to the Commission. We believe the
4 commissions process is strengthened by seeing maps created
5 by both statewide and regional coalitions.

6 Community coalitions can suggest solutions to
7 complicated puzzles, balancing different COIs and also
8 complying with the VRA. These maps can help the Commission
9 think through its options-

10 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

11 MS. MARKS: ... and think through various
12 permutations, as it undertakes its own drafting process. A
13 lot goes into putting together a community map, including
14 analyzing the statewide database, adjust the data drafting,
15 thinking about VRA compliance-

16 MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

17 MS. MARKS: ... and most importantly, working in
18 coalition with multiple partners to handle complicated
19 questions. Our organization plans to undertake this work
20 with more than 30 local API organizations and statewide and
21 regional partners representing Latin X and black
22 communities.

23 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

24 MS. MARKS: We really hope that you incorporate
25 enough time to allow us to provide proposals to you. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Marks.

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one more caller
4 with their hand up. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Good evening, commissioners. My
6 name is Kirk Samuels. And I'm with the People's Bloc.
7 People's Bloc is a growing Alliance of 35 organizations
8 from LA County who serve different communities, ranging
9 from Latin X, API and blacks.

10 The thing that brings us together is that we aim
11 to ensure that marginalized communities are included to
12 participate in the redistricting process so we can get the
13 results we need to reflect our interests. The People's
14 Bloc is also part of the IVE Redistricting Alliance, which
15 is a statewide Alliance.

16 We want to lift to the Commission that COI input
17 is only one step of the process for public participation,
18 but drafting and proposing district maps is another
19 important step for communities to participate and requires
20 a lot of the time coordination and work.

21 The work of the residents and the community groups
22 is an important part of the independent redistricting
23 process. They will collect and analyze COI data, develop
24 VRA section two compliant maps, and analyze the 2020 census
25 data once it's released in a usable format, engage and

1 coordinate and develop joint maps with other residential
2 community groups.

3 So, for example, we will be coordinating with
4 other partners in the IVE Redistricting Alliance to figure
5 out how all of our COI maps in the LA region overlap and
6 can be combined together in a single district map. We will
7 be collecting and analyzing data with our base. And for
8 this, we need a series of trainings and meetings to prepare
9 and to do an analysis together.

10 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

11 MR. SAMUELS: In closing, I invite you all to
12 continue to think about what we need to do for public
13 process and ask yourselves, what's the timeline we need to
14 fully maximize public participation and what are the actual
15 versus the perceived risk of moving the 2022 primary-

16 MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

17 MR. SAMUELS: ... by one to two weeks to make time
18 for public participation and redistricting that will
19 ultimately have a 10-year impact. Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Samuels.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: And our last caller did choose
22 to raise their hand. So, we do have one more caller.

23 And go ahead, the floor is yours.

24 MS. NIMMERS: Hi. My name is Kristin Nimmers. I'm
25 calling on behalf of California Calls. We are an Alliance

1 of over 31 grassroots community-based organizations across
2 the state that engage and educate new and infrequent voters
3 in efforts to ensure that our electorate reflects our state
4 diverse population.

5 And from our experiences from our engagement with
6 traditionally underrepresented communities, we really
7 wanted to touch on agenda item 9A and lift the importance
8 of providing the most possible time for community
9 organizations to engage and mobilize residents to engage in
10 this process, and help you all ensure that there's actual
11 input. And that that input is reflective of the diversity
12 of California, which means that there's time for the public
13 to understand the data, analyze the data, to draw maps,
14 communicate, and work through points of conflict that other
15 callers have identified and provide the Commission with
16 feedback.

17 So, I really just want to ensure that community
18 organizations have time to mobilize the public and get them
19 engaged in this process as well. Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. NIMMERS.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And we did have
22 another caller call in while that caller was talking and
23 raised their hand. So, we do have one more color.

24 And go ahead, the floor is yours.

25 MS. AIYANNA: Hello, my name is Aiyanna and I was

1 calling to just ask some clarifying questions to the
2 committee. And could you possibly clarify what the
3 difference is between the group zone and statewide COI
4 meetings, and specifically, who is expected to present at
5 each of these meetings, and where neighborhood, regional
6 and state COIs should be listed. Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Aiyanna. And we'll
8 be discussing that later today in our agenda item 9F and
9 9N.

10 COMMENT MODERATOR: Alright. And that was our
11 last caller.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, everyone that
13 called in and everyone that continues to be with us at our
14 meeting today.

15 We will move on to agenda item ... are there any
16 announcements by commissioners before we move on to agenda
17 item number five?

18 Okay. So, we're going to move on to five,
19 Executive Director Report. Executive Director at
20 Hernandez, do you have anything?

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just a couple of things and I'll
22 be brief about it.

23 For those of you who haven't heard, we have the
24 new Chief Counsel, Anthony Pane, who is joining us. So,
25 welcome aboard. Marian and I had the pleasure of meeting

1 with him this morning to kind of get him on boarded. And
2 so, he'll be reaching out to each one of you, I'm sure,
3 shortly. So, welcome aboard Anthony.

4 I also wanted to mention that we have our field
5 staff and Outreach Coordinator positions filled. Our
6 Outreach Coordinator is going to be Sulma Hernandez.
7 She'll be starting tomorrow.

8 Our field leads are Kimberly Briggs in Los
9 Angeles. In San Diego, we have Andrew Amorao, and in the
10 Central Valley, we have Jose, Eduardo, Chavez, Garcia, and
11 they will be starting next week. So, I wanted to share
12 that with you.

13 Lastly, in regards to staffing, we have the Data
14 Manager job up that is posted on our website. So, please
15 get the word out. We really need to get that information
16 to those that can help the Commission with their data
17 management responsibilities.

18 As far as contracts, I'm going to defer to the
19 appropriate subcommittees to share whatever contracts that
20 we have in the works. I do want to remind the Commission
21 that as the Commission, as a state entity, we are required
22 to follow the state contracting guidelines, which as you've
23 all experienced by now, are not the most expeditious.

24 So, just giving you that frame of reference so
25 that as we are looking forward to bringing on additional

1 vendors or contracting with anyone, that there is a process
2 that is not immediate. So, there's that.

3 Regarding the budget, we've received the May
4 revised letter this week from the Department of Finance. I
5 know I reported that we had approval, but we actually
6 received a letter this week to approve our augmentation.
7 And their fiscal director, John Fitzpatrick and I met with
8 members of the joint legislative budget committee to
9 discuss the Commission's approved budget and to answer
10 general questions.

11 That is the extent of my report. Any questions?

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any questions by the
13 commissioners on that? Commissioner Ahmed.

14 COMMISSIONER AHMED: Thank you. Do we have the
15 number of what that adjusted budget now looks like?

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: It was what we had originally
17 posted back on March 29th, I believe. That's what we
18 submitted and that's what has been approved.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? Okay. And
20 again, welcome Anthony. We're very excited to have you
21 with us today. I'm not sure if you wanted to say something
22 or should we just keep moving and put you ... would you like
23 to say anything?

24 MR. PANE: Sure. I'm happy to say hello again.
25 And thank you, Commission and thank you to Executive

1 Director Hernandez. I really appreciate the time just from
2 today and I'm looking forward to assisting all of you.

3 And as the Executive Director mentioned, I will be
4 reaching out and look forward to assisting with all of you
5 with any questions you have. Thank you again, I'm looking
6 forward, and it's a great opportunity.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. We're
8 looking forward to it as well. And we will move on to
9 agenda item ... I'm going to combine agenda item 9F with the
10 9N, which is the public input. It's continuation of our
11 discussion from Friday.

12 Commissioner Akutagawa, Director Kaplan and I met
13 to amend the recommendations that we had. And so, we'd
14 like to go through that.

15 Hopefully, everybody had a chance to review the
16 information that was posted and we'll just walk through it.
17 We'll just show what the changes were from Friday, instead
18 of going through the whole document. We'll just highlight
19 some of the changes if that's okay with everyone.

20 And I'll start. I guess that's okay, Commissioner
21 Akutagawa, I'll just start the change discussion. So, when
22 you have a document, make sure you have the right one, it's
23 dated 5/18/2021 on top on the page, the title.

24 The recommendations - we numbered the
25 recommendations instead of having bullets; that way, it's

1 easier to refer to them.

2 The first three pretty much stay the same. The
3 fourth recommendation, we did change that. We noted it
4 earlier on Friday, but we changed that to five business
5 days in terms of appointments for interpretation services
6 must be submitted no later than five business days. That
7 was similar to what our recommendation was back in January
8 when we made our recommendations on language access.

9 And in terms of the fifth recommendation, and this
10 one is just noting that any remaining unfilled
11 interpretation time slots will be open 24 hours prior to
12 the meeting. So, again, as we discussed on Friday, an
13 interpretation time slot is twice the amount of an English
14 time slot. So, if there're any open 24 hours prior, we
15 will open it up for others to sign up for that time.

16 And the sixth one is if there are no time slots
17 designated for language interpretations, if none of them
18 are filled, then all the interpretation designated time
19 slots will be open to all Californians four business days
20 prior.

21 And I believe those are the only changes that we
22 made, substantial changes that we made to our
23 recommendations.

24 And we'll continue on visibility access. The only
25 thing we added there, I believe, was Commissioner Kennedy ...

1 Commissioner Kennedy, you got a question before I move on.
2 Sorry about.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, thank you. That's
4 alright.

5 Just to clarify, if interpretation slots, which
6 are longer are not taken, someone else can sign up for
7 them. But if someone else signs up for them, they're not
8 going to be longer. They would be the regular three
9 minutes?

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Correctly. They would be the
11 three minutes.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. We just need to make
13 sure that everybody understands that.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, because that would be
15 beyond the five days required prior to a meeting. Yes,
16 thank you for the clarification.

17 And then disability access; we just added requests
18 for any other disability-related modifications. It just
19 clarifies that we will have ASL and close captioning for
20 all of our public input meetings.

21 And we go to the next page. I don't believe we
22 made any substantial changes until we get to the
23 recommendations in terms of the number of public input
24 meetings. And do you want me to hand it off to you,
25 Commissioner Akutagawa? Commissioner Turner?

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is
2 this a good place to answer the question of the caller in
3 regards to ... because I'm noticing right here, it says the
4 public of course, we know is not limited to the Commission
5 outreach zones, and I'm just thinking about the public
6 comment that asked this question about who can participate
7 at each of these meetings.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sure, we can discuss it
9 now. Any Californian can participate at whichever meeting
10 we have. We had a zone specific. There was a voice
11 concern when we try to make it generic. Some of our
12 partners wanted to have zone specifics so they can
13 concentrate their outreach efforts, which I completely
14 understand.

15 And we all agreed to leave it as zone-specific,
16 but you're not relegated just to that zone. You can live
17 in whichever zone you want and whichever meeting is most
18 convenient for you and there's a time slot, we encourage
19 you to sign up for that time slot.

20 Was that what you were referring to Commissioner
21 Turner? Yes. Okay. So, I'll hand it over to Commissioner
22 Akutagawa or did you want me to go over the 11 verses ...?

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: You're on go, so why
24 don't you keep going?

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Alright. I'm going to keep

1 trending along here.

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'll just chime in later.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, quite a few hours
4 went into this in terms of we went back and looked at the
5 numbers in terms of the limited English proficient. And
6 initially, if you remember, if you recall, there were four
7 Spanish designated meetings less the statewide. And so,
8 what we did, is went back based on the number of limited
9 English proficient Spanish speakers -- we increased it from
10 ... it was initially five meetings, now, we have 12 meetings.

11 So, if you look on to table two, you will see that
12 now, there are 12 meetings that are designated for Spanish.
13 So, we'll have time slots for Spanish interpretation. And
14 we have two designated in Los Angeles, one in every other
15 zone. The only zone we did not designate it is Zone G
16 because the numbers of limited English proficient were
17 fairly low.

18 But again, I just want to remind the commissioners
19 as well as everyone else that is viewing, you can always
20 request a language at a specific meeting, as long as it's
21 done five days prior. And if it's in those 12 languages
22 that we've identified prior, we will contract for that. If
23 it's beyond the 12, we will make attempts to provide that
24 interpretation. And again, individuals are welcome to
25 bring their own interpreters also to the meetings.

1 And we made one other change by request, and we're
2 hoping that the commissioners are okay with that.

3 On August 9, initially we had Zone G and we
4 changed it to Zone B as in Bob, and then on August 25th, it
5 was Zone B as in Bob, and we changed it to Zone G. The
6 reason we did that is Zone G would only have two weeks in
7 between both of their designated zone COI input dates. So,
8 we wanted to give them a bigger gap, give that zone at
9 least a month in between the first and the second for
10 input.

11 And I believe ... was that it Commissioner
12 Akutagawa?

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was also going to
14 mention that we did move ... on the original document or the
15 earlier document; **[inaudible 00:34:54]** was in Zone F and we
16 moved it to Zone H, which is the LA Long Beach area. And
17 it is now assigned to, or at least, we set it aside for
18 June 26, Saturday, June 26th.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Was that it?

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess, I was just going
21 to make one other comment. I think I just want to remind
22 everybody both on the Commission and anybody who's
23 listening in; the absence of an assigned language or one of
24 the 12 languages does not mean that we cannot have that
25 language. I think we're just trying to find that right

1 balance between having things open enough that other
2 languages can also be inserted in and also, try to again,
3 make it so that then from a planning perspective, those who
4 might not feel comfortable making the requests will know
5 that they could try to schedule an appointment on any one
6 of the dates that a particular language that they feel is
7 best for them, and a date that's best for them that they
8 can hopefully sign up for an appointment.

9 Also, Commissioner Fernandez and I also recognize
10 that this is a lot of guesswork, and this is probably more
11 art than a science. And we do realize that the likelihood
12 is that after perhaps the first couple meetings, we're
13 going to be revisiting all of this again, and to figure
14 out, do we need to make adjustments.

15 So, I do want to just emphasize, please don't
16 think that this is the absolute never to change kind of
17 schedule. We're likely going to -- we expect that we are
18 going to be making some additional changes.

19 But until we start and we see what the responses,
20 it's right now, just guesstimating what we think is the
21 best kind of spread. We also try to as best as we can,
22 ensure that, for example, with Spanish, there was going to
23 be dates in the beginning, the middle and the end.

24 And then for languages that are not identified on
25 here outside of the 12, we do recognize that in certain

1 cities, certain regions, there may be a high preponderance
2 of certain languages. And specifically, I'm going to name
3 Hmong in the Fresno area has a very high, specific
4 concentration of Hmong speakers that are limited English
5 proficient. Even though we recognize that, we wanted to
6 also be consistent -- not fair, but consistent with what we
7 said are the 12 languages.

8 However, we do recognize that it could be likely
9 that we will get requests for Hmong interpretation in the
10 Fresno area. And we do realize that that's a likely kind
11 of occurrence there. It could be also very likely that in
12 other cities or other zones, I should say; depending on the
13 date, we will get requests for other languages as well,
14 too.

15 So, we're trying to be a little flexible, but also
16 try to assign times so that people can feel like they can
17 plan around certain dates without having to make a request.
18 So, hopefully, that helps.

19 I see Commissioner Toledo and Director Kaplan.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What if we go with Director
21 Kaplan first, and then ... she was part of our group as well.
22 Sorry, Commissioner Toledo, I have you number one, okay?

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And then Commissioner
24 Kennedy, I think after that.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Alright.

1 MS. KAPLAN: Just adding to that layer though,
2 that for these languages, even though we've identified,
3 there still needs to be a request made. So, just
4 clarifying that point you just made right now. So, these
5 are-

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The dates that are
7 outside of the dates that we've already scheduled?

8 MS. KAPLAN: The dates that we have scheduled,
9 individuals still need to request prior to five days for
10 those meetings.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: For languages that are
12 not scheduled?

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. Even for languages
14 that are scheduled, like let's say for example, on the
15 28th, we have Chinese, Mandarin, and Tagalog. Although
16 we've identified it, we still need the request five days
17 prior to.

18 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So, signing up on the
19 appointments?

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Toledo, then
23 Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. And thank you
25 for your work on this the committee.

1 I'm just wondering when I look at table two and if
2 I hadn't read all of the other pieces, which I did. But if
3 I hadn't read the rest of it, I wouldn't know that I could
4 contact the Commission and get Spanish or Chinese or other
5 interpretation on dates where ... the languages on there.

6 So, I'm wondering if maybe there should be like a
7 little asterisk that says "Upon request, we may be able to
8 ... upon request Spanish or whatever other languages may
9 maybe available," just so that the public is aware that on
10 most of these dates, you can get interpretation on any of
11 these dates, as long as you provide sufficient notice to
12 the Commission. Thank you.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner
14 Kennedy. Oh, what'd you say?

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I said like a little
16 cheat sheet.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Or a reminder in case you didn't
18 read the first two pages, right? Commissioner Kennedy?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. And I can
20 imagine how much of a headache it's been to come up with
21 this table. So, I recognize that.

22 Looking through it, I'm noticing that most regions
23 have at least something of a spread of days of the week,
24 but Zone I, for example, they're all three on Thursday.
25 Zone K, they're all three on Saturday. So, I'm wondering

1 if there's some scope here to take another crack at it and
2 see if we can mix up the days of the week a little bit more
3 for the zones that have all of these events on the same day
4 of the week. Thank you.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
6 Kennedy. And so, in terms of the zones, we can go back to
7 look at that, but that wasn't language access in terms of
8 the date-specific, but can definitely go back to look at
9 that. Because it would be nice to have some of those
10 Saturdays versus Thursdays. So, we can take a look at
11 that.

12 I think Commissioner Ahmad and I worked on that
13 piece of it, so we can go back and review it. And thank
14 you for bringing that up. That was the same reason we
15 changed the dates based on Commissioner Andersen's feedback
16 that her two dates were only a couple weeks apart. So, we
17 needed to accommodate that as well.

18 Any other questions? Okay. So, with that,
19 Commissioner Akutagawa, are we just looking for like a
20 thumbs up or Marian, do we need to vote on this?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the most you can you do, you
22 vote on it as a tentative schedule, maybe vote on the first
23 few days, first two weeks or something like that so that
24 people can plan on those, but then say the other are
25 proposed.

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Actually, if I can ask a
2 question, Marian; do we need to have two separate motions?
3 One would be on the recommendations and then the second one
4 would be on the schedule?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: No, it's all one proposal. You can
6 if you want to, but you don't need to.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I guess my only concern, right
8 now, I do want to get approval just so staff can get
9 started on this, but then also Commissioner Kennedy did
10 bring up a good point if there are some of these zones that
11 have the same date or the same day of the week, we might
12 want to look at that as well.

13 But we could, at this point, maybe get approval
14 until like maybe July 12th because then you get back to
15 your H and I zones that Commissioner Kennedy was talking
16 about earlier.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't think you mean July 12th.
18 You want to wait that late?

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Well, I would like to get the
20 initial meeting for each zone approved so that we can move
21 forward with that because right now, what we're talking
22 about just specifically is our language access
23 recommendations, as well as the language is associated with
24 certain dates. And I feel that for our outreach and our
25 communications, that might be important to start working

1 towards that, working towards the first set of meetings
2 because it's going to be very difficult to pivot and shift
3 if we get to the end of June and we haven't talked about or
4 approved the rest of the schedule. Does that make sense,
5 Marian?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Sure. So, do it through ... I see
7 that's how you came up with July 12th. That'd be fine.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. yeah, I think July 12th,
9 because then we don't have any repeats by then. I've got
10 to grab a pencil real quick.

11 So, any other questions or further discussion?

12 So, I'll make a motion to approve the
13 recommendations. And also, the schedule up to July 12th,
14 2021 for Language Access. Commissioner Toledo?

15 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I was just going to second.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, good, thank you. Director
17 Hernandez, are you ... we'll actually have to take public
18 comment also. So, how about as you get that together, we
19 can go to ... are there any other questions before we go to
20 public comment?

21 Okay, Katy. If we can go to public comment, it's
22 for agenda item 9F with Language Access. Again, just a
23 reminder. Comments are limited to two minutes. Thank you,
24 Katy.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. And the public comment

1 this time is going to be in relation to the motion on the
2 floor.

3 In order to maximize transparency and public
4 participation in our process, the commissioners will be
5 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
6 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is
7 877-853-5247.

8 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
9 provided on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for
10 this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID,
11 simply press the pound key.

12 Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a
13 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9.
14 This will raise your hand for the moderator.

15 When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
16 message that says "The host would like you to talk" and
17 press *6 to speak.

18 If you would like to give your name, please state
19 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
20 provide your name to give public comment. Please make sure
21 to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any
22 feedback or distortion during your call.

23 Once you're awaiting in the queue, be alert for
24 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down
25 the livestream volume.

1 And again, the Commission is taking public comment
2 on the motion on the floor in regards to Language Access.
3 We do have a caller with their hand up.

4 And go ahead.

5 MR. NAWABI: Hello, my name is Fayaz Nawabi and
6 I'm calling on behalf of CAIR LA. I'm calling in
7 particular about the California Supreme Court's decision
8 centered public participation in their extension of the
9 redistricting deadline.

10 The framework reflects a policy judgment that the
11 public should have the opportunity to be involved
12 throughout the redistricting process.

13 Proposition 11 amended Article 21 of the
14 constitution to specify that the Commission shall conduct
15 an open and transparent process, enabling full public
16 consideration and of comments on the drawing of district
17 lines.

18 As a recent assembly analysis explained, the
19 requirement guarantee that the public will have the ability
20 and time to review the maps and respond to the Commission
21 at least six weeks before the August 15th deadline for the
22 final map set by the California constitution.

23 As explained above, the precedent establishes that
24 a court may form statutory deadlines to effectuate the
25 enactor's clearly articulated policy judgments when it is

1 feasible to do so and when the enacting body clearly would
2 have preferred reformation to invalidation.

3 Adjusting the August 15th deadline by contrast
4 gives effect to the voters' intent that the Commission play
5 the lead role in drawing new district lines with input from
6 public received in a timely manner. State law provisions
7 setting forth the deadline for the Commission to the
8 released draft maps and approved final maps were designed-

9 MR. KRISTIAN: 30 seconds.

10 MR. NAWABI: ... to ensure that the Commission can
11 take the necessary steps to prepare for public
12 redistricting process. Thank you very much.

13 COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And I would
14 like to remind the callers in the queue, if would like to
15 comment, press *9 to raise your hand indicating you wish to
16 comment. And we do have one caller. And go ahead, the
17 floor is yours.

18 MS. ALLEN: Hello, good evening, commissioners.
19 My name is Sky Allen, with IE United, a collective impact
20 table serving the Inland Empire. We're a member of the IVE
21 Redistricting Alliance. And we also facilitate a regional
22 table of about two dozen local partners in the region.

23 As you land on the best deadline for
24 redistricting, I want us all just take a quick step back,
25 consider any social, political, cultural considerations, et

1 cetera, surrounding the potential redistricting deadline,
2 falling on the holidays.

3 We've spent over a year distancing and physically
4 isolating ourselves from our families, our friends, our
5 coworkers, our community; things are just now beginning to
6 loosen up and hopefully, as more of us become vaccinated,
7 we will all be able to celebrate the holidays with our
8 loved ones again. And you can imagine many are gathering
9 for holiday vacation this November and December given the
10 collective experience we've all had this past year.

11 I raise this just to give us the opportunity to
12 reflect not just on what amount of time this Commission
13 needs in order to create maps, but what the schedule may or
14 may not ask of the residents. We really appreciate all of
15 your willingness to facilitate so many public input
16 meetings throughout the summer, as these will give our
17 community members ample time to share our COIs. But just
18 as COI input is important, it's not the only process that
19 residents need to be able to engage with.

20 We need COI time, but we also need time to react
21 to your maps and to draw and advocate for district maps of
22 our own.

23 MR. KRISTIAN: 30 seconds.

24 MS. ALLEN: So, we just ask that you allocate as
25 much time as you need to offer yourself sufficient and

1 reasonable time to do your job and offer us community
2 members sufficient and reasonable time to chip in and
3 provide our feedback as well. Thank you so much for your
4 time. Have a wonderful evening.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Ellen.

6 COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our last caller
7 with their hand up at this time.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani, I think I
9 saw your hand up.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh yeah. I just wanted
11 guidance from Marian or Anthony on this. I mean the
12 purpose of public comment at this point in time was around
13 the motion on the floor and certainly that's not what we
14 were getting. Of course, very important information
15 nonetheless.

16 I can only envision as we move forward in this
17 process, as stakes begin to rise more, that this will
18 continue to happen. Advice on how to handle that; I feel
19 like early on we were like stopping people midway, but just
20 something to put out there and if we can have advice on how
21 to handle that moving forward.

22 MR. PANE: I'm happy to defer to Marian as far as
23 what the historical practice has been with this Commission.
24 I can let you know that based on my experience, various
25 boards and commissions have decided to exercise a few

1 options. I've seen one option where they allow the caller
2 to use the allotted time and then remind callers in general
3 that the topic needs to remain germane to the motion.

4 On others, I have also seen where public bodies
5 have ... once it's been clear that the topic is not germane,
6 that they do politely interrupt the caller and just let
7 them know that the discussion really needs to be regarding
8 the motion. And so, there's probably at least two, maybe
9 three different ways to address that.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: And past practice has just been
11 left up to the Chair. So, if you want to adopt a uniform
12 policy, that would certainly be appropriate or you can
13 continue to leave it up to the Chair.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I think I
15 agree with Commissioner Sadhwani. Right now, it was only a
16 couple of callers, which was fine. And I believe it was
17 actually a little layover from our initial public comment
18 and they just called in a little bit late.

19 But yes, as we move forward, it's probably
20 something that we should discuss and determine how we want
21 to move forward with that. Thank you very much for that.

22 Okay. Executive Director?

23 Actually, unless we want to discuss it now, that's
24 fine too. If we want to discuss in terms of how we want to
25 move forward with public comment. If we want to be

1 specific to what the ... if it's related to specific motion
2 that all comments should be related to that, or whatever
3 the case may be.

4 So, I don't want to move it to another meeting if
5 that's not our intention, if we want to resolve it now,
6 that would be fine as well. Okay, so we'll just ...
7 Commission Andersen?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see no reason not to
9 resolve this now, as we've actually had precedent already
10 is we have, say, "Thank you very much, it must be on this
11 topic."

12 Given that we really do want as much public
13 comment possible, and we are specifically allowing as much
14 time in the morning, as much time after lunch, and as much
15 time for the end of the meeting, if we want to take
16 comments indeed like after each particular item, that's a
17 good idea.

18 But then it should be about that item. And so, in
19 particularly when we're doing a vote. I think it really
20 should indeed be about the motions being discussed.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, how about if we deal
22 with the motion first and then we can discuss this. Okay?

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the motion on the floor
24 is to approve the interpretation recommendation that's
25 posted on the website 5/18/21. From the Language Access

1 Subcommittee and the schedule up to July 12th, 2021. Is
2 that correct?

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Alright. And the motion was made
5 by Commissioner Fernandez, seconded by Commissioner Toledo
6 at 4:48 PM. I got it right this time. So, we will begin
7 here.

8 Commissioner Fornaciari?

9 COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Yes.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

13 Commissioner Sadhwani?

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?

18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

20 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?

3 COMMISSIONER AHMED: Yes.

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Fernandez?

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Before we go to the
12 topic that just came up regarding public comments, I wanted
13 to ask Commissioner Ahmad and Fornaciari, if there was
14 anything else that was held over from Friday's meeting
15 regarding the public input design recommendations that you
16 had made, or are we good?

17 COMMISSIONER AHMED: There is something. We can
18 either discuss it today or we can discuss it next meeting.

19 The first COI input meeting is scheduled for June
20 10th. The date to post that agenda two weeks prior falls
21 on May 27th. So, that means that the Commission would have
22 to come to an agreement on what that agenda looks like
23 prior to the 27th.

24 And the only time that we are meeting as a full
25 group for that approval is today, or next Monday, May 24th,

1 or next Tuesday, May 25th. So, I don't know if we want to
2 get into that today or if we want to discuss that next
3 week, but it has to be approved if we want to go that route
4 of formal approval by the 25th, just wanted to throw that
5 out there.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, for the 25th or
7 27th?

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you have a question
9 Commission Andersen?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I did, I'm sorry. For the
11 25th or the 27th?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMED: So, it has to be posted by
13 the 27th. However, we won't be meeting as a full
14 Commission on the 27th. The last day that we'll be meeting
15 as a full Commission is the 25th.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER AHMED: I can recommend-

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: There we go. Why don't you
19 recommend-

20 COMMISSIONER AHMED: I can recommend that we all
21 take a look at the draft agenda that has been posted ahead
22 of next week's meeting so that we can come to next week's
23 meeting with a discussion ready in our mind of what we like
24 about it, what we want to change so that we can make those
25 adjustments and approve that at next week's meeting and

1 have it ready to be posted prior to our 14-day requirement
2 for June 10th.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Why don't we all do that?
4 Take a look at the draft agenda or the agenda that's posted
5 and then come back with feedback.

6 And then also, so Commissioner Ahmed and
7 Fornaciari, in terms of the recommendations that you made
8 on Friday regarding each presenter would have three
9 minutes, six hours will be the first meeting, and then
10 we'll have an appointment system. So, that's taken care of
11 for our first meeting, correct?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMED: I got a sense of some
13 consensus on that just for June 10th. But if I am wrong,
14 please correct me and we can open up that discussion again.
15 And Chair, I also see Marian's hand up.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: I would just suggest you postpone
17 the discussion on your policy for public comments until you
18 put it on the agenda. And maybe you should go to the
19 policy committee first to come up with a recommendation.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, Marian, you're killing me.
21 You know, what's funny, Marian, is Commissioner Fornaciari
22 probably wanted that. So, now, you're giving it-

23 MS. JOHNSTON: But in any event, I think it needs
24 to be on the agenda so that the public has a chance to
25 weigh in.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian, this is for the public
2 comment, correct?

3 MS. JOHNSTON: If you're going to this for policy
4 for public-

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Alright. So, Commissioner
6 Fornaciari and I will come up with a draft policy and we'll
7 have something for our meeting next week, next Monday and
8 Tuesday. Thank you, Marian. I can't thank you enough.
9 It's good. It's all good. So, with that, we're going to
10 keep moving. Oops. Director Kaplan?

11 MS. KAPLAN: Thank you. And just, you voted on
12 the meeting dates through July 12th. Can you clarify when
13 the Commission then hopes to confirm the following COI
14 dates? I know that you had a tentative thumbs up and now
15 some may switch days. Do you anticipate at next week's
16 meeting?

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm thinking Commissioner
18 Ahmed and I can get together before then to discuss whether
19 we'll move some ... are we good for that? Yeah. So,
20 hopefully, by next week, we'll have something Monday,
21 Tuesday -- Commissioner Turner?

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I know
23 we've not yet had conversation about the exact time and we
24 don't have to do that now. But are you waiting on
25 suggestions from the different groups or how are we going

1 to go about setting times for these meetings?

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: For the public input? I believe
3 the first meeting we had a time for that. Didn't we,
4 Commissioner Ahmed?

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. But we're approving
6 now meetings all the way through July and then-

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Okay, we'll come back
8 next week with recommendations on that as well. How's
9 that?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sounds good.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm sorry, I have to
12 catch up and put my to-do list right now. Okay. Any other
13 questions before we move on?

14 Seeing none, we will move on to agenda item 9I.
15 I'm not sure if we need it, but Data Management, is there
16 anything that we need to report out for that?

17 Okay. I'm seeing no action. So, no action.
18 Okay.

19 9J, do we have anything for grants in terms ... I
20 know you were waiting from the Department of General
21 Services on the RFP language. Any updates?

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hold on, sorry. I'm
23 trying to get all my stuff together. Okay. So, here's our
24 report.

25 So, we have heard from Department of General

1 Services, Office of Legal Services, and they've completed
2 the initial review of our outreach RFP. And based on their
3 review, there are two major edits that are going to require
4 additional revision to the RFP before we could even put
5 them out.

6 So, anyways, I probably don't want to get into the
7 weeds on it right now. I think I'll just keep it simple.
8 But we do have to make some additional revisions. I will
9 say that there is going to be a major impact to the
10 timeline of when we can actually post the RFP. Our initial
11 hope was that we will have been able to have posted it
12 yesterday, however we're behind.

13 And now, we're looking at the earliest posting
14 date is going to be possibly June the 4th, we would be
15 bringing it to the full Commission for approval of the RFP
16 at the June 2nd meeting. So, we're looking at roughly
17 about a two-week, an additional two-week delay.

18 Given that, we are looking at with all of the
19 minimal required timelines that we have to meet in terms of
20 once we post it, the earliest that we would even look at
21 possibly awarding any of the contracts through the RFPs, is
22 going to be early July, specifically, July 8th. And so,
23 work would not be able to begin until after the contract is
24 awarded and everything is all sewn up with OLS.

25 And so, I just want to say this out loud to

1 everybody in terms of the time timeline. If we're looking
2 at early July at the earliest, when a contract could be
3 awarded, work then cannot start until after July 8th.

4 So, we're looking at possibly, any organization,
5 any bidder that successfully wins one of the contracts, the
6 earliest that ... I mean, depending on how they're situated,
7 I mean, they could start right away.

8 But we probably realistically are looking at
9 sometime in mid-July before even the earliest someone could
10 start actually doing any work possibly. And I'll defer to
11 Alvaro on this as to whether or not my assessment of the
12 earliest timeframe.

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, you are correct.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'll just ask a question; so,
15 you submitted some draft language to DGS, right? Office of
16 Legal Services?

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Correct.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so, you don't want to share
19 that language with us until they're okay with the language?
20 I'm just trying to see if there's a way for us to expedite
21 our review; if we can review it kind of like at the same
22 time. I mean, I wouldn't see us having substantial
23 changes, but I also don't want to hold this up any longer
24 than we need to.

25 Like if you share it with us, we review it, we

1 provide comments by next week, and then you have
2 everything. And that way, when it comes back from DGS,
3 potentially it may not have to come back to the Commission,
4 it can just go out. So, I'm just trying to see if we can
5 streamline the review process.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The current state of the
7 RFP is going to require some pretty major changes, and it's
8 going to take the staff some time to rewrite portions of
9 the RFP so that it's in compliance with what OLS has
10 indicated needs to be changed.

11 I think Alvaro, I think that could take up until
12 that time, I guess, maybe I see May 31st is probably a
13 realistic timeframe. But please, if you could confirm?

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think that would be
15 realistic for us to get that language changed.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So, even if we showed you
17 what we have, it's all going to change. And so, I mean,
18 your looking at it at this point, wouldn't really be
19 conducive to speeding it up because it's going to change
20 anyways from a contract language point of view.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I was thinking more of
22 once the admin team had made the changes at that point,
23 like once those changes were made.

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I'll defer to you,
25 Alvaro, first, and then I know that some others have

1 questions.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, we're going to take the
3 guidance that was provided by OLS on what the contract
4 needs to have in it. The way we had drafted it up didn't
5 really work for them. So, in order to meet the guidelines,
6 they've made some recommendations. We are going to go
7 through the contract, make those adjustments.

8 The timeframe for that, we're hoping to get it
9 done early next week to end of the week realistically. And
10 then share it with the Commission as soon as possible.

11 We're not going to have to go back to OLS for them
12 to review because they pretty much have provided the
13 guidance that they were going to provide. At that point,
14 they'll have opportunity to do one last final check, and
15 then we move forward with posting it. So, that's kind of
16 where we are right now.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Commissioner
18 Toledo.

19 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I think, I guess
20 my question goes back to the step of work that we talked
21 about last week and how we ensure impartiality given that
22 we will be selecting grants or potential contractors to be
23 doing work, potentially advocating ... essentially,
24 mobilizing individuals to advocate to us.

25 And at this point, it looks like we'd be the one

1 selecting the vendors or the contractors. So, that does
2 pose some conflict-of-interest issues and some impartiality
3 issues.

4 And just at this point, it'd be great to get the
5 scope of work, aspect of the contract -- maybe not the
6 whole contract, but the scope of work so that we can think
7 through these and see how we minimize our potential risk
8 when it comes to conflict of interest and impartiality, as
9 those are potentially issues that that could be used to
10 challenge our map drawing and out final maps. Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani and then
12 Commissioner Kennedy.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I very much
14 agree with Commissioner Toledo. From the get-go, when we
15 initially began these conversations several months ago, I
16 was very concerned at the notion at that point in time of
17 re-granting ourselves and very much advocated for this
18 Commission to look for an external organization to do that
19 work.

20 I understand that that's not possible and that
21 this is our option forward, but I'm really cautious to not
22 have seen anything thus far. I mean, all of the other RFPs
23 and RFIs that this Commission has put forth, began with a
24 Commission-wide discussion around the scope of work.
25 Certainly, led by the subcommittees, but at the direction

1 of the Commission. So, I would really ask for that.

2 Particularly, I'm interested to know what are the
3 deliverables that we would anticipate for the contractors.
4 And given the timeline that it looks like we're setting
5 forth, would they even have the time to deliver those
6 deliverables? Like what would that actually look like?

7 I completely agree with the concerns Commissioner
8 Toledo raised regarding impartiality and what the process
9 would look like for us to select organizations to receive
10 these grants.

11 I can imagine that there are a lot of
12 organizations around the state, as we know, from all of our
13 redistricting basics 101s who would be interested in
14 potentially receiving these. And I'm very cautious about
15 how that would play out in terms of impartiality.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I'll have
17 Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Sinay.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm
19 wondering, I mean, what we ideally need to do is find a way
20 to have these awards made at arm's length, or have some
21 arm's length element included in this process.

22 And I'm wondering if, for example, we could find a
23 state agency that is not this Commission that we could
24 engage to review and make recommendations so that the
25 recommendations, yes, we make the final decision, but we

1 have some outside input that helps us insert at least some
2 arm's length element into this process to give it greater
3 credibility. Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay?

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm not sure if this the
6 right time or place. We have moved forward on speaking
7 with the public libraries and seeing what they can do
8 especially in the rural areas. And we've spoken to several
9 of the rural libraries and I'm not sure how to get what
10 we've learned to the Grants Committee to consider if
11 there's a possibility to support that type of effort. It
12 is a state agency, so the local libraries in speaking with
13 them -- I spoke to four or five of them, said they could do
14 a lot of hearing ... what did we call them, Neal?

15 COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Viewing parties.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, COI viewing parties.
17 Also, getting the paper, the tool out; some of them are
18 actually hand-delivering books and tools because they're
19 not open. Others are open. Some to do viewing parties,
20 they're saying, hey, we just need food and cover some of
21 the costs of staffing because some aren't open on Saturdays
22 anymore, budgets are really tight.

23 But really what we were hearing is for 3 to
24 \$5,000, they could support us and training. They would
25 like some training on community mapping and community

1 discussions. And they would have PSAs.

2 It was a pretty robust conversation. They were
3 willing to do a lot for little and especially, they really
4 understood the rural component of it. So, I'm not sure how
5 to move forward with that because that might be something
6 that we can roll out pretty quickly.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

8 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. So, I would just
9 think that that could be part of an outreach recommendation
10 that comes out of the Outreach Committee, that then as
11 potential state ... I mean, these are state agencies as like
12 community colleges, libraries, whatever -- they're
13 government entities potentially that we could partner with,
14 maybe through some kind of intergovernmental agreement or
15 whatnot. It doesn't have to go through the book.

16 The contracting process, I think this contracting
17 process is really for like nonprofits and other
18 nongovernmental agency. If I'm remembering correctly, as
19 opposed to governmental contract, where they're already
20 part of the state or government system, is what I would
21 think.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And the same could be
23 with ... Commissioner Vazquez and I when we had the education
24 panel, we talked about the possibility of partnering with
25 the schools, because they're in session now, they'll have

1 summer school, they'll have education with the students and
2 families. So, that's another statewide.

3 And I think that might be a future topic item
4 because I was thinking about that this weekend; we're
5 gathering all this information from statewide agencies, so
6 how are we going to engage and move forward with the
7 statewide aspect of it, which is separate from this RFP
8 component. Commissioner Sinay?

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't see it as separate
10 because it's the outreach. I mean, that's the only budget
11 we have. So, that's why I was bringing it up now because I
12 don't see it necessarily as separate.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I mean, it's separate in terms
14 of the RFPs for external agencies that are not government-
15 related. But yes, you're correct, it is the same bucket as
16 I like to say in terms of the fence. Yes, of course.

17 Any other questions? Comments? Oh, Director Ceja?

18 MR. Ceja: Yes. Thank you. So, as we're thinking
19 about this, I think it's important like Commissioner
20 Kennedy mentioned if the Commission wants to remain an
21 arm's length distance from this process, we're certainly
22 creating the process through this RFP. We could seek the
23 support of the census because they've already dealt with
24 some of these organizations, and the auditor's office
25 because they're far removed from any politics.

1 And they were involved with the recruitment of the
2 commissioners. And then at the end, just approve the
3 process, make sure everything was followed with regards to
4 the process that we laid out and approve the applications
5 or the selection process at the end, so that you're not
6 involved with the selection process itself.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commission Sinay and then
8 Commissioner Vazquez.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Director Ceja, I think the
10 census is closing next month their offices. So, I mean, we
11 could look into that, but I think that that's what they ...
12 actually, Marcy probably knows.

13 And then the other thing is, as you spoke
14 Commissioner Ceja, we've had a lot of requests and a lot of
15 input from everybody who presents about how important it is
16 to do radio and how important it is to do paid media.

17 And do we have a budget for that? And I just want
18 to make sure that if we're looking, it's not going to be
19 till ... having done grants, I don't see how it's going to be
20 done by early July, I'm sorry. Especially when
21 government's even more bureaucratic than any foundation I
22 worked at. So, we're really looking at almost being
23 halfway through to the end of our COI bullets, COI Input
24 time.

25 So, any thoughts Director Ceja on that? What

1 budget do we have? What plans do we have to really do a big
2 PR?

3 MR. CEJA: So, if I can respond, we do have a
4 healthy budget to do ads. We can certainly use some of it
5 for this granting opportunity. We're actually putting
6 together a funding plan right now for the use of those
7 funds. I think total is 200,000 and definitely radio is a
8 top priority for some of those hard-to-reach communities.
9 And knowing that a few members on this Commission were
10 actually recruited through the air waves.

11 So, yeah, that is on our radar. And we'll have
12 something to you very shortly.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez and
14 Commissioner Toledo.

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, two points; the first
16 being, I do think Commissioner Sinay's point is important
17 to lift up in terms of, as we're developing a scope of work
18 for these grants that will be going out later, I would
19 encourage the Grants Committee to think about being
20 explicit about how much of the outreach budget is going
21 towards this grant process.

22 And given things have shifted so much, I would
23 encourage them to consider -- and I'd like to hear what
24 their ultimate recommendation would be around partnering
25 with state agencies to get some of this money out the door

1 quicker including through the libraries and Department of
2 Ed for the school's component.

3 And then the second point, in speaking of schools,
4 I also really liked Commissioner Kennedy's idea of getting
5 a state agency to do some of this for arm's length. That
6 being said, that will probably add more time to getting
7 this out the door.

8 And my other concern about having another state
9 agency do the administration of the grants, is I'm not
10 particularly sure which agency -- I personally, would feel
11 better if that agency had direct connections to community
12 orgs.

13 If not statewide, at least sort of in their
14 physical geographic location, just so there's a special
15 sauce for community work. And I would like the people who
16 are evaluating these grants be pretty familiar with that
17 special sauce.

18 So, the one that comes to mind honestly, is maybe
19 a university or a community college or the Community
20 Colleges Association just because those folks are again,
21 closer to the ground.

22 So, they wouldn't just be sub-granting to folks
23 who work with the community college. But again, they are a
24 bit closer to the ground, so to speak, than some of our
25 other agency partners, including us.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo?

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I also want to
3 lift up what Commissioner Sinay mentioned earlier about
4 time limit. When foundations, I know locally, when our
5 foundations try to plan a granting program, it takes them
6 over a year longer in some instances to put their plans
7 together. And these are agencies that have significant
8 expertise in granting.

9 And certainly, I've been so impressed by our
10 Commission and our staff's ability to make the impossible
11 possible, including the website that just magically
12 appeared. And I mean, I'm sure it didn't just magically
13 appear, but people worked really hard on it. But that
14 appeared really fast. Thank you, Director Ceja.

15 But I do think potentially, we may want to look at
16 a plan B in case we need to pivot and like Commissioner
17 Vazquez said, potentially with nonpartisan state agencies
18 that are prohibited from lobbying and that kind of thing,
19 like the libraries. I believe Commissioner Kennedy has
20 previously talked about community colleges, and the schools
21 potentially and where we'd be contracting for ... and Rahul
22 talked about the details of potential types of contracts
23 that we could do with agencies to help with outreach or to
24 help with the specific tasks that we may want to lean into.

25 So, maybe taking a look at that a little bit

1 closer as a plan B in case we're not able to get our grant
2 program up and running and implemented in a timely manner.
3 I think I would hate not to use our outreach dollars to the
4 fullest, and given that we have such a constrained timeline
5 and if we can use it for marketing or for other types of
6 work, that'd be ... we should at least have a plan B that we
7 can implement in case that should happen.

8 I mean, just like most of us, I think we all want
9 to be able to support community groups especially the
10 smaller ones in our community to be able to participate and
11 to help their communities uplift and outreach and engage
12 community members.

13 But it may not be possible given the government
14 process and bureaucracy that we're having to work through.
15 And as a state agency, that's what we have to do. And
16 we're working through it, I think as efficiently and
17 effectively as we can with our very able staff. But we may
18 need to consider at least, or develop a plan B just in
19 case. Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We're right at break time. So,
21 we're going to go to break, but just before we go on break,
22 I just want to make sure our Lessons Learned Subcommittee
23 is listening to this piece so that at the end of it, it's
24 great to give us outreach funds, but it's very difficult to
25 grant. So, maybe for the 2030, they'll have a better

1 solution.

2 But I'm going to go to break and I believe I saw
3 Commissioner Yee, so we'll start with you when we come
4 back. So, please come back at 5 45. Thank you.

5 Thank you, and welcome back everyone. We are
6 continuing our discussion on agenda item 9J related to
7 grants, and we have Commissioner Yee was next. Just one
8 second. I want to make sure Commissioner Akutagawa is back
9 since she is ... there she is. Perfect timing. Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Actually,
11 you read my mind. I wanted to also note for the Lessons
12 Learned Subcommittee at the moment.

13 And I'm wondering if the Grant Subcommittee
14 actually might even give us a quick thumbnail of kind of
15 what they would've done differently, going back. Have we
16 found out that this really is just a dead end? What would
17 you have done differently if that's something you could
18 summarize quickly for us, or if we're not there yet, that's
19 fine too.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Other than not sign up to be on
21 a subcommittee.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, I think going
23 forward, unless there is going to be statutory changes to
24 the law in which the Commission is formed and enabled to do
25 certain things, the 2030 Commission I think, will know

1 going in that they cannot follow what we did and try to do
2 a grants program. I could tell you that. That ate up a
3 lot of our time because we thought we were going the right
4 way.

5 Unfortunately, once we got the ruling that we did
6 not have the statutory authority to issue grants, we had to
7 pivot and then rewrite what was supposed to be, we thought
8 an RFA for a grants program. We had to pivot and rewrite
9 it to be an RFP. And for those of you who have done the
10 work on the RFP, the RFA and the RFI, you can imagine then
11 what that meant, and the specificity of the things that
12 needed to change took a lot of time.

13 Chair Fernandez, I could stop there. There are
14 some additional -- I think Director Hernandez and I were
15 just touching base real quick about what we would be able
16 to share. And so, I have some additional details I'd like
17 to share, but first, I'd like to see if any of the other
18 commissioners have other questions or comments first before
19 I share anything else.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think it's good to move
21 forward, Commissioner Akutagawa.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So, I think maybe
23 this will hopefully help answer some of the questions that
24 have come up. So, as I said, I mean, you can imagine the
25 RFP challenge that we are undergoing right now. And so,

1 what we were told is that there are two very specific edits
2 that we have to make to the current RFP.

3 So, for anybody who's done that, as I said, the
4 RFP requires some very specific kinds of ways in which it's
5 written. So, one -- and this is a really important one.
6 The RFP must be open to all qualified bidders. That means
7 that we cannot limit it to just CBOs.

8 So, anybody who is qualified to do the work, it
9 must be open to all. Additionally, in terms of a qualified
10 bidder, we cannot give additional points to CBOs for
11 consideration in the scoring.

12 It must be all even for everybody that submits a
13 proposal against this RFP. The other big change that we
14 have to make is originally ... so, let me just back up and
15 just say, to the question about the scope of work; the
16 scope of work has not changed from when the original
17 conversations started about the grants.

18 So, I just want to just reiterate what is the RFP,
19 the contract would be to A, educate Californians about the
20 redistricting process and B, activate Californians to
21 provide public input to the Commission on their communities
22 of interests and or provide input on maps.

23 Now, that part has not changed. So, that scope of
24 work hasn't changed. What has had to be different is the
25 ways in which the activities get noted so that it fits

1 within the RFP process.

2 So, the other thing that I want to just note for
3 everybody, is one of the things is that progress payments
4 must be based on the work that is completed. It cannot be
5 based on a description of what they say they're going to
6 do. So, that's also going to change things a lot.

7 So, it does shift how funding is going to be
8 dispersed in the contract itself. So, essentially, what
9 this is going to do is probably going to change who may be
10 willing to apply or submit a proposal for this particular
11 contract, because essentially, the entity who is going to
12 be awarded one of the contracts and we were suggesting that
13 we would break the contract up into I think, it was six
14 zones is what we were looking at. But whoever does it,
15 that we can only pay them once the work is completed and
16 performed.

17 And so, that means that any organization would
18 have to float us in terms of the work. They don't get paid
19 ahead of the work, they get paid after the work. So,
20 that's also going to ... yeah, so those of you, if you're in
21 the nonprofit sector, you know what this means. It can
22 make things a little bit more complicated.

23 The bidder for the RFP will also have to submit a
24 detailed timeline with proposed monthly activities and
25 costs that will be associated with those activities. So,

1 there's a lot more detailed work that will have to be done.
2 And then as they finish that work, then they may submit
3 invoices for the work that they complete on a monthly
4 basis.

5 But again, if they subcontract any of that work,
6 the staff has to just make sure that they do their due
7 diligence on any work that is contracted out including just
8 submitting any kind of the details, reports on the work
9 that would be done.

10 So, again, this is going to take some time for the
11 staff to rewrite everything. And so, again, it's really
12 the details of these particular areas that have to be
13 rewritten. And so, it is going to complicate things.

14 Alvaro and I did speak about some kind of
15 interagency agreement that has been brought up by several
16 of the commissioners. He did say that there will still
17 need to be the statement of work that is currently being
18 worked on in terms of the RFP.

19 Alvaro, I think I'm going to turn to you to maybe
20 explain a little bit further about the interagency
21 agreements and everything else that we talked about.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. So, the interagency
23 agreements still have to have the scope of work. So, what
24 we're working on, what we have been working on for a couple
25 months now, is what would be included in that interagency

1 agreement.

2 I do need to do some follow up and see all it
3 entails. We don't have to go through the contracting
4 process. So, I'm assuming that it won't be as lengthy a
5 process, but I don't know what is required of that process.
6 And then identifying who the agencies might be that we
7 would want to reach out to to see if they're willing and
8 interested in this process.

9 So, it is going to take a little bit more work.
10 We had initially looked into the interagency agreement and
11 it didn't speed up the process. So, we kind of left it but
12 now, with some of this additional questions and interest,
13 we'll look at it again and see if it's going to be
14 feasible.

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: If I can also just
16 mention one more thing. We did talk about this in this
17 kind of, in the vein of trying to maintain as much
18 impartiality as we can.

19 I was reminded that as much as we can in all of
20 the RFPs, in all of the contracting that we've done, we've
21 tried to maintain as much impartiality in the selection of
22 all of the contractors that we have engaged. And in that
23 same way, I believe that we would do our best to do the
24 same thing as we did with the line drawers and with the
25 councils that we have also engaged.

1 And so, I guess I'll just stop there. I saw
2 Commissioner of Vazquez put her hand up.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we have Commissioner
4 Vazquez and Commissioner Toledo, and Commissioner Sinay and
5 Commissioner-

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Just for honestly my
7 benefit, but also maybe for some of the public; can someone
8 just give like a quick two sentence summary of why we chose
9 this route of granting ourselves versus ... like what
10 prohibited us from saying, granting out to like a community
11 foundation for them to do this work? What was the decision
12 point?

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We don't have the
14 statutory authority to grant the funds.

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Got it. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And it took a while to
17 find that out. That's what delayed us.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

19 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I just wanted to
20 ... in terms of just thinking through this process, I do
21 think it's different to grant money for the purposes of
22 advocating and outreaching, and engaging the public to
23 advocate towards the Commission. Although, I do think
24 there may be a way to correct it as Commissioner Kennedy,
25 or to maybe correct it from our work - but to develop

1 systems to ensure that we minimize our risk around this.
2 Like having others be the ones that select the vendors and
3 such, and narrowing down our scope of work to ensure that
4 it's nonpartisan and groups doing the outreach and that
5 sort of thing.

6 But the other thing I wanted to bring up is I
7 remember when we first started, Rahul said that there was a
8 possibility of doing some contracting for, I think it's
9 smaller amounts. I think he set up 5,000, \$10,000, and
10 Commissioner Fernandez would probably know those better
11 than I and Commissioner Fornaciari. But I think they're
12 called like personalized contracts or something like that,
13 or personal contracts. What is it? Sorry.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Personal services contracts
15 under 10,000.

16 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, personal services
17 contracts under \$10,000. We might be able to ... worse
18 scenario or worst-case scenario, we might be able to focus
19 on those areas, harder-to-reach areas like in the rural
20 areas or other places, and do personalized services
21 contracts with libraries. I believe Commissioner Sinay
22 said these are smaller contracts. Schools would probably
23 be smaller contracts.

24 If we can't do the intergovernmental agency
25 agreements, or if it appears that we may have some

1 challenges with that. But there might be some route to
2 really tailorize agreements with community-based
3 organizations following this or other agencies following
4 this process.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I was actually thinking of
6 that Commissioner Toledo, so I'm glad you brought that up.
7 I have Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Turner, you
9 were up before me, if you want to go.

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sure. A few different
11 things. Thank you. Thank you. This has been a painful
12 discussion from the beginning, trying to determine what the
13 right thing is to do.

14 I want to ask though and make note if, hopefully
15 we can come back to -- I do want to understand the decision
16 or understanding that we came to that said CBOs cannot
17 receive additional points for scoring.

18 And of course, I would understand them not
19 receiving additional points just for the sake of getting
20 additional points. But the point is typically in scoring
21 the points are there, where there is greater expertise.
22 And I absolutely believe CBOs would have would have ability
23 to show and reflect their expertise in being able to reach
24 communities to the level of degree that we want. So, I'm
25 questioning about why CBOs would not be able to get

1 additional points based on who they are and what their
2 track record is. So, that's one piece.

3 The other, of course, we do know that it's always
4 problematic on any sort of government funding when money
5 has to follow the work, as opposed to money that's extended
6 upfront, it greatly limits who can participate. And I
7 think it further exacerbates the issues that we have in
8 allowing new groups to engage to be involved just because
9 funding again, gets to be an issue.

10 So, I think this is a cyclical issue that we
11 continue to see where we are offering people the
12 opportunity to engage in a particular service provision or
13 what have you, but not quite because you've not been in it
14 long enough to be able to compete at the same levels. And
15 so, I just want to name that I think this is again, a
16 problem with our system.

17 And then, I'm grateful for whatever the libraries
18 and the smaller grants that we're talking about, the
19 personal that they can do. But I've said way earlier in
20 the process as well, you also get what you pay for, in that
21 -- and no slight to libraries, but typically, the services
22 that they provide are either flyers that are left out. And
23 I heard in this case, we are grateful that we have people
24 that are actually going to receive some level of training
25 and is going to engage with some level of people that

1 happen upon a library that show up.

2 But it will not be the deep in the trenches kind
3 of training that typically happens through people that are
4 engaged day in and day out to communicate with the
5 community and to train and to go door to door, if need be,
6 or host sessions and come back part one part, two that's
7 needed.

8 And so again, I think that we are based on
9 limitations, providing a smaller amount of money, and I'm
10 hoping for the Lessons Learned that over 2011, 2021, 2031,
11 et cetera, at some point, we start to track the difference
12 that it made when we did kind of as scatter spray, small
13 amount of grants out to a lot of people, as opposed to
14 people their very existence is for them to reach and
15 communicate and educate the community. And I think we'll
16 find a difference with that.

17 The last point I wanted to make was I don't like
18 any of it, unfortunate how we do have to work, we're not
19 necessarily governed the same way, but we are governed the
20 same way in a lot. So, that is what it is.

21 But and then in having to deal with that, wanting
22 to suggest that next time, I wonder if we could look at
23 shifting part of those outreach funds to the Census Bureau
24 because they certainly have opportunity and a way that they
25 can give money out to organizations to be able to do the

1 work.

2 And perhaps, there can be earmarked money of their
3 education that is specifically to educate around
4 redistricting and how to analyze numbers and how to look at
5 maps, and how to submit community maps.

6 And so, maybe that outreach money doesn't belong
7 at all with this body, that it can be carved out and given
8 through the Census Bureau, where that can get money into
9 the hands of the people that I think will make a
10 difference. Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
12 Commissioner Sinay?

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Before I start, I'm going to
14 let Commissioner Fornaciari say what's on his mind.
15 Commissioner Fornaciari absolutely agrees with you
16 Commissioner Turner about the Census Bureau.

17 So, I wanted say a few things. I agree that what
18 the government is asking us to do right now -- the system
19 is too burdensome for small organizations and it's sad. I
20 think Commissioner Turner said it first. It's just sad
21 that we're here. And I'm a bit angry too, because it's
22 going to work against a lot of what we were hoping to ask
23 organizations to do work first and pay it later, especially
24 after a year of COVID where so many have had challenges
25 fundraising, it just makes us sound tone-deaf. And I know

1 it's not us, but we are a part of the system.

2 I do want to give some positive light, and I think
3 I shared this week more and more foundations are getting
4 involved in the redistricting and granting out to different
5 organizations. And so, there is more philanthropic dollars
6 out there for this redistricting than there was in 2010.
7 So, there is more interest, more engagement.

8 I know Commissioner Turner is going to be speaking
9 with the California Association of Nonprofits, as well as
10 Philanthropy California Webinar, which includes all the
11 different grant making entities.

12 So, I just want to put it out there that we don't
13 have to feel completely frustrated. But unfortunately, I'm
14 not seeing it going to the grassroots level. It's still
15 going to the large nonprofits. And so, I am concerned
16 about that piece.

17 I wanted to just say for the libraries, it wasn't
18 to do the outreach that we were hoping others would do. It
19 was really about building equity in those areas that had
20 challenges with broadband access and challenges of
21 traveling long distances to get to, if we ever had meetings
22 in person or whatnot. But just allowing to help build
23 community in a way using the broadband. So, it's kind of
24 comparing apples to oranges; the CBO grants with the
25 library grants.

1 And finally, I know that you've said that the
2 scope of work hasn't changed. But I'm sorry, I don't know
3 when the scope of work was shared with us. And so, I was
4 just curious where we could find that because I know we've
5 thrown out different ideas on what could be in that scope
6 of work, what type of projects we would fund and stuff like
7 that. But I don't remember ever seeing it. But it's late,
8 and so I apologize. So, if someone can tell me where I can
9 find that, that'd be great.

10 Thanks. Commissioner Akutagawa and Commissioner
11 Le Mons, this has been a painful process for you all, and
12 thank you for navigating it and sharing what you can.
13 Thank you, Director Kaplan, and Alvaro for being part of
14 this. It's been painful but thank you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner
16 Akutagawa, did you want to respond to any of that?

17 It is a lot and I'm just sitting here wondering
18 how can the census do it and we're not able to do it. I
19 mean, that's very frustrating.

20 But also, Commissioner Akutagawa, is there
21 anything or any way that we can help to try to expedite
22 this revision to the language or ... just trying to see what
23 we can do to try to salvage something.

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess, I will just say
25 that in speaking with Director Hernandez, I mean, there is

1 a little bit of a hopeful note and I'll have him chime in
2 on this too. But in speaking with him, he feels that he
3 and Director Kaplan are very close to having what we need
4 to at least try to get something going.

5 And once it became clear that we had to do the
6 RFP, I mean, it was very clear to me that it was going to
7 unfortunately, not have quite the effect that I think both
8 Commissioner Le Mons and I both shared when we first
9 started this. And we knew this, unfortunately, when we
10 started talking about the RFP, and it was very much
11 articulated by Commissioner Turner and Sinay and Vazquez,
12 about the impacts to certain size CBOs.

13 With that said, I think Director Hernandez is
14 hopeful that we can get this going. He believes that we're
15 not quite yet there at the place where we're not going to
16 be able to do it, but I do want to say that we will be
17 taking into account everything that you've said to come up
18 with a plan B, C and D probably, so that we can have this ...
19 and Commissioner Sinay, I'll have to look for what was
20 shared.

21 I think that there was a document that was shared,
22 I think it was in the March timeframe, I believe. And I
23 just have to go back and look for it. But Director
24 Hernandez, if you would please chime in on anything that
25 you might want to share to supplement what I just said.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: So, I just wanted to say it's a
2 square peg in a round hole. We don't fit the mold in what
3 we're trying to do and trying to accomplish.
4 Unfortunately, we found out about the statutory authority
5 and we were really hopeful that that would work the way
6 that we had planned it out, where we have an intermediary
7 and they would award that keeps our distancing, but we just
8 couldn't do that.

9 Now, we're back to this RFP process and we're
10 trying to fit within that process as well, to do what we
11 would like to do, is to get the money out to the CBOs or to
12 these vendors that can perform some of these activities
13 that we would like for them to perform on our behalf, to
14 get the communities involved, to get activation.

15 We have taken into consideration all the
16 deliverables that have been identified by a variety of the
17 different commissioners. Also, considering what we could
18 do in the RFP process is where we are today. And so, we
19 can't change the fact that this is where we are today.

20 But I do agree with Commissioner Akutagawa that we
21 will look at plan B, C, D, E, N, F, or wherever we end up
22 landing to try to get this out there so that we can
23 activate Californians. And that's really our goal; to
24 activate Californians, to participate in the process and
25 provide the public input and provide the input on the maps.

1 That is the end game, I would call it. So, that that's
2 all. Thank you.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I had Director Kaplan and then
4 Commissioner Sadhwani.

5 MS. KAPLAN: Thank you. Just to add to one of the
6 comments that Commissioner Turner raised in terms of
7 additional factors and review, not as necessarily being
8 able to provide additional scoring because there's a CBO.

9 But there are other elements within the review,
10 including community standing, coordination with partners,
11 other elements that demonstrating trusted partnerships with
12 community -- there are other elements as a part of the
13 review that would be factored in to that regard as well.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner
15 Sadhwani?

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I really appreciate
17 this conversation as challenging as it has been. And I
18 just appreciate everyone's work on this topic.

19 I'm not leaving this conversation feeling terribly
20 hopeful that this contracting process is going to move
21 forward in a timely way that we can actually manage. And
22 with that, I think from the get-go that had been our hope.
23 My understanding was this idea came from the 2010
24 commission, is that correct? And the legislature approved
25 it.

1 If we can't move forward with granting or
2 contracting with organizations, I would invite all of us as
3 commissioners, but also all of the organizations that are
4 so invested in this process to please, be thought partners
5 with us on other ways that we can use these funds and be
6 thinking about how to use these funds to enhance community
7 outreach.

8 What I don't want is like we leave here and then
9 end up getting blasted for not doing a community granting
10 program. Well, there's all of these stumbling blocks put
11 before the Commission in terms of actually moving that
12 forward.

13 So, if we are starting to think about plan Bs,
14 send us your thoughts so that we have some ideas about how
15 to move forward with this process, because it is a lot of
16 money in it. The whole purpose was to use that money to
17 reach as many Californians as possible.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. And thank you
20 Commission Sadhwani for saying that. I'm glad that you
21 said that because it would be nice to have the
22 crowdsourcing of all of our ideas even though the Grant
23 Subcommittee is going to go back obviously, and work on
24 this.

25 I guess, a couple things that I wanted to say, and

1 then one that has just completely floated out of my mind,
2 so I do apologize. It was kind of based on what you were
3 also saying. Actually, okay, I just remembered it.

4 So, one, if anything, the Personal Services
5 Contracts would not alleviate some of those kinds of
6 concerns that were brought up.

7 But there are a couple things that I do say just
8 going forward and I thought this is where Commissioner
9 Sadhwani, you were going to go. Commissioner Yee, in terms
10 of Lessons Learned, this may be a lesson learned or this
11 may be for all of us as a Commission.

12 Given the very, very painful experience that we're
13 undergoing right now, one of the things that I would like
14 to also just maybe just kind of plant the seed, but this
15 isn't something that we have to address right now.

16 But I would like to just suggest that finishing up
17 the maps, that we then come back to this issue of not
18 having the statutory authority to do these grants that we
19 do come back and to revisit what does it mean to be able to
20 ensure that the 2030 Commission would have this opportunity
21 and the statutory authority so that they could do it in the
22 way that we would like to see it be done?

23 We had very, very grand plans of being able to
24 ensure that the money, the funds, the grants would get to
25 the furthest reaches of California with the smallest

1 organizations who know the community super, super well.
2 And also, being able to have an intermediary to help us
3 ensure our impartiality.

4 So, I just want to just put that out there, that
5 we don't have to talk about this now, but this is a future
6 conversation that I think what do we need to do to be able
7 to do that? I do just want to put that out there for us to
8 think about.

9 Again, I do want to also have the hope that we
10 will be able to do what we want to do. It's not going to
11 be perfect, but we'll hopefully be able to do that and
12 absent that, then through the ideas of this Commission and
13 anybody who is listening, if you have ideas, you will be
14 hopefully, contributing to our plans, B, C, D, E, N, F, and
15 so on and so forth, so that we can try to make the best use
16 of these funds to essentially, get to all California so
17 that we can really engage the people of California.

18 So, thank you for this conversation. I know it
19 was painful. It was painful for me too, but I appreciate
20 everything that everybody said, and I took lots of notes
21 and I will be sharing this with Commissioner Le Mons along
22 with Director Hernandez and Director Kaplan.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And so, do you feel
24 you have like the resources you need to be able to come
25 back with options B through F or whatever it is? Do you

1 need any help? I mean, are you good to go? I'm just
2 offering any type of assistance that you potentially may
3 need. Maybe we can branch it off that some look at a
4 certain area.

5 I'm just trying to, trying to help out so it's not
6 all on your shoulders, because it's turning out to be much
7 bigger than we initially thought. Commissioner Sinay did
8 have her hand up and I'm thinking she's probably thinking
9 the same thing.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I was just going to say
11 you want to identify what those options are and delegate
12 some to the Outreach Subcommittee, please feel free. Or if
13 you want the other way around where you want us to do some
14 of our own brainstorming and come back to you with ideas,
15 let us know and we'll do it through staff. So, it's not
16 serial meetings.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think for me, at
18 the very least for right now, I'd like to just get back
19 together with the staff and Commission Le Mons and just
20 figure out what is the best next steps and how Commission
21 Le Mons and both Director Hernandez and Director Kaplan
22 would like to move forward on this.

23 And then I think once we have a better sense of
24 what's the best next steps, then we'll send out a
25 communication to everybody. But as Director Hernandez

1 says, he feels like they are very, very close and then
2 we'll hopefully be able to get something out to the entire
3 Commission and for the public to also review before our
4 next meeting.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you for that. It's
6 never fun having to deliver not so great news. Been there
7 many times, but thank you so much for your diligence and
8 continuing to look into this challenge.

9 Any other questions before we move on?

10 Okay. The only other item I have for open ... oh
11 no, not the only other item; is agenda item number 10, is a
12 Legal Affairs Committee update. I wasn't sure if you had
13 anything you wanted to report out? And I do see
14 Commissioner Andersen.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, just before we go
16 on, I did want to uplift ... it's sort of a bleak note.
17 We're going, "Oh, we can't, we can't, we can't." But for
18 anyone who's listening, this is one portion of what we are
19 doing in outreach. We have done a massive ... our whole
20 educational program did not exist in 2010. We've done a
21 great, great deal of different types of outreach here.

22 This is one idea, which again, the actual
23 Commission didn't ... this was last in 2010. These grants
24 were done through another philanthropic group which is
25 wonderful and great. But our whole idea of allowing the

1 public time to give our communities of interest to us right
2 now is also unprecedented.

3 So, there's a great, great deal of public
4 communication and input that exists now and way ahead of
5 the census data. We keep on hearing, oh, there's no public
6 input -- that's not correct. There's lots of time for
7 public input. And the communities of interest are
8 absolutely crucial because they're a building block for the
9 maps and the bare data from the communities directly, each
10 individual community, I cannot stress how important that
11 is.

12 Just like each city, we have its map. We know
13 where it is. Every individual group, please, give us your
14 community. Don't wait to work through a partner or
15 someone; "Oh, we can't grant, oh, we can't contact the
16 Commission." No, you can do that now. You can draw your
17 community. You can send us an email. You can call in.
18 You can go to one of these input sessions. These are
19 community of interests input sessions.

20 And all this is valuable information, crucial
21 information now. The idea that we can get additional
22 people to help us shake those bushes is what we're talking
23 about here. It isn't we're throwing our hands up. We're
24 sad that we can't do that additional shaking because we
25 know how valuable that would be, but it doesn't mean that

1 we haven't done and therefore, we can't do our work.

2 We're doing this very successfully. We're just
3 thinking of other ways to do it even better. So, I
4 appreciate all the work this committee's really been doing
5 and this whole conversation. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner
7 Andersen. So, we're going on to agenda item 10, it's Legal
8 Affairs Committee update. If there's anything that needs
9 to be reported out; Commission Sadhwani, Toledo and Yee.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Nothing in particular. We
11 met earlier today and welcomed our new Chief Counsel and
12 provided some background information on many of the legal
13 questions that we've been looking at thus far as well as
14 talking a little bit about the structure that we are
15 operating under and how we've kind of arrived at that with
16 the different various subcommittees. Commissioner Toledo
17 or Commissioner Yee, anything else to update?

18 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We are hopeful that we'll be
19 able to bring our litigation counsel recommendation to the
20 whole Commission hopefully at the beginning of June. I
21 think we're looking at June 2nd or possibly June 1st,
22 depending on whether there's a meeting on June 1st.

23 But hopefully, June 2nd. So, that's just a heads
24 up that will be coming your way and look for the contract
25 in the public comment section a couple days prior to that.

1 And of course, in the legal affairs public comment section
2 as well, or hand out section.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, that's absolutely
4 right. So, we anticipate our next meeting being either
5 June 1st or 2nd, we need to finalize whether or not we can
6 agendize for June 1st. Hopefully, we'll have that
7 litigation contract for the full Commission to review.
8 We'll take a look at ourselves in legal affairs first and
9 then provide a recommendation to the full Commission.

10 And we are still waiting on the Office of Legal
11 Services to finalize the contract for VRA, which we
12 approved several weeks ago. So, stay tuned and we hope
13 that we can work with our VRA and pre-maps counsel very
14 soon.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any questions for
16 our Legal Affairs Committee?

17 Okay. We're going to move on to agenda item 13,
18 which is discussion of future meeting dates and agenda
19 items. And the only reason I personally wanted of bring
20 this forward is for future agenda, we need to discuss the
21 redistricting basics presentations that we've been
22 conducting because now, we're moving into the public input
23 meeting in June, July, August.

24 So, I think personally, that we need to eventually
25 phase that piece out. We do have our video is complete.

1 So, if any of the organizations would like to use our
2 video, they're free to use that as well. So, if we could
3 maybe table that for a future agenda, that'd be great. Any
4 other ... Commissioner Sinay, and then Commissioner Andersen?

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: On that topic, the Grants
6 Committee will be working with staff to come forward with
7 kind of what is the plan for the next phase of the work,
8 because it's not just the COI Inputs meetings, but it's
9 broader than that because the COI Input meetings because
10 only a few people can actually access this. So, how are we
11 going to get communities of in interest input from others?
12 And part of that will include what you just said.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you say Grants Committee?
14 You said Grants Committee. You meant Outreach.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, Outreach Committee.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Got me a
17 little confused. I think Commissioner Akutagawa was
18 panicking.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, you don't have to do
20 that. Don't worry, it's us.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thanks for
22 clarifying that. Commissioner Andersen?

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just had a short on the ...
24 just a quick from the line drawers. I don't know if we
25 kind of skipped line drawer. Just a quick -- they are

1 working with ideas from that air table demonstration at the
2 CRC meeting last week. And they're coming up with some
3 tags as well as other actual general specifics that we do
4 need on that air table.

5 So, looking forward to working with the data
6 management group, the USDR and we'll be getting more
7 information in our next meeting.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. Anything
9 else before we recess ... oh, Commissioner Ahmed?

10 COMMISSIONER AHMED: Thank you, Chair. So, as
11 stated earlier, our next meeting is May 24th and 25th;
12 myself and Commissioner Yee will be taking over. So, if
13 you all anticipate your report, your subcommittee report,
14 to take a substantial amount of time, please just give a
15 heads up so I can make sure I plan accordingly to allot you
16 the time that you need. Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And with that, I'm very happy to
18 pass the baton to Commissioner Ahmed and Commissioner Yee.

19 Anything else? Okay. We will be recessing to
20 closed session to consider data and cybersecurity issues,
21 personnel related issues, and potential litigation. So,
22 we'll recess to that. Let's meet at 6:40.

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Katy is trying to get your
24 attention.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: pardon? Oh, who is? Oh, public

1 comment, right? Katy, is that what you're trying to tell
2 me? Yes, Commissioner Turner?

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, the public comment.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And are we coming back to
6 this session, or no?

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right now, I'm not sure. I
8 believe we are just to report out. That would be the only
9 thing we would come back for, is to report out if any
10 action was taken during closed session.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Just was trying to
12 set expectation for those that's viewing.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate
14 that. Katy, let's go to public comment. And thank you for
15 the reminder.

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: No problem, Chair. In order
17 to maximize transparency and public participation in our
18 process, the commissioners will be taking public comment by
19 phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
20 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247.

21 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
22 provided on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for
23 this meeting.

24 When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
25 press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you'll be

1 placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please
2 press *9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

3 When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
4 message that says "The host would like you to talk" and
5 press *6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,
6 please state and spell it for the record. You're not
7 required to provide your name, to give public comment.

8 Please make sure to mute your computer or
9 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
10 during your call.

11 Once you're awaiting in the queue, be alert for
12 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down
13 the livestream volume.

14 And we do have a caller with their hand raised,
15 but I would also like to remind all callers that call in to
16 press *9, raising their hand, indicating they wish to
17 comment, and I will open the lines

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And just a reminder of two
19 minutes limit.

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. And it will be two
21 minutes and it is general comment for the recess of this
22 meeting. And the floor is yours.

23 MS. HOWARD: Thank you. Hi commissioners, good
24 evening. My name is Deborah Howard. I'm with the
25 California Senior Advocates League. And I have comments

1 that are based on some of the comments that were made in
2 the earlier part of this meeting.

3 I am concerned that the Commission is being asked
4 to postpone your own line drawing and map drawing
5 activities until after another group or groups. The Unity
6 Mapping Coalition have presented their own regional and
7 statewide maps before you.

8 Californians, I think, expect that you will be
9 drawing the maps and that you will do so publicly and
10 transparently. The Unity maps, no matter how well
11 intentioned the groups are, are not being created with
12 public input. They are organizations that represent a
13 constituency and they are drawing maps for that
14 constituency.

15 It's your job as commissioners to bridge those
16 references that they're making and to put theirs first, I
17 think is completely really, truly inappropriate.

18 I think it's unclear who's involved and invited in
19 that, and it just really smacks a special interest and
20 exclusion, which the Commission was set up to basically not
21 do. I really do, I want to say that I trust that they are
22 well-intentioned, but the process of-

23 MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

24 MS. HOWARD: ... proposed is deeply sufficient.

25 Thank you for that heads up -- and it's exclusionary on its

1 face. I believe that you, the commissioners, will make
2 better maps once you've made that tradeoff, you've done a
3 little bit of it.

4 MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

5 MS. HOWARD: And navigating the conflicts of law.
6 So, I'm asking that you retain the leadership role in that
7 brine for yourselves, and that you listen to all public
8 voices and not allow some public voices to be more public-

9 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

10 MS. HOWARD: ... or more equal than others. Thank
11 you, and I respect your timeline. Thank you so much.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Howard.

13 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And onto our next
14 caller. And I would like to remind those calling in to
15 press *9 to raise their hand indicating they wish to
16 comment. We do have a raised hand.

17 Caller 7175, if you could follow the prompt that
18 Zoom is giving you. Caller 7175, *6 will unmute you.

19 MR. PAYNE: Hello?

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: There you go. The floor is
21 yours, sir.

22 MR. PAYNE: Hi, thank you. This is Jerry Payne,
23 with Quality California. We are the nation's largest
24 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer LGBTQ+ civil
25 rights organization in the nation. And I just wanted to

1 provide a public comments, encouraging the CCRC to set a
2 timeline that ensures as much time as possible for public
3 participation in all phases of the work.

4 For Quality California and California overall,
5 it's so important that we ensure a public process that
6 allows for public participation and district lines that can
7 provide fair and equal representation. And we want to
8 ensure that our community has the time to participate and
9 make sure that they are involved and educated in the
10 redistricting process at the local and state level.

11 And so, I just want to encourage the CCRC to set
12 as much time as possible for this phase of public
13 participation, given the importance of public input and the
14 role of having an independent Redistricting Commission in
15 our State of California. And through that, I hope
16 California to remain a beacon of hope not just for the
17 LGBTQ+ community that would like to be involved in the
18 redistricting process, but for all Californians, thank you
19 so much.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Payne.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one other
22 caller in the queue and they have not chosen to raise their
23 hand. Oh, nope, there's their hand. They're there.
24 Alright. And the floor is yours.

25 Speaker Number 15: Good afternoon, commissioners.

1 We'd just like to call on support for scenario two, which
2 starts off with your work as soon as possible. This
3 scenario yields on drafting scrappy maps in mid-October,
4 which allows the public to better understand the
5 Commission's philosophy and approach. And it also serves
6 as a motivating factor to organize.

7 This also yields two more months of higher quality
8 input for the public until the final maps are produced
9 prior to the holidays. The holidays are a sacred time for
10 all the reasons why Commissioner Turner and others outlined
11 in the last meeting. And I believe that submitting draft
12 maps going towards the holiday is actually a worse outcome
13 and that momentum of organizing communities falls
14 significantly. And it will be difficult to re-engage at
15 the start of a new year.

16 And I just want to uplift that only those callers
17 who are funded to following redistricting and are engaged,
18 are just asking for more time. Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for your feedback and
20 your comments.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the rest of our
22 public comment for the evening.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, now, we will recess
24 to closed session. If we can meet at 6 45, please. Thank
25 you.

1 Welcome back, everyone. Just want to report out
2 that during closed session, we did not take any action and
3 there is nothing that's on the agenda for us tonight. And
4 unless the commissioners have something which does not look
5 like.

6 So, with that, our next meeting is on Monday and
7 we hope to see everyone there. Thank you so much and have
8 a good week.

9 (Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM)

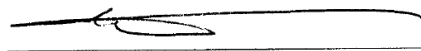
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REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of November, 2021.



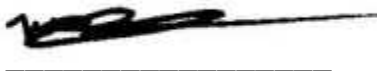
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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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Myra Severtson
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-852