

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:

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**APPEARANCES****COMMISSIONERS**

Alicia Fernandez, Chair  
Linda Akutagawa, Vice-Chair  
Jane Andersen, Commissioner  
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner  
J. Ray Kennedy, Commissioner  
Antonio Le Mons, Commissioner  
Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner  
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner  
Derric H. Taylor, Commissioner  
Pedro Toledo, Commissioner  
Trena Turner, Commissioner  
Russell Yee, Commissioner  
Isra Ahmad, Commissioner  
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner

**STAFF**

Marian Johnston, Counsel  
Raul Villanueva, Acting Executive Director

**ALSO PRESENT**

Amy Dominguez-Arms, Philanthropy California  
Connie Malloy, Former CRC Commissioner  
Alejandra Ponce de Leon, Advancement Project California  
Jonathan Mehta Stein, Common Cause

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund  
Renee Westa-Lusk

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 October 7, 2020

9:30 a.m.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Welcome, everyone, to day 3 of our  
4 meeting, October 7th, 2020. And before I forget like  
5 yesterday, Marian, can we do a roll call?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa. Commissioner  
9 Akutagawa, are you on mute?

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It looks like she's just barely  
11 logging on, so we'll come back.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.



1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

4 Commissioner Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vasquez.

7 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo. All here except  
13 Commissioner Toledo.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you. Okay,  
15 and just for the public, so that they know what the  
16 agenda for the day is, we're going to go back to agenda  
17 item 10 briefly and have discussion on the cell phones  
18 for the Commissioners. And we will then go into agenda  
19 item number 11, which is strategies for outreach; that  
20 will be at 10:30 this morning. And then agenda item 12,  
21 which is strategies for public input meetings, that will  
22 be at 2 o'clock.

23 Just a reminder to all Commissioners, if you plan to  
24 attend next week's meeting in the Sacramento office,  
25 please let Marian and Raul know via email; that'd be

1 great. And also if you have any proposed interview  
2 questions for the chief counsel and communications  
3 director, I believe Marian asked for those by tomorrow,  
4 so that would be very helpful for those two  
5 subcommittees.

6 And let's go to public comment. Raul, can you read  
7 the instructions please?

8 MR. VILLANUEVA: It would be my pleasure, Chair.

9 In order to maximize transparency and public  
10 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
11 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.  
12 There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners  
13 regarding the items on the agenda. There will also be  
14 opportunities for the public to submit general comments  
15 about items that are not on the agenda.

16 Please note that the Commission is not able to  
17 comment or discuss on items that are not on the agenda.  
18 The Commission will advise the viewing audience when it  
19 is time to submit public comment. At this time, the  
20 Commission is soliciting public comment on general items.

21 The Commissioners will then allow time for those who  
22 wish to comment to dial in. To call in, on your phone,  
23 dial the telephone number provided on the livestream  
24 feed. Next, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number  
25 provided on the livestream feed using your dial pad.

1 Third, when prompted to enter a participant ID, simply  
2 press the pound sign.

3       Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
4 queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers  
5 to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic  
6 message to press star 9 to raise your hand, which  
7 indicates that you wish to comment.

8       When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will  
9 unmute you and you will hear an automatic message  
10 stating, "the host would like you to talk" and to press  
11 star 6 to speak. You will have time to provide your  
12 comments.

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

18       The Commissioners will take comment for every action  
19 item on the agenda, and they will also be soliciting  
20 general comments, and we'll let you know what kind of  
21 comment is being solicited at that time. That is the  
22 time to call in.

23       The process for making a comment will be the same  
24 each time. You begin by dialing the telephone number  
25 provided on the livestream feed and following the

1 instructions as I have provided. These instructions are  
2 also located on the website.

3 Chair Fernandez.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry about that. My  
5 computer froze. Katy, do we have anyone in queue? It  
6 doesn't look like we have anyone in queue.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anyone in  
8 queue at this time.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So why don't we wait  
10 another minute or so.

11 In the interim, yesterday we talked about the state  
12 training and some of the classes they had, and I did look  
13 that up and there are quite a few classes. The only  
14 issue is you can only get in if you have an account. So  
15 what I'm going to do -- and Raul, if it's okay, can I  
16 forward my link to you and see if there's some way to get  
17 us -- to have the Commissioners get an account for that?

18 MR. VILLANUEVA: Certainly.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: That'd be best. Just go ahead and  
21 send it to me and I'll see what I can do for you.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that would be great. Thank  
23 you so much.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. While we're waiting  
3 and very tangentially to this, I remember there was a  
4 question earlier about ID cards. And what we were told  
5 was that, you know, ID cards are, you know, used for  
6 getting into buildings and we wouldn't need them and so  
7 forth.

8 I just wanted to alert staff to the fact that when I  
9 drove up to Sacramento for our first meeting of the first  
10 eight and the Auditor's Office arranged a rental car for  
11 me and I showed up at the rental car place, and they were  
12 demanding to see a State ID before they would release the  
13 car to me. And of course, we were brand new, there was  
14 no possibility of having a State ID at that point.

15 But I just wanted to highlight that if others end up  
16 in that situation of the office renting a car through a  
17 state master services agreement or something, you know,  
18 you could find yourselves standing in the rental car lot  
19 saying, now what do I do. I mean, I ended up having to  
20 call Elissa in the Auditor's Office and have her call the  
21 rental car location directly and work it out with them.  
22 Because otherwise, they just weren't going to release the  
23 car to me.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: Actually, I'll be setting up a

1 travel account for the Commission and that'll take care  
2 of some that. During the interim, wherein the first 8  
3 were selected until August, the final 6, and actually  
4 having a cohesive body of full 14; that was kind of a  
5 gray area time, which may have contributed to that. But  
6 I certainly hear what you're saying, and I think the  
7 travel account will take care of a lot of those concerns.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, I mean, they were not  
9 having a problem with the account itself. It was the  
10 fact that, you know, they wanted proof that I was a bona  
11 fide State, you know, employee or official and could take  
12 advantage of the rental that the office had arranged.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And that will happen with  
14 hotels as well. They'll want the State rate, they'll  
15 want to see your State ID, so it can become a challenge.

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. Well, I am understanding what  
17 you're saying.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Katy, I don't see anyone in  
19 queue.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anybody in  
21 queue.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. My computer froze out  
23 again, so I'm hoping I don't have too many issues today.

24 You were talking State ID. I don't remember the  
25 discussion regarding the State ID, and it might have been

1 prior to me joining on the first day. Is that something  
2 that we're going to get in the future? I just want to  
3 know what the discussion was.

4 MR. VILLANUEVA: I actually don't recall that  
5 discussion.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. We were basically told  
8 that we wouldn't ever need one; that it was mainly used  
9 for accessing buildings and if we did have one, it would  
10 only access our building, no other buildings, and it was  
11 kind of left at that.

12 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yeah, that's a card key for the  
13 building; that's not an ID.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So I guess it kind of makes  
15 sense to have an ID, so whenever we are officially going  
16 somewhere, there's some sort of documentation that we can  
17 show them of who we are. So is that something that maybe  
18 we could look into for the future? I mean, obviously,  
19 it'll be a little difficult to get IDs for all of us  
20 since we're virtual, although I guess we could do a  
21 picture from our cameras; that would be great.

22 MR. VILLANUEVA: Let me look into that for you.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That would be great. Thank you so  
24 much.

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome. It's on my list.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that keeps growing.

2 So with that, I don't see any more hands up, I'm  
3 just going to go straight back to agenda item 10. We  
4 were talking about the cell phones. And yesterday, Raul  
5 had only heard back from Verizon. Is that correct, Raul,  
6 at that point?

7 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that was, I believe you said,  
9 it was a Samsung 10 for 50 dollars a month.

10 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. And they've confirmed that  
11 with a separate email, that it's -- you have to make the  
12 image larger; it's really tiny writing. Anyway, it's  
13 unlimited minutes, unlimited messaging, email, and data,  
14 and the phones come with that, which is the Samsung S10e,  
15 128 gigabyte phone. They come in prism black, if anyone  
16 is concerned. And so that's at a rate of \$52.50 per.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Did you hear back from -- I  
18 think you were waiting to hear back from T-Mobile, I  
19 believe?

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: T-Mobile, yes. And the price was  
21 less by probably about 20 percent. The issue that I saw  
22 there is the quality of phone wasn't the same. And if I  
23 may, because of the concerns about the quality of the  
24 phone and its capabilities, given what we have now, I  
25 kind of put that at the forefront to make sure that we

1 have something that's modern, that is minimum 4G, and can  
2 do the Wi-Fi tethering.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Did you hear back from  
4 AT&T?

5 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes, I did. And it was kind of  
6 comparable to the Verizon, except that they were going to  
7 charge a fee for each of the phones, as well as a fee for  
8 starting the services.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

10 MR. VILLANUEVA: Which ran up into several thousand  
11 dollars.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

13 MR. VILLANUEVA: When you look at the coverage maps  
14 for the three services, they're fairly comparable. And  
15 so then from my perspective and -- anyway, from my  
16 perspective, really what you're looking at then is the  
17 type of service, which what we would like is unlimited  
18 everything basically, and the quality of phone at either  
19 a very reduced price or for free.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it sounds like at this  
21 point, the best choice for us would be to go with the  
22 Verizon Samsung. Does anyone have issues going with that  
23 phone? Commissioner Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't have an issue, but I  
25 know a lot of people are iPhone fanatics. I'm a Samsung

1 fanatic. And my husband used to work at Qualcomm and so  
2 he knows about the chips and all that, and he always had  
3 Samsung until his new job when he left Qualcomm and he  
4 got an iPhone, and he misses his Samsung.

5 So I just wanted to put it out there that Samsung --  
6 and at some points, their cameras are much better than  
7 the iPhones. Now, they keep going back and forth. But  
8 for those of you who are iPhone folks, I know it's hard  
9 sometimes to think about Samsung, but I just wanted to  
10 give you some confidence.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I appreciate that.  
12 And I do have iPhone for home, and then I have a Samsung  
13 for work. And I was a little hesitant at first because  
14 having to learn something new, but the Samsung has been  
15 great in terms of taking pictures. I use it as a  
16 recorder for work, personally, and I've been able to get  
17 reception wherever I go. I do travel remotely and for my  
18 job, so it's been reliable for me.

19 So any concerns with that? I would like to just to  
20 move forward because I think all of us are very anxious  
21 to get phones that actually work, and we can make calls.  
22 So if I don't see any -- Katy?

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You do have someone in  
24 the queue. I didn't know if you wanted to allow them to  
25 make their comment. I don't know if it took them a

1 second to get dialed in.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll just finish this, and  
3 then I'll take the public comment.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay, perfect.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for alerting me  
6 to that. So everyone's okay moving forward?

7 Commissioner Sadhwani.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm perfectly fine moving  
9 forward; just a question about logistics. Should we be,  
10 like, sending back the phones that we currently have, and  
11 what would be the best for us to do that?

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Raul, would you like us to send it  
13 back or just throw them away? No, I'm kidding. Or maybe  
14 at our first meeting together, we just have some sort  
15 of -- I don't know.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Donate them to a woman's  
17 shelter, not throw them away.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Have a big bonfire.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: There you go.

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: I'm going to respond in an official  
21 way.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

23 MR. VILLANUEVA: Those phones are State property.  
24 It would be best to hang onto them and we'll figure out  
25 how to get them back to me and then I'll dispose of them

1 properly according to State procedures.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: I have a question. Will we have the  
4 same phone numbers that we were given before or whole new  
5 phone numbers?

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I was just going to ask that,  
7 Marian, good question.

8 MR. VILLANUEVA: And I have the answer for that.  
9 I'll be working with the State Auditor's Office to port  
10 those, and so we'll do both operations together.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. So we'll be moving  
12 forward with Samsung phones, so hopefully they work for  
13 everyone.

14 MR. VILLANUEVA: That's fine. We'll order tomorrow.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And be positive and confident.  
16 Okay, so we're going to go public comment.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen, who is  
18 waving?

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. I'm sorry,  
20 Commissioner Kennedy. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner  
22 Kennedy. I'm just saying I was given, you know, I was  
23 one of the first day, right, and we were given very  
24 strict instructions. Now, these all belong to the State,  
25 save it, the whole nine yards, because you got to give it

1 back.

2 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I appreciate that. And  
4 also, if we do, unless I missed it, the first eight never  
5 got a list of everyone's phone numbers, but I understand  
6 that the rest of the group did, so I have no idea what  
7 other people's cell phone -- the CRC, the numbers are.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: They were supposed to be on the  
9 computers you were given the State Auditor. You didn't  
10 get them?

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, they were for the first  
12 eight because I got a first eight computer, but they were  
13 never updated.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Um-hum.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And actually, not the CRC;  
16 we only had -- at that time, we hadn't gotten the  
17 phone -- or I didn't know the phone numbers, so I don't  
18 have any actual CRC's cell phone numbers.

19 MR. VILLANUEVA: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So when we change the phones  
21 or whatever we do, could you please send the current  
22 listing out to all of us?

23 MR. VILLANUEVA: I will send that today. I was  
24 under the same impression as Marian. Geez, I hadn't  
25 heard that that wasn't the case, so thank you. I will

1 make sure that that happens today.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. I keep  
4 thinking -- I was thinking of Commissioner Sinay  
5 yesterday that the virtual where you hold up the  
6 different cards, I was thinking I probably need that, so  
7 I hopefully will flag that so I can see everyone. So I  
8 apologize, I don't do it on purpose.

9 Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have thought of making those  
11 for everybody but in different colors because the white  
12 doesn't work. So if you guys aren't offended, I can make  
13 them and laminate them and send them out to all of us,  
14 just because I do think it would help. And also, I think  
15 it helps to just be able to show that you agree with  
16 someone and you don't feel like you have to speak.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I would appreciate that for myself  
18 personally, so thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have to find the time to do  
20 that, but yes, I will do it.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. So nothing further,  
22 we're going to go to public comment. Katy?

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. If you'll hit  
24 star 6 to unmute yourself. If you'll state and spell  
25 your name for the court reporter.

1 MS. GOLD: Yes, good morning. My name is Rosalind,  
2 R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D, and the last name is Gold, G-O-L-D. I  
3 am the chief public policy officer with the NALEO  
4 Educational Fund. Thank you.

5 Good morning Commissioners, and it is great to see  
6 the thoroughness and the skill in which you're dealing  
7 with all of the minute details and the big picture issues  
8 of getting the Commission up and running. So thank you  
9 again for your effort and your work on all of this.

10 I was going to ask for clarification regarding the  
11 selection and the employment or consultant relationship  
12 of the person that has been chosen to serve as executive  
13 director, Mr. Claypool. According to the position  
14 announcement, this position was to be a termed employee  
15 position. But I've also become aware that there is a  
16 report from an outlet called Capitol Morning Report that  
17 has reported that the relationship is one of a contract  
18 for two years, an employment contract for two years. And  
19 as folks know, there's a difference between an employee  
20 relationship and a contractual relationship.

21 So I basically had two questions, or a question and  
22 a comment. The first question is, I was hoping we could  
23 get some clarification on whether it is an employee  
24 relationship or a contractual relationship. And if it is  
25 a two-year contract, we were hoping and really wanted to

1 strongly encourage the Commission to make the contract  
2 public before it is executed.

3       There is some history of this, for transparency, for  
4 keeping the public informed. We know that other  
5 contracts -- for example, I believe the contract for  
6 reporter and transcription services was made public. And  
7 of course, if there's any personally identifying  
8 information or anything like that in the contract, it can  
9 be redacted.

10       But we really felt for the purpose of being  
11 transparent, keeping us all informed, that if indeed it  
12 is a contract, a contractual relationship, that  
13 publishing the contract before it's entered into would be  
14 furthering the Commission's goals and principles of  
15 transparency.

16       So like I said, a question and then a comment.  
17 Thank you so much.

18       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Gold. Yes, the  
19 executive director is an employee. There is not a  
20 separate contract with that person. They're an employee  
21 employed by the Commission. So thank you for the  
22 opportunity to clarify.

23       MS. JOHNSTON: And one other comment on that, if I  
24 may. Since the Commission is exempt from civil service  
25 requirements, it is terminable by the Commission at any

1 time. There's no right -- guarantee of a two-year term.  
2 The two years is simply, that's the funding for the  
3 Commission at the present time.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

5 MS. GOLD: Great. Thank you so much for the  
6 clarification. I appreciate it, and again, appreciate  
7 everything you're doing and doing it so thoughtfully.  
8 Thank you so much.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that is the only  
11 person in queue.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you.

13 Okay, so at this point, unless there's anything  
14 else, we do have a presentation at 10:30. Oops.  
15 Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much. I think  
17 the caller's mention that contracts can and should be,  
18 like, I think was a helpful reminder to me. I don't know  
19 that I had really thought through that previously.

20 We do also have this contract with Ogilvy, and I'm  
21 wondering if it would make sense to make that public. I  
22 myself have not seen it and we have approved it. So I  
23 think that that, in the spirit of transparency, which I  
24 know we all support it --

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- that that is something we  
2 would want to move forward with as well.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. That's a good point.  
4 Raul, if you can post that, as well as the IT one that we  
5 approved last time? Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think, yeah, I understand the  
7 employee contract is different. But as we discussed  
8 yesterday, we weren't given any updates after the closed  
9 meeting session, and so we don't even know what the offer  
10 was to the executive director, and I don't know if we get  
11 privy to that or not. But since we do manage the budget,  
12 it feels like we should know that piece.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Right. I appreciate that.  
14 And we were actually, Commissioner Ahmad and I were  
15 trying to work with Marian and will work with Marian to  
16 see what information we can communicate out, either  
17 closed session or -- so yeah, definitely would want to  
18 get that information to everyone.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: If your concern is the salary?

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Pardon?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Was the concern the salary?

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I guess we can talk about the  
23 specifics later. I will email you, okay? Okay.

24 Any other questions?

25 Okay, so with that, we do have a presentation at

1 10:30. So actually, if we take a break now and come back  
2 at 10:25; that way, we can at least have a full hour and  
3 a half uninterrupted if we need to, and then come back.  
4 So is everyone okay with that? Okay, so at 10:25. Thank  
5 you, everyone.

6 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Welcome back  
8 everyone. Thank you for coming back. And we, in a few  
9 minutes, unless we do have Ms. Dominguez-Arms that's  
10 online, so I'm not sure if she's ready to go, but we  
11 could start a few minutes early.

12 And just for our presenters, every 90 minutes we  
13 have to take a break. So at some point once we start, at  
14 90 minutes, we'll take a 15-minute break, and then we'll  
15 come back if we need to. Commissioner Sinay is on, okay.

16 All right, so let's go ahead and go into agenda item  
17 number 11, which is a discussion on potential action  
18 strategies for outreach. And today, we have Connie  
19 Malloy, who is a Commissioner from the 2010 Commission,  
20 and we also have Amy Dominguez-Arms, who's a consultant  
21 with Philanthropy California.

22 And I'm actually going to turn it over to  
23 Commissioner Sinay, and I want to thank her for  
24 coordinating this presentation, so giving it to you.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I want to thank our

1 two speakers for presenting -- for joining us today. I'm  
2 excited. I've gotten to speak to both Commissioner  
3 Malloy and Ms. Dominguez-Arms. I consider them  
4 colleagues because we're all in the philanthropy world.  
5 And now that I see your picture, I see your face, Amy, I  
6 think we have the same circles.

7 But I thought it was when Commissioner Vasquez and I  
8 first started thinking about outreach and stuff, we  
9 really wanted to start at the beginning understanding  
10 what happened in 2010. There was a lot of investments, a  
11 lot of support from the community. It was the first  
12 Commission, Citizen Redistricting Commission, and Irvine  
13 Foundation really stepped up and wanted to make sure that  
14 it was the citizens who were doing the redistricting.

15 And since then -- foundations do this often; they  
16 change their priorities. They do really good work, they  
17 learn a lot, and then they move on. We're lucky that Ms.  
18 Dominguez-Arms was part of the 2010 investments, as well  
19 as the current investments.

20 So now, Philanthropy California, just to give you  
21 background, is the Association of Northern California  
22 Grantmakers, Southern California Grantmakers, and San  
23 Diego Grantmakers, so it's the associations of  
24 foundations and others who made grants in the community  
25 have come together to play a stronger role around

1 advocacy and political engagement.

2 I know that Commissioner Malloy had a meeting until  
3 about 10:30, so I know she's coming. This is the first  
4 of several different conversations we'll be having. I do  
5 encourage you all to please pull out the framework that  
6 we kind of presented yesterday. I learned today that we  
7 didn't approve it, so therefore, it's not an official  
8 framework or anything. But hopefully, it will be helpful  
9 for you as you're listening just to take down notes so  
10 that we can continue to build our conversations as we  
11 move from presentation to presentation over the next few  
12 weeks.

13 Amy, do you think we can start and then Commissioner  
14 Malloy joins us when she gets here?

15 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Sure, and I will share my  
16 screen if that's okay. Get started here. One moment.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: While she's sharing her screen,  
18 I'd like to just ask you all to think about -- when it  
19 comes to asking questions, we're going to be able to have  
20 a lot of dialogue. We'd like to see this as a dialogue  
21 and a conversation. But please limit yourself either to  
22 two minutes or two questions.

23 We don't want -- we want to be able to have  
24 everybody be able to share their thoughts and  
25 opportunities, and we may learn from others. So just

1 limit your questions to two at a time, please, so that  
2 they don't feel bombarded and also we all have an  
3 opportunity to talk. Sorry, it's all yours now.

4 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Great. And thank you everyone  
5 for having me today. Again, I'm Amy Dominguez-Arms. I'm  
6 currently a consultant with Philanthropy California,  
7 which, through its fair representation fund, is  
8 supporting community-based organized to involve residents  
9 in California's upcoming redistricting process.

10 And previously, I was vice president for programs at  
11 the James Irvine Foundation, where I oversaw our  
12 grantmaking to support community engagement in the last  
13 redistricting cycle.

14 So today, I'll just spend about ten minutes, and  
15 maybe not even that, to open up with an overview of  
16 Philanthropy's role in the last redistricting cycle and  
17 takeaways from that experience. I'll then share what the  
18 philanthropic sector has organized in this round to  
19 support public involvement and considerations for the  
20 Commission in its role, and then really welcome your  
21 questions and comments.

22 So in the 2011 cycle, the Irvine Foundation  
23 exercised a lead role in funding nonprofits to involve  
24 the public in the redistricting process. And our goals  
25 included, inform a broad base of Californians about the

1 process and provide them with tools to help them  
2 participate, and ensure that public participation  
3 throughout the process reflects the diversity of  
4 California's population.

5       So we made grants of just over 3.5 million, both in  
6 the initial phase to encourage diverse applicants to  
7 apply to the Commission, and then during the deliberation  
8 phase to ensure broad public participation with a  
9 particular focus on historically underrepresented  
10 communities.

11       We also supported the statewide database and  
12 advancement project to provide tools and technical  
13 assistance to the public, and we've provided resources  
14 for research and assessment, including a summary report  
15 done by the League of Women Voters about the 2011 cycle.

16       I would say during this, some of the takeaways are  
17 that we found that the support to groups with  
18 longstanding relationships with residents really  
19 facilitated their participation. I think we're able to  
20 track the difference most closely during the initial  
21 application phase, where we noted an increase in the  
22 diversity of applicants once the CBOs began conducting  
23 outreach.

24       And then throughout the cycle, nonprofits reached  
25 thousands of community members to inform them about the

1 importance of redistricting and how to get involved, and  
2 then facilitated their engagement through map-making  
3 workshops and encouraging written input and public  
4 testimony.

5 In this cycle, really the tremendous collaboration  
6 among foundations and with the State in supporting  
7 outreach to encourage an accurate census has laid the  
8 groundwork for funders to work together on redistricting.

9 So Philanthropy California created a pooled fund  
10 through which other funders are contributing, and we've  
11 raised 1.7 million thus far, but we know we need to  
12 secure additional resources in order to really reach  
13 California's diverse communities and regions.

14 So we've made an initial set of grants to a set of  
15 groups working throughout the state. These grants don't  
16 cover their full outreach budget, but provide some  
17 resources for their development of educational materials,  
18 trainings, outreach, and coordination with one another.

19 And then we recently issued a request for proposals  
20 to local civic engagement groups and coalitions to really  
21 support their involvement at the grassroots level to  
22 engage community members in redistricting. But we know  
23 that based on the resources that we have remaining in the  
24 fund, we won't be able to cover the requests for support  
25 that we anticipate, and so we're continuing to fundraise.

1           As noted at the top of the slide, all of the  
2 Philanthropy California grants are to 501(c)(3)  
3 organizations for nonpartisan civic engagement  
4 activities.

5           And I'll just end with outreach considerations for  
6 the Commission. We know it's important to prioritize  
7 support to organizations working with underrepresented  
8 racial and ethnic communities. This is so we can develop  
9 a clear understanding of communities of interest and  
10 fully comply with the Voting Rights Act.

11           It's important to identify organizations with  
12 trusted relationships, a track record of civic  
13 engagement, and an inclination to collaborate with other  
14 community groups. And you know, we want to remember that  
15 the outreach includes various elements. Folks need to  
16 understand the importance of redistricting, why it has  
17 relevance to the issues they care about. They need  
18 information on the process, when to engage, how to  
19 engage. And then there's also tools and technical  
20 assistance so that the input community members provide  
21 can be most relevant to that of the Commission.

22           And then, of course, there's accessibility issues to  
23 keep in mind, language proficiency, literacy barriers,  
24 technology access.

25           So please know that Philanthropy California is

1 committed to robust public involvement, and we're really  
2 here to be a partner to all of you and look forward to  
3 your ideas and questions.

4 So those are some opening comments, and I think now  
5 I will pass it along to my colleague, Connie.

6 MS. MALLOY: Hi, good morning everyone. Let me set  
7 up my screen share.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And Connie, you're a little  
9 muted, so if you can just speak a little closer to your  
10 microphone once you're started.

11 MS. MALLOY: Okay. Let me test the volume. How's  
12 that? That works good, okay. Let me pull my slides up.

13 Well, good morning everyone. It's wonderful to join  
14 you. I have been in your shoes, for better or worse, and  
15 you know, really admire both the work that you've done  
16 and the real work that lies ahead. Let me put this into  
17 slideshow for you. Go all the way to the beginning.

18 All right. So my name is Connie Malloy, and I was  
19 one of the Commissioners in the last cycle. So we were  
20 the inaugural group trying to build the plane while we  
21 were flying it, and so I was asked to just share some  
22 reflections on the outreach that we did, and honored to  
23 do that.

24 When I was seated on the Commission, I was working  
25 as an urban planner; that's my educational background.

1 I've spent about the last ten years now in philanthropy,  
2 first working with Amy Dominguez-Arms at the James Irvine  
3 Foundation, and then now leading a family foundation  
4 called the Panta Rhea Foundation.

5 But once you're a redistricting commissioner, you're  
6 sort of always in the redistricting mix, for better or  
7 worse. I call it a very quirky pastime of mine now.

8 So lessons learned: lesson number 1, organize the  
9 Commission's outreach and operations to reflect your  
10 shared mission and values. And I'll just share an  
11 anecdote or two as we go through the slide presentation.  
12 You know, as a Commission, I know you're still getting to  
13 know each other; that is quite an interesting thing to do  
14 virtually.

15 When we were seated as a Commission, we spent quite  
16 a bit of time with each other that was not in Commission  
17 meetings, where we were traveling, we were just grabbing  
18 food in between meetings, et cetera, and so I know what  
19 it takes to norm and build a team under these  
20 circumstances. You know, it's new to all of us in  
21 various ways.

22 But I'll give some examples of how this mission and  
23 values manifests in terms of outreach and operations. On  
24 our Commission, one of the things we felt was really  
25 important as being, you know, the first Commission out of

1 the gate that was trying to do this in an independent  
2 way, that it was really important to model shared  
3 leadership, and that we would design the way we did our  
4 work to demonstrate that there was not undue influence or  
5 control by any one party or even any personality or  
6 perspective.

7       And so we set up the way that we did our work so  
8 that we had a rotating leadership structure; that was  
9 both for our business meetings and it also was in terms  
10 of who managed the outreach sessions, the public hearings  
11 where people would come and give testimony.

12       We also then felt like it was important for all  
13 Commissioners to have visibility and the same set of  
14 information on which to make decisions. And back then,  
15 you know, we were traveling to different parts of the  
16 state, and so we decided that all Commissioners should  
17 make their best effort to be at each of the public  
18 hearings that was had to make sure that they were having,  
19 all of us were really internalizing the same sets of  
20 information and inputs on which we would make decisions.

21       So not to project on this Commission's values and  
22 how those should intersect with the outreach and  
23 operations, but certainly from one Commission to a next,  
24 we all share the same mission around having a set of fair  
25 lines that were developed through a transparent public

1 process. And so any outreach effort should really  
2 reflect that mission and your emerging values as a group.

3 I think it takes time to figure that out, right, so  
4 I hope you're having those conversations as you set plans  
5 for outreach.

6 Lesson number 2. As exciting as I'm sure you all  
7 think redistricting is, and I still do, most people don't  
8 actually care about redistricting. The only time that  
9 they do care is if it is helping or hindering something  
10 they actually care about. So if there's a really  
11 concrete connection between, you know, the quality of the  
12 education that they're receiving and the types of leaders  
13 that are getting elected or running for that school board  
14 seat that's making those decisions.

15 Another way that someone might care about  
16 redistricting that I found is if someone that we trust  
17 says it's important. After -- some years back, Stephen  
18 Colbert did a hilarious segment on redistricting, which  
19 if you have not seen it, you should probably YouTube it.  
20 I was not sure that it was appropriate for this kind of  
21 venue. But I got lot more interest just as a human and  
22 as a redistricting commissioner after he made it  
23 something interesting, and a lot of people trust him and  
24 get a lot of comedy from him, and suddenly it was  
25 interesting.

1           Similarly, we have many organizations across the  
2 state and in neighborhoods and in cities, many of which  
3 Amy referenced. These organizations help community  
4 members, everyday people, with all kinds of things that  
5 impact their lives. Those organizations, to the extent  
6 that they are tracking and involved with redistricting,  
7 that may also be a bridge where people begin to see the  
8 link between redistricting and the things that they care  
9 about.

10           So really, as a Commission, there's only so much  
11 that you can do given that, you know, you may have  
12 relationships in your community, but as a body and at a  
13 large statewide level, people don't know who you are and  
14 aren't necessarily going to get excited about  
15 redistricting because of you. But there's so many other  
16 kind of messengers and bridge builders that can help to  
17 open those doors for broader interest and participation,  
18 and that is a key role that I believe the Commission has  
19 to build into your outreach plan in order for it to  
20 really be robust and successful and to have a broader  
21 reach.

22           Lesson number 3 is that every Californian's voice  
23 matters and that we should, as Commissioners, always seek  
24 out and welcome them all. It sounds very simple and very  
25 intuitive, but there were times where that got messy.

1 And I'll just, you know, note that we are in a highly  
2 charged political environment at a national level.  
3 Granted, at the time that you really start doing more of  
4 your outreach, we will be at a different phase in  
5 whatever this political journey that we're all on  
6 together looks like.

7 But you know, suffice it to say, we found that in  
8 some cities, some neighborhoods, some regions, that the  
9 sort of tenor relationships and perspectives that were  
10 shared were done in a much more collaborative spirit.  
11 That certainly, people might come with different  
12 perspectives on what their aspirations or concerns were  
13 around redistricting, but they were able to kind of be in  
14 shared space together, listen to folks who brought  
15 different perspectives, and do so in a very respectful  
16 way.

17 There were other parts of the state that were, quite  
18 frankly, more challenging to navigate, where there  
19 were -- the energy in the room was much more charged,  
20 where there were more challenging histories around power  
21 and who had it and who did not have it; places where we  
22 had to more heavily facilitate, take into consideration  
23 different issues around security, both for our  
24 Commissioners and for members of the public to all feel  
25 comfortable and empowered to be able to speak.

1            Depending on how the Commission organizes your  
2 hearings, whether you do any in person or all online,  
3 really thinking about how to create a safe and welcoming  
4 and neutral environment for all participants to be able  
5 to join in.

6            As Commissioners, it's also a place where I think  
7 individually we can be challenged by hearing things in  
8 session that we might disagree with personally. We might  
9 think they're wrong, that they don't reflect our  
10 perception of a given place or a given group of people.  
11 And we actually had as a Commission at times to have to,  
12 you know, stop a meeting, go into recess, regroup  
13 ourselves, and make sure that we had really clear  
14 protocols of -- you know, our job as commissioners was to  
15 listen and then, separately, to take all of that  
16 information, synthesize it, and make decisions with it.

17            But it wasn't our role, no matter how, you know,  
18 intensely we might have a perspective on something, to  
19 ever kind of confront or give the third degree to someone  
20 that was there to present. And I think it's a really  
21 important thing for the Commissioners to think about,  
22 about the way that you discuss points of view in a way  
23 that is respectful, that we all have different  
24 experiences of the same places and the same issues.

25            Lesson number 4. This builds, certainly, on that

1 welcoming of all voices, and there's also being really  
2 rigorous in our synthesis. As Commissioners, you know,  
3 you have a responsibility and a role to not necessarily  
4 take everything you hear at face value and really dig  
5 deeper. What's there in the information that you're  
6 receiving; what might be missing, and more importantly,  
7 who might be missing?

8       We had experiences as we were going up and down the  
9 state, that there were times where we'd hear from one  
10 aspect of the population loud and clear and  
11 overwhelmingly. And then, we would think, huh, you know,  
12 it's interesting based on the census data, we have  
13 entirely other populations that have not been present or  
14 visible and we don't know their story and we don't  
15 necessarily know their needs.

16       And so both in terms of the consultants that you're  
17 working with and your own -- what you bring to the table  
18 as Commissioners and the ability to help kind of guide  
19 your staff on where information is solid and where there  
20 are gaps, don't just assume that the information that  
21 you're given is complete. And your job is to try and to  
22 fill in the missing pieces of the puzzle, literally the  
23 missing pieces of the map, as best that you can.

24       Number 5, this really builds on Amy's presentation  
25 and on my own experience as a commissioner. You will

1 always have a limited amount of time and resources. Even  
2 though I'm thrilled that you have more time and more  
3 resources than we had as the inaugural Commission,  
4 working networks is going to help you get much farther  
5 faster, whether it's through community-based  
6 organizations, such as the ones Amy was talking about,  
7 business or trade associations, public entities,  
8 philanthropy, educational institutions, et cetera.

9       Think about the institutions that have been in  
10 communities for many years before you got there and will  
11 continue on for many decades after you're there as some  
12 of the places where relationships already sit. You know,  
13 in many cases, those entities are able to help solicit  
14 and aggregate information and data. They may have ready-  
15 made pools of information about their communities that  
16 could be helpful to the Commission.

17       At the same time, my cautionary advice around that  
18 is similar to how it shakes down at the individual level  
19 in that, you know, everyone has a stake in the game.  
20 Everyone has their own self-interest. And so similarly  
21 to when you're working with individual testimony, you  
22 also have to really strive for a level of balance and  
23 asking what story am I not being told in order to be able  
24 to have a balanced perspective of a given community.

25       But I will say that working the networks will allow

1 also for greater leverage in terms of the modest  
2 resources that you do have to work with and making sure  
3 that those resources go to the highest and best use and  
4 where the gaps actually are versus being redundant in  
5 some way with what is already existing in the community.

6 Lesson 6. Go broad statewide and go deep in key  
7 regions. Census data will only tell you part of the  
8 story, particularly mid-COVID. So I'll give you example  
9 of where our values really came into tension with our  
10 practical considerations. From the spirit of every  
11 Californian's voice matters, we wanted to really explore  
12 all corners of the state. At the same time, some parts  
13 of the state were dramatically more complex in terms of  
14 demographics and dramatically more populated than other  
15 parts of the state.

16 We made a really difficult decision to not be in  
17 physical proximity with the north coast, and instead, to  
18 invest more time and resources into doing hearings in  
19 places like South Los Angeles. And a reason that we did  
20 that is, you know, our budget was 3 million dollars,  
21 which did not go very far. And in order for us to be  
22 able to really do our job as per our mission and draw  
23 good maps for the whole state, we felt like we did not  
24 actually have enough money to go everywhere as we would  
25 have preferred.

1           So really taking a look at -- as I know that your  
2 consultants, your staff, your lawyers will help you do,  
3 identifying the areas that, you know, we called hotspots  
4 just because there's so much both change in those areas,  
5 so much complexity, so much history, make sure you spend  
6 the time there. It is really worth the money and the  
7 other types of resources that will go into it.

8           And at the same time, where you have to make those  
9 tradeoffs, ensure that there is a robust equitable effort  
10 to get participation and allow other means for parts of  
11 the state who may not have as much monetary focus in  
12 terms of soliciting outreach there.

13           Just another observation. We're still, as I'm sure  
14 you're all tracking closely, the struggle over what form  
15 the census data will take by the time that it actually  
16 gets to your hands. There are so many live questions on  
17 what the quality of that data will look like. And so the  
18 outreach that you do and being able to, particularly for  
19 a state like California that has such a large, hard-to-  
20 count set of populations, being able to supplement what  
21 you're getting from the Census with that really kind of  
22 in-depth additional outreach that you're able to do is  
23 going to be really important in a way that I think is  
24 more important perhaps than what we were dealing with in  
25 the 2011 cycle.

1 Lesson number 7. Use technology as an outreach  
2 tool, not as an outreach strategy. So having been in  
3 philanthropy, and you know, funding a number of  
4 organizations who are doing some really exciting  
5 experiments with technology, this was a pretty  
6 fundamental lesson. You can have a shiny object and a  
7 fancy tool that nobody uses; that really does not give  
8 you the quality, the breadth or depth of participation  
9 that might be aspired to in the redistricting process.

10 And so technology is going to be more important  
11 because of COVID; we want to and we have to use it. And  
12 in the outreach process, making sure that the  
13 intermediary organizations, those entities who may be  
14 doing the actual education, helping to supplement and  
15 partner with the Commission on outreach, making sure that  
16 these tech tools are really accessible and work for the  
17 populations that you're most trying to reach.

18 Before you do kind of a full-scale development or an  
19 option around a tool, has it been beta tested; is there a  
20 kind of table of organizations and/or individuals that  
21 would be willing to give it a go to see whether it  
22 actually is going to serve the purposes that you have?

23 And I would also say, from my experience partnering  
24 with government, you know, tech is a really slow thing to  
25 develop when it comes from, you know, going through all

1 the processes that you have to from the public  
2 perspective. So it's also a great avenue for thinking  
3 about partnerships, whether they're with business  
4 entities and just the great, you know, presence that we  
5 have around technology companies here in California and  
6 many nonprofit organizations that really are at this crux  
7 of innovation between technology and civic engagement and  
8 community organizing.

9 My last lesson learned is making decisions based on  
10 shared transparent analysis of the inputs that you  
11 receive from that outreach. You know, it is really  
12 important from the perspective of creating a sense of  
13 shared ownership and satisfaction with the maps, that the  
14 public really see the impact of their input onto the maps  
15 that you develop; that they're able to know that their  
16 voices actually did matter; that you didn't necessarily  
17 do everything that they wanted, but when you didn't, that  
18 there was really clear rationale around why you did not.

19 So you know, some of the most powerful moments I  
20 remember were when we did our first draft maps, which  
21 were terrible. The public had so much to say about all  
22 the things that we had done wrong on those first draft  
23 maps, and we learned so much and our final maps were, you  
24 know, just exponentially better. We were able to  
25 incorporate so much feedback and testimony. We were able

1 to clarify some of the intentions around information and  
2 synthesis that we had received. So just really being  
3 able to draw a clear and succinct line between  
4 information that you're getting, the inputs, and the  
5 outputs, which really are those maps. I think it's  
6 critical.

7       You know, you're the second Commission out of the  
8 gate here in California, and I really aspire to have us  
9 all not be a one-hit wonder and want to just really give  
10 cheers to you as you're navigating ground too. I think  
11 that you will have some aspects of your work come so much  
12 easier and others that are so much harder, mid-COVID in  
13 this type of a kind of national election environment, but  
14 I know that you're asking all the right questions and you  
15 have a number of resources that are really at the ready  
16 to help you.

17       I've left with your team my contact information. I  
18 am a recovering Commissioner, and also I'm doing some  
19 consulting with local jurisdictions who have independent  
20 Citizens Redistricting Commissions now and also running  
21 my own family foundation. So thank you so much. I will  
22 stop sharing my screen.

23       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Were you going to say  
24 something, Commissioner Sinay?

25       COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, go ahead.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh no. I was just going to open  
2 it up for questions. I didn't --

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I didn't know if you wanted me  
4 to facilitate the questions so you could participate or  
5 if you wanted to do the questions?

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'll do it and that way, you can  
7 participate. I think that's probably a better tradeoff.

8 So at this point in time, I do want to thank both of  
9 you, just very helpful information. I was lapping up --  
10 not lapping -- the one about that most don't care about  
11 redistricting. I think that's for most things until it  
12 does personally affect them, so I completely agree with  
13 that. And once you personalize it, you know, most of us  
14 are just trying to deal with day-to-day, trying to  
15 survive, especially in this COVID environment.

16 But I thank you both, and I'm going to open it up to  
17 my fellow Commissioners for questions. Commissioner  
18 Sinay.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: First of all, I've never seen  
20 this group be quiet, so I know it's coming.

21 I know that in the first Commission, you all  
22 looked -- you created kind of a regional -- you had a  
23 regional map and you created teams, and my understanding  
24 was -- well, you can explain how you created the teams  
25 for the region. And what were those teams'

1 responsibilities and did that work?

2 MS. MALLOY: So we did have regional teams. And the  
3 way that they were designed was that, where possible, we  
4 did have a Commissioner who was more familiar with that  
5 region of the state. And also, given that -- even I, as  
6 being from, say, Pasadena, doesn't mean that my view of  
7 Pasadena necessary reflects all of my neighbors, right?

8 So we wanted to make sure that that did not become  
9 inadvertently a fiefdom of somebody feeling like they  
10 kind of had control or even that there was a public  
11 perception that that person was therefore going to drive  
12 the agenda and draw the maps directly for that area.

13 So we had a balance of having someone who was  
14 familiar with the area and also someone who wasn't that  
15 was really going to be kind of check point, ask the  
16 tougher questions that, you know, had to dig in from a  
17 really neutral, not knowing the area perspective.

18 And then the roles of those teams was really to take  
19 a first pass at digging into the information that we were  
20 getting from that region and begin to make sense of it.  
21 So it was just a way of, clearly as a team, as a broad  
22 Commission, we needed to be the ones in the driver's seat  
23 making the decisions. And we also needed the ability,  
24 given our time line, which was even tighter than yours,  
25 to be able to drill down and really go deeper and to feel

1 like if we were ever in a position where we were  
2 defending the maps, which, you know, as we have done and  
3 successfully multiple times, that there was also a set of  
4 Commissioners who really kind of could wrap their hands  
5 around more.

6       You know, as one Commissioner, for me to remember  
7 all the nuances from all the regions across the state  
8 would be very challenging. But in the places that I was  
9 able to really go deep in the data that we had to work  
10 with in the outreach testimony, et cetera, I was able to  
11 therefore kind of focus my energies in a way that was  
12 helpful for the whole Commission.

13       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so when you talk about the  
14 regional teams, was it, you know, two per regional team  
15 and how many regional teams -- regions did you establish?

16       MS. MALLOY: You know, it's a good question. I can  
17 dig in. You know, it has been a decade, I have to admit.  
18 I remember when we were working with our consultant team,  
19 with Q2, who was developing the maps, the way they  
20 originally organized the state, we had about eight  
21 regions, if I remember correctly, that every time we sort  
22 of shifted where we were doing --

23       COMMISSIONER SINAY: Nine.

24       MS. MALLOY: It was nine? Right on. We would have  
25 sort of overview of that region and orient ourselves to

1 that place and then we would dive down into the different  
2 areas within it, and so the teams were sort of reflective  
3 of those regions.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay, and then  
5 Commissioner Toledo.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to follow up. At  
7 our next meeting, we will be looking at a regional map;  
8 that will be one of the action items that we will bring  
9 forward and explain which map we're recommending, so I  
10 just wanted full transparency.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for that reminder also.  
12 Commissioner Toledo.

13 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I just wanted to thank  
14 both of you for a great presentation and to ask a little  
15 bit more about, I believe it was Ms. Dominguez-Arms who  
16 spoke about fundraising and trying to build the pot of  
17 money for engaging communities. And I just wanted to  
18 understand a little bit about what the efforts are to  
19 build that a little bit more, and if you have a specific  
20 goal in mind or regional strategies, given that this is  
21 such a regional effort.

22 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Great question. So we've been  
23 reaching out to various foundations, you know, I had  
24 listed on an earlier slide. We've received contributions  
25 to the fund from four foundations thus far, quite

1 generous contributions: James Irvine Foundation,  
2 California Endowment, Blue Shield of California  
3 Foundation, and Weingart Foundation. And we're  
4 continuing to have conversations with funders who fund  
5 statewide and could be inclined to contribute to the  
6 pooled fund to support, you know, additional grantmaking.

7 We're also in conversation with a number of funders  
8 who are focused on particular regions of the state,  
9 community foundations and others who may either  
10 contribute to the pooled fund for grantmaking in those  
11 regions, or may do what we call aligned funding, which is  
12 provide resources directly to nonprofits in their area.

13 In terms of fundraising goals, you know, we had  
14 initially just sort of set forth as a ballpark -- boy, it  
15 would be great if we could get to 2.5 million and we had  
16 raised 1.7. If we can get to that, that will be helpful.  
17 I think I would imagine the request for support from  
18 community-based organizations is going to even exceed  
19 that goal, but we really are hoping that we can do -- you  
20 know, it'd be great if we could do at least 800,000 more  
21 in fundraising.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you. Commissioner Le  
23 Mons and then Commissioner Sadhwani.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thanks for the presentation.  
25 If either of you could speak to how the grantmaking to

1 the nonprofit organizations, how that process worked, how  
2 much influence the Commission actually had on that  
3 process, and how it was integrated with the work of the  
4 Commission, and how much of it was autonomous if at all.

5 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah. So in the last round,  
6 which I assume you're speaking to in 2011, the James  
7 Irvine Foundation entirely and independently made  
8 grantmaking decisions; it was the foundation's resources.  
9 You know, we invited proposals and went through our usual  
10 process of grantmaking whereby staff reviewed proposals,  
11 it goes to our board of directors, and they approve the  
12 grants.

13 So you know, the funding and the outreach was  
14 certainly supportive of the Commission's work, but the  
15 decision-making was within the Irvine Foundation.

16 In this round where Philanthropy California's  
17 holding the funds on behalf of a set of foundations,  
18 there's a team of us at Philanthropy California  
19 representing Southern California Grantmakers, Northern  
20 California Grantmakers, San Diego Grantmakers, and myself  
21 as the lead consultant that, thus far, have reviewed  
22 proposals. And in this upcoming RFP, we'll review  
23 proposals and make determinations.

24 The funders who put into the pooled fund, they  
25 themselves have indicated that they're putting into the

1 pooled fund; they're not looking for a decision-making  
2 role in the specific grants, but we convene them  
3 periodically and update them and get their input on  
4 criteria, overall direction and such. So it's really the  
5 Philanthropy California team that's making the specific  
6 grantmaking decisions.

7 MS. MALLOY: And maybe I'll just add from the  
8 perspective of a Commissioner and then someone who went  
9 to work at Irvine after the maps were drawn and all those  
10 grants, you know, were already done. That it was, as a  
11 Commissioner and in terms of speaking of impact, I am  
12 fully confident that the maps we drew were markedly  
13 different because of the resources that were able to  
14 support a broad set of outreach in communities that I  
15 believe would not have had much, if any, visibility or  
16 voice into the process otherwise.

17 You know, when I understand the resources that are  
18 available this time for the work of the Commission, I  
19 think there's some potential there to think about whether  
20 there are ways that the Commission's resources can more  
21 explicitly support outreach and education efforts in the  
22 community. It simply was not feasible with the pot of  
23 resources that we had to work with. I think it is a very  
24 real option for you to consider.

25 You know, my only suggestion around that though is

1 that given how massive the job ahead of you is navigating  
2 the twists and turns around the census data, you know,  
3 actually drawing these maps, that having an entity to  
4 partner with who could potentially support your interests  
5 in regranteeing if that was something to be considered, an  
6 entity that was seen as, you know, apolitical,  
7 nonpartisan that could do the back-end management and due  
8 diligence, handling of the resources on the Commission's  
9 behalf would be really helpful.

10 I mean, I know towards the end of our tenure, we  
11 received a very modest sized grant regarding a government  
12 innovation that allowed us as a Commission to travel to  
13 other states and be able to provide more information  
14 about California's model and provide technical assistance  
15 to other states who were considering redistricting  
16 reform.

17 And just being able to take that grant and find a  
18 home for it and manage how those resources flowed for,  
19 you know, a 50,000-dollar grant that was really only to  
20 support our work, it was surprisingly complex to somebody  
21 who had not worked inside government very much before.  
22 And so I think whether it's Philanthropy California or  
23 any of another -- you know, there's a number of different  
24 public foundations, intermediaries that really specialize  
25 in that kind of management of nonprofit resources,

1 charitable resources, I think I would really recommend  
2 that because, otherwise, you will get sucked into a bit  
3 of a rabbit hole just around the management of that  
4 piece, even if that -- offering those resources is very  
5 much aligned with your mission and your values.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And thank you  
8 both so much for taking the time to be here today and it  
9 a really great, a very helpful presentations. I actually  
10 have two questions, one is a follow-up from Commissioner  
11 Le Mons's question. It sounds like there's varying  
12 levels here that we can be thinking about, right? On the  
13 one hand, the funds being granted are done so very  
14 autonomously; on the other hand, what I think Ms. Malloy  
15 was just discussing was, you know, the ability for us to  
16 be regranting.

17 But I'm also interested just in terms of the  
18 coordination, and this could be -- I think this question  
19 is really around the 2010 Commission. There's all these  
20 organizations that are receiving grants, right? We are  
21 coming up with our outreach strategy. Potentially, we'll  
22 use a similar model with the regional teams.

23 Was it the case in 2010, then, that those regional  
24 teams going out were coordinating that outreach plan with  
25 the organizations on the ground, or was it that the

1 regional teams were kind of coming up with the plans and  
2 then the organizations were responding, making sure that  
3 there were people locally? I guess I wanted to know a  
4 little bit more about the nuts and bolts of that  
5 collaboration, or perhaps there wasn't any real  
6 communication between the two. So that's one.

7       The second one actually has to do with the outreach  
8 meetings themselves. My understanding from 2010 was that  
9 the line-drawing consultant was there on hand, showing  
10 maps, playing -- you know, potentially moving the lines  
11 of a potential map around live, and please correct me if  
12 I'm wrong about that. I want to get a sense of was that  
13 helpful, was it -- would you do it the same way again or  
14 would you -- are there different ways that you might go  
15 about it?

16       And I think just to say with one of the  
17 conversations we've had here is that I think a lot of the  
18 Commissioners are very interested in having access to the  
19 line-drawing software, being very engaged in that process  
20 and being able to utilize the mapping software ourselves.  
21 And so I kind of wanted to just hear a little bit of  
22 reflection on that; did the community like being able to  
23 see it live and see some of that interaction?

24       MS. MALLOY: Absolutely. So in terms -- I'll take  
25 your first question first, which is around coordination

1 or communication. Because of the way that the Irvine  
2 funding flowed, you know, much of the design for it was  
3 actually done either before the Commission was chosen and  
4 seated and/or on a parallel track to as we were just  
5 getting settled, and you know, trying to figure out how  
6 to organize ourselves.

7         So there was really no formal communication between  
8 the Commission as an entity or the regional teams and the  
9 organizations that were on the ground doing the work.  
10 All of the information that those organizations had to  
11 work with was the same set of information that the  
12 general public did. It was what we shared in meetings;  
13 it was what we shared, you know, kind of as written  
14 information around how to submit your testimony, that  
15 type of thing.

16         I do think this is an area where public perception  
17 really matters and I encourage you, you know, to be very  
18 thoughtful around this, is that we really appreciated --  
19 and looking back, we know that part of our success was so  
20 much of the groundwork that was laid by all of these  
21 community organizations. And at the same time, as  
22 Commissioners, you're there to represent everyone.

23         You're there to treat everybody equally. And so in  
24 terms of communication and coordination, I would really  
25 encourage you to bifurcate the funding decisions and kind

1 of who gets preferential treatment. You know, everyone  
2 gets the same -- it's the same rules at play for  
3 everybody. Everyone gets the same amount of time to  
4 present, whether it's an individual or whether it's a  
5 grouping of individuals that are going to present.

6 I think that there can be, through the -- if there  
7 is a kind of entity or entities, nonprofit entities that  
8 are helping coordinate and share information, that is  
9 great. But the role of the Commission is to make sure  
10 you reach as many different audiences as possible versus  
11 only going deep with a much smaller set.

12 So that is just, you know, one, I think, dynamic  
13 because it will be perceived -- or may be perceived by  
14 some that there are people that are being listened to  
15 more by the Commission if there is -- if the  
16 communication is not done in a way that's really kind of  
17 fair and equitable, et cetera.

18 The second thing I'll say is just around the  
19 meetings. So there were two different types of meetings  
20 that we had; sometimes, they were adjacent to each other  
21 on a very, very long days. But there were the hearings  
22 that we did, the public hearings where their sole purpose  
23 was to be able to receive testimony from community  
24 members. So the many hours of individuals coming and  
25 sharing, you know, sometimes they would just share in

1 their own voice, sometimes they would have a translator  
2 that would help them to be able to communicate to the  
3 Commission. And we did not make any decisions in those  
4 meetings. It was really just for input for our ability  
5 to absorb; that information would all get collected and  
6 synthesized for us to refer back to.

7       The other type of meeting that we had were our  
8 business meetings. And so our business meetings are much  
9 like what you're doing right now, where you're getting  
10 information that will kind of help you with the task at  
11 hand. And ultimately, those business meetings will  
12 have -- a major part of what you'll be doing is drawing  
13 the lines; you'll actually be doing the mapping in real  
14 time.

15       So I think that that distinction is important.  
16 Towards the latter part of the process as time gets more  
17 compressed, there are moments where you will be drawing  
18 lines in real time and you will receive information from  
19 the public as you are deliberating on a specific region,  
20 you know, a specific issue that you're noodling on.

21       I remember being, you know, looking at  
22 visualizations from our mappers, and you know, talking  
23 about different alternatives, and we would get feedback  
24 from the community; sometimes it was from a collective of  
25 community members, you know, sometimes it was a data

1 report that was related to -- you know, I remember  
2 particularly on the flight path to Los Angeles  
3 International Airport, a number of environmental issues  
4 with fuel getting dropped in the neighborhoods going over  
5 it. You know, so we got that kind of information of, you  
6 know, it really matters, that whole area has unique  
7 concerns around the airport, et cetera.

8       So you will be able to do the -- to receive the  
9 information in real time from the public, but I think it  
10 is important to continue that where people can  
11 dynamically and concretely see what the mapping tasks  
12 look like. We found that all those hearings that we did  
13 up until the point where we released a draft map, there  
14 was limited utility in some of the testimony that we were  
15 receiving.

16       Even despite us having given a framework of, here's  
17 what your testimony should look like in order for it to  
18 be actionable, it was still only once people really saw  
19 lines on paper and where neighborhoods had been placed  
20 that then they really got concrete and say, well,  
21 actually that feedback I gave you before, what I really  
22 meant -- and it got much more pointed and crisp and  
23 clear.

24       So I do think that, you know, technology has  
25 continued to improve, which is great for your task at

1 hand, and would really encourage you to keep doing that  
2 live interaction.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Now the hands are going.  
4 Let's see, I have Commissioner Sinay, Commissioner  
5 Toledo. Yes?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'll go last after Pedro.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So Commissioner Toledo.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And I believe Commissioner  
9 Taylor had his hand up first.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's great. I'm glad you  
11 guys are watching each other. So Commissioner Taylor,  
12 Commissioner Toledo, Commissioner Ahmad, and then  
13 Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Turner.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you and good morning.  
15 This question is to whomever can answer it appropriately.  
16 I'm curious to know, although you use the terms broadly  
17 often, I'm curious to know what the Irvine Foundation's  
18 definition is of underrepresented racial and ethnic  
19 groups, and I guess it's just to make sure that our  
20 definitions, I guess, fall within the same realm. Is the  
21 Irvine Foundation concerned with the political  
22 representation, voting empowerment, or just, you know,  
23 more broadly what that definition is?

24 And then I'm also curious to know for the 2010  
25 Commission, was there a process that they used to choose

1 which partners they thought could more fulfill their  
2 goals? When they thought about the outside partners, did  
3 they go through a vetting process where they felt that we  
4 could use this group because they can help us reach our  
5 goals, or something to that extent?

6 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So yeah, I can speak to both  
7 the criteria that we utilized at the Irvine Foundation in  
8 the last cycle, and it's quite similar to that which  
9 Philanthropy California is utilizing in this cycle.

10 So when we speak of historically underrepresented  
11 communities, our consideration is primarily looking at  
12 communities of color who vote at lower rates, often, than  
13 the general population and who are generally less  
14 represented in elected office. So our focus was on  
15 organizations who had deep relationships and a track  
16 record of working within, for example, the Latino  
17 community, the black community, the Asian-American  
18 community, as well as immigrant populations who also fit  
19 that definition of historical underrepresentation.

20 And in terms of selecting among groups, we're really  
21 looking at a number of criteria. One is organizations  
22 that are wholly nonpartisan and focused on 501(c)(3)  
23 civic engagement. We're very clear, again both  
24 referencing in the last cycle and this cycle, this is not  
25 about getting any particular incumbents, you know,

1 improving their chances for election or leaning, helping  
2 any political party.

3       This is about communities and communities of  
4 interest being able to express, you know, their vision  
5 and experience of how they see themselves most fairly  
6 represented. So we looked for organizations who came to  
7 us with that understanding and commitment that that's how  
8 they would carry out the work; that was very really  
9 primary.

10       We also look at groups that they themselves  
11 demonstrate an understanding of the redistricting process  
12 to the extent that they're looking to help others be  
13 engaged in it. They'd have a track record of  
14 constructive civic engagement in these regions and  
15 relationships with the communities they're aiming to  
16 engage, and who work well with others.

17       I mean, you know, we know that there's the  
18 importance of communities being able to listen to one  
19 another, to think about fairness not just for their own  
20 community, but across communities is important, so we're  
21 looking for folks that bring that kind of constructive  
22 orientation to the effort.

23       I hope that's helpful.

24       MS. MALLOY: And I'll add in around the selection of  
25 groups and partners that, because we have so little money

1 in the bank, we were barely able to pay our own bills,  
2 much less anybody else's. So in some ways, that made our  
3 job easier in that we didn't select partners. Whatever  
4 partners showed up to participate in redistricting were  
5 the ones who were involved and really helped to weigh in  
6 on the process.

7 As Amy described, there was an autonomy in terms of  
8 how the philanthropic entities, which at that point was  
9 really largely Irvine, was vetting and selecting the  
10 nonprofit organizations. When we would -- I'll give the  
11 example of, we had some days where we invited group  
12 testimony on the maps. So most of the time when we did  
13 outreach hearings, it was individuals coming to share  
14 their perspectives.

15 And then we had a couple of days where we'd had  
16 longer presentation slots that were available for, you  
17 know, as I talked about these networks, right, whether  
18 they were business associations or kind of statewide  
19 organizations that had, you know, thousands of members  
20 that they were speaking on behalf of, we thought that was  
21 a more rich set of information that didn't make sense to  
22 squeeze into the two to three minutes that an individual  
23 person got.

24 And so we had those slots that people could, on  
25 behalf of their group, sign up for and submit materials

1 for, and that was an open call. We did not select and  
2 say we want to hear from this entity and not from this  
3 entity; it was really based on what kind of the interest  
4 expressed from the statewide level and in regions was, so  
5 that may be something that the Commission would like to  
6 consider doing this time around.

7       There were times where, as a Commission, we got all  
8 kinds of unsolicited advice, right? Like, that will just  
9 happen and I'm sure it already has, right? You don't  
10 necessarily need to ask. You know, those organizations  
11 and individuals who have interest and shots for  
12 redistricting, they will let you know what's on their  
13 mind.

14       And at the same time, there were moments where we,  
15 as a Commission, we were struggling with things that we  
16 specifically named in open session. You know, this is an  
17 issue we're grappling with; we would really welcome  
18 public input on this. And so there were times where that  
19 actually teed up an opportunity for organizations and  
20 individuals to weigh in and to submit a letter, to submit  
21 an email saying, you know, here's what we think or here's  
22 a legal precedent or whatever the thing was that was  
23 going to help us make a decision.

24       One really concrete example of this was that there  
25 were parts of the state where the demographics were very

1 complex and where you could actually draw districts in  
2 multiple ways. It wasn't as though there was one right  
3 answer. Legally, there were multiple configurations that  
4 would support, you know, the Voting Rights Act and all  
5 the different factors we had to balance.

6 And so in those places, we actually turned to some  
7 of the communities and said, we'd love your feedback, you  
8 know. What do you actually want based on the history and  
9 the relationships and the aspirations of this area? And  
10 so we saw some of the nonprofit entities come together in  
11 places to submit what they called unity maps, which were  
12 saying, you know, as an entity, I'm not here representing  
13 only the African-American community or only the Asian-  
14 Pacific Islander community or only the Latinx community,  
15 but really those communities coming together and doing  
16 some kind of negotiation and talking about scenarios,  
17 engaging their community members and coming to the  
18 Commission and saying, here's our best thinking.  
19 Obviously, you're the decisions makers, but hopefully  
20 this is helpful as you weigh different alternatives.

21 And so that is also a model that we found to be very  
22 successful, and it certainly helped us to avoid some  
23 blind spots that we may have had as Commissioners who,  
24 for as much research as we might have done, were largely  
25 coming in with, you know, this much information about a

1 place relative to those who actually, you know, live,  
2 work, and play in that place.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to -- I'm happy  
5 to see that various healthcare foundations have stepped  
6 up and are contributing to this effort, especially given  
7 the fact that where people live actually has a  
8 significant impact on individuals' health status, and so  
9 that's thrilling.

10 And in that, I was thinking about, yes, contributing  
11 funds is one way that a foundation can support, but have  
12 there been efforts to try to get the foundations and  
13 their partners to educate the community on what  
14 redistricting is and do more of a public education? I  
15 know they significant marketing budgets that might be  
16 able to contribute to in-kind efforts.

17 So other types of contributions that these  
18 organizations can do, especially the larger ones, just in  
19 terms of nonpartisan, just public education about  
20 redistricting is, why it's important, how it impacts the  
21 local communities, right, a place-based education.

22 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: You know, that's a great idea.  
23 What we've done thus far is Philanthropy California,  
24 through its various -- they hold various educational  
25 forums. So we've educated a broad range of foundations.

1 What we haven't done is what you're suggesting, or what  
2 we haven't focused on is asking the foundations through  
3 their own communications apparatus to, you know, share  
4 information with their partners, but it's certainly  
5 something that can be done in this upcoming cycle.

6 I mean, I do recall when we looked back ten years  
7 ago, the Irvine Foundation did some of that with our own  
8 resources. The president at the time wrote an op-ed that  
9 was placed, I know, in the San Diego paper and really  
10 helped at that time to boost some interest; this was  
11 during the commissioner application period. So we had  
12 done some of that, but we hadn't yet given some thought  
13 to how we encourage our partners in this round to join us  
14 in communication, so I appreciate the suggestion.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad.

16 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you both for your  
17 presentations. My question was actually asked and  
18 answered, so I will pass. Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay and then  
20 Commissioner Turner, or do you want Commissioner Turner  
21 to go first? Okay, and then Commissioner Yee.  
22 Commissioner Turner?

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I thought I'd taken it off  
24 mute. I'm sorry. Thank you both very much for the  
25 helpful information. I wanted to ask -- actually, I

1 almost said asked and passed when Commissioner Toledo  
2 asked this question about just a broader spectrum of  
3 public education, but I think I still want to ask down  
4 that path and maybe a different way.

5 Thinking of our current time -- looking at what you  
6 did and was successful at in 2010 and thinking, of  
7 course, our current time that we're in with all of the, I  
8 guess, multiple and competing priorities that individuals  
9 have right now, particularly in areas that are  
10 underrepresented. So we do work now -- and everyone made  
11 the switch when we had to, you know, be inside, et  
12 cetera, kind of went to Zoom, and we're at a place now  
13 where that's already seeming to feel overplayed for a lot  
14 of our community groups. People are starting to feel the  
15 pull of, do I show up again to another Zoom call for  
16 things that are already pretty crystallized in their  
17 minds as important.

18 And then you have the redistricting; that still is  
19 very foreign to a whole lot of people that I'm exposed  
20 to. So I'm wondering about two things: number one, the  
21 gauge of success -- and I'm sure it's somewhere -- from  
22 your outreach efforts that you had in 2010. You had your  
23 hearings. What was the comparative numbers that actually  
24 showed up to participate based on the amount of outreach  
25 that you did?

1           And then now fast forward 2020 where we're in, we  
2 have more outreach that we're going to do. Once people  
3 show up, I don't have a doubt that we can really educate  
4 them and help them understand what it is, and they're  
5 coming because they'll probably already want to  
6 participate. I'm still very much unsure about how we're  
7 going to get at the numbers that we need to in the time  
8 period that we're in, and curious to learn your thoughts  
9 taking all of your historical knowledge from 2010 and now  
10 fast forward into 2020. How do you get at people that  
11 have multiple priorities that may not, you know,  
12 understand even why they're showing up?

13           So it's the understanding about why I'm coming, and  
14 I need to elevate that priority into one of the levels,  
15 you know, of importance, that I'm going to show up in  
16 spite of all the other things that I'm showing up for.  
17 Where does that communication happen in broad  
18 advertisement about what it is to make people want to  
19 show up? So maybe a comment, maybe a question tied in  
20 there, et cetera, but it's kind of where my mind was  
21 going at the level that we currently are.

22           MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So I'll take first crack at an  
23 answer, and Connie, would love your thoughts on this as  
24 well.

25           You know, the groups that we have supported through

1 the Philanthropy California fund thus far and the groups  
2 that we're reaching out to who will likely apply for  
3 grants at the local level, many of these groups employ  
4 what's often called in the field, integrated voter  
5 engagement. So they employ an ongoing communication  
6 relationship with community members in their sphere, not  
7 just around election time, not just when the census comes  
8 up, but throughout the year, and understanding that, you  
9 know, democratic participation is an ongoing need and  
10 requirement for the health of our democracy.

11 And so I think a lot of these groups, what they see  
12 is, you know, in terms of the shifting priorities and  
13 what's on the front burner of one's democratic  
14 participation, in 2021, it's going to be redistricting.  
15 So I know, now the fact that sort of folks at the grass  
16 tops see that, that there is a challenge.

17 There is a lift to help community members understand  
18 it, it isn't as immediately apparent as voting or filling  
19 out the census or some other things, but it's that  
20 translation that these groups can do and need to do and  
21 are committed to doing so that folks understand this is a  
22 critical process; to be a part of it has implications for  
23 a decade ahead. So it's not easy, but it's really part  
24 of the fabric of these groups' commitment to ongoing  
25 civic participation.

1           And you know, I know -- the last I'll say is I know  
2 that many of these groups also were involved in census  
3 outreach, and that required some pivoting from events,  
4 fairs, door-to-door, you know, some of the other outreach  
5 approaches they usually use. I think folks have learned  
6 some things. Again, there's still more to learn about  
7 how do you continually engage people in a way that's safe  
8 but isn't just Zoom call after Zoom call. So hopefully,  
9 they'll apply some of those lessons from the census, but  
10 I know there's still some creativity that's going to be  
11 called for.

12           Connie, anything you'd add?

13           MS. MALLOY: You know, my humble opinion is simply  
14 that as a Commission, you're not going to be able to do  
15 this, but you can help resource and tee up others who  
16 will, who have been active in census, who are doing voter  
17 education right now or have been over the recent months  
18 where there's already a trusted kind of messenger and  
19 relationship that you can build on as a Commission.

20           I would say on trusted messengers, for example, you  
21 know, my kids -- I have three kids, they all go to public  
22 school. You know, I should have filled out my census  
23 form. I didn't fill out my census form for a long time,  
24 and then I started getting text messages from our  
25 principal about the census, right? There's, you know,

1 networks.

2       Each of you may have some other kind of linkage  
3 entity that you're connected to that plays a big role in  
4 your daily life. And it's those kind of central hubs  
5 where embedding this into those organizations, regular  
6 points of contact that they have with communities. It  
7 can be through social services, it could be through  
8 education, et cetera, is going to be really critical.

9       And so we had considered and did just some very  
10 modest communications work. My main regret, I think,  
11 from the communications work that we did, is that I wish  
12 we had had communications staff that had deeper capacity  
13 on being able to utilize ethnic media, multilingual media  
14 to really expand our reach.

15       And so that's something to consider both, you know,  
16 as you're hiring staff, as you're thinking about  
17 consultants, as you're thinking about the kinds of grants  
18 that you might make, that those are -- you know, it's not  
19 just the kind of 501(c)(3) infrastructure entities.

20       It's also you know, not always the L.A. Times, even  
21 though they're important and you know, I know John Myers  
22 is going to cover redistricting, and I also know the vast  
23 majority of people you need to hear about are not going  
24 to read John Myers' column as much as I will.

25       So just to kind of keep that in mind as well, that

1 that intent around public education and information is  
2 certainly something that should be built into your  
3 approach. And it can also get really expensive, right,  
4 so you want to, you know, not spend all your budget on  
5 these big ad buys that may or may not result in  
6 something, in really concrete and valuable information  
7 that the Commission can therefore use.

8 I will say, in terms of the outreach, the way that  
9 Irvine -- and I came into the foundation, you know, long  
10 after those grants had been made. But the way that the  
11 grants had been set up were that organizations who  
12 applied for that funding, they were the ones that sort of  
13 self-designed what their bodies of outreach would look  
14 like.

15 And so based on all of the kind of experience and  
16 expertise that they had, they would share, you know,  
17 here's some of the strategies that we are finding are  
18 most effective in this particular population or in this  
19 particular region. Here's how we think we can move the  
20 needle, so here's the numbers, the metrics that we would  
21 use to guide our success and how much we think we can  
22 really up public participation in this process.

23 And then that helped to guide the decision-making  
24 that Irvine Foundation did and to be able to provide some  
25 sort of tracking in terms of, you know, who showed up to

1 the table who would not have otherwise.

2 And so whether it's something that this Commission  
3 decides to do yourself or you decide to partner with an  
4 entity to be able to do some of that regranting and  
5 partnership cultivation, you can certainly build in some  
6 of those upfront questions and analysis to help  
7 prioritize who would actually be the most effective  
8 partners based on your goals and on this, you know,  
9 really tricky time that we're in.

10 Certainly, I know there are some organizations who  
11 are really critical in local communities who are  
12 struggling to adapt their approaches in ways that deals  
13 with COVID. There's others who have been able to  
14 experiment and are innovating and just really changing  
15 their model in a way that fits the times.

16 And so you're right in that middle time where  
17 organizations are literally trying to figure it out now,  
18 and so I think you would get some really interesting  
19 proposals and ideas and responses from what organizations  
20 have been learning through this layering of census and  
21 voter education that really has been 2020.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Sinay, are you  
23 still deferring to others? Okay, so Commissioner Yee,  
24 and then I have a couple of questions as well.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Thank you to both our

1 presenters. This is so helpful. I have a question for  
2 either or both of you, and specifically looking for  
3 advice about the North Coastal region.

4 As you know, once again, there's no Commissioner  
5 from that region. And Commissioner Malloy, you mentioned  
6 that there was a choice not to do a public hearing up  
7 there, so here we are again. What specific advice for  
8 reaching that region? And then more generally, I mean,  
9 not to assume anything about that region, how to overcome  
10 skepticism you may have encountered, you know, about  
11 redistricting work in general and build that kind of  
12 trust that we want to have?

13 MS. MALLOY: So in terms of the regions of the state  
14 and the North Coast specifically, one option that we had  
15 considered as a Commission, which I think still has some  
16 merit, was the idea of dividing up into multi-partisan  
17 teams and having a smaller representative team go out and  
18 sort of host whatever touch point happened in that  
19 community, with other Commissioners being able to watch  
20 or join in virtually at the time that it was happening  
21 and/or to watch the information afterwards.

22 You know, believe it or not, ten years ago, that  
23 seemed like a really innovative thing to do. Like,  
24 how -- there were a lot of legal questions that came up  
25 around, well, what if you have three Commissioners there

1 and the others -- you know, we were not as fluid as we  
2 are now with using many of these tools like Zoom.

3       So I think that may be a way of providing greater  
4 reach for the Commission and also being able to manage  
5 some of the very real, you know, COVID issues with, you  
6 know, trying to limit travel and be very careful about  
7 how much you're physically interacting with each other  
8 and with members of the public. So that, I think, is  
9 worth considering.

10       And then being very proactive in the areas of the  
11 state where you don't foresee sending people physically  
12 as a Commission on how do you design an interaction in  
13 that community or opportunities for that community to  
14 weigh in that have really robust technology that will  
15 accommodate that.

16       You know, having supported from a philanthropic  
17 perspective, work in all corners of California, there's  
18 quite a variance in terms of quality and consistency of  
19 broadband access, Wi-Fi access, et cetera, even in some  
20 of our, you know, entities like libraries, et cetera, so  
21 it's not something that you want to leave until later in  
22 the process to assume that that infrastructure is there  
23 and ready to use.

24       So that vetting process as you get your staff kind  
25 of up and running to really prioritize, here's what it

1 takes to have the specs to do a really great virtual  
2 interaction in place. And if you're not able to actually  
3 do that virtually in a place that is important for the  
4 maps, then there needs to be a plan B that you're  
5 developing really early on. You know, you don't want to  
6 just, oh well, it didn't work out, because that can  
7 really be damaging in terms of the data that you get and  
8 also just in terms of public perception and public will.

9       You do have the gift of time and of foresight to be  
10 able to do more planning and to also have more  
11 technological tools at your disposal that we did the last  
12 time.

13       And then in regards to skepticism, I believe we  
14 combat the skepticism by doing the work. And that, yes,  
15 there is a kind of consistent and clear and multi-  
16 partisan message and way that you conduct yourselves that  
17 really helps to tell the story and kind of paint the  
18 picture of what this is.

19       But we can't pretend that redistricting at a  
20 national level, you know, having traveled to many of  
21 these other states where reforms are in play or  
22 contemplated, you know, we are in a very different  
23 position as a state when it comes to redistricting than  
24 most of our peers are. And redistricting does have a  
25 really complex, and you know, sometimes ugly history in

1 terms of the politics there.

2 As a Commissioner, I had times where, you know,  
3 someone didn't like what I said in a meeting and I would  
4 wake up to a really nasty article and it would be very  
5 demoralizing. And I also had to learn to just really  
6 have a thicker skin, focus on the task at hand, and  
7 know -- learn from maybe there was a valid critique or  
8 question or consideration that could be built in how we  
9 were working moving forward, so it wasn't to be  
10 dismissive of that feedback.

11 But it certainly, in my opinion, not through words  
12 that we will combat the skepticism. It's through  
13 actually modeling, doing the work and showing that it can  
14 be done in a different way. I know that when we did our  
15 hearings, it was the first time that the public had ever  
16 had a voice in redistricting, and so they had so much to  
17 say because the districts had always been drawn and there  
18 was no place for input, right, that was never how it was  
19 designed.

20 You know, now you will have an interesting  
21 experience of there will be people you hear from who have  
22 benefited from and seen really positive changes in their  
23 communities as a result of some of the district shifts  
24 that happened the last round. You may also hear from  
25 people who don't like the districts that were made and

1 may say, you know, next time, I want you to X, Y, or Z.

2 But the beautiful thing about that is that the process  
3 has a level of integrity and visibility that it did not  
4 used to have.

5       And I think, you know, even as a Commissioner, you  
6 know, I had -- I still have thoughts of, you know, if  
7 we'd had one more month, right, if we had had, you know,  
8 we might have gotten refined this area or this aspect of  
9 the map. And yet, in going through the legal processes  
10 that we had to go through as a Commission where our maps  
11 were opened up to scrutiny from all angles, time and time  
12 again we were told by the courts that we had both solid  
13 products, but more importantly, our process had held up  
14 to what the intent of the voters had been.

15       And so I think both through the way you do this work  
16 and through, you know, the analyses that will follow,  
17 you're demonstrating that there is a different way. So I  
18 know that's going to feel frustrating and dissatisfying  
19 in some ways, but you're doing it, you know. And I think  
20 over time, it certainly has been the case going to other  
21 states, that the hope and potential of what we've done  
22 here has been so invigorating, so the skepticism you get  
23 here is nothing compared to what's happening in other  
24 states. So just, you know, own that and appreciate  
25 yourselves for the role you're playing in that.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I'm going to -- it's  
2 somewhat related to Commissioner Yee's question, where  
3 there's that couple of -- what normally would not be  
4 considered underrepresented. But in terms of the  
5 Commissioners, I think Sacramento is about as northern as  
6 we go, and that would be me, so then there's another  
7 third of California that's very rural.

8 And so I think this is a question probably -- well,  
9 for both of you, but I was kind of looking towards Amy  
10 also. In terms of your network and your resources, how  
11 wide is it in terms of, like, north of Sacramento to the  
12 rest of California, to the border of -- yeah.

13 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah, no, great question. So  
14 in terms of some of the groups that we supported already,  
15 they really work statewide and work with local groups  
16 throughout the state. But I'll note that in terms of the  
17 redistricting -- the RFP that we just put out, you know,  
18 I'm thinking in my head, I think a Sacramento group is  
19 probably the most northern.

20 So it's making me think to go back and look at other  
21 networks and think about the more northern areas of the  
22 state and are there groups that -- you know, with whom we  
23 should be sharing the RFP, so I'm taking that as  
24 homework. We're asking for the proposals -- it'd be  
25 later in October, so there's certainly still time. It's

1 a very good point.

2 MS. MALLOY: And what I would just add to that, too,  
3 is that, you know, through, for example, the community  
4 foundations. You know, I think of -- if I remember  
5 correctly from when I was at Irvine, there's the Humboldt  
6 Area Foundation; there's foundations like that that are  
7 funding great nonprofit work in some of the regions that  
8 are more removed that you may not as easily get to.

9 Those organizations that they're funding, they may  
10 not do redistricting, per se. It might not make sense  
11 for them to apply for a grant from this fund, but they  
12 could still be really helpful in terms of just outreach,  
13 of making those organizations and all their members and  
14 clients aware of the fact that these sessions are  
15 happening and being able to also kind of drum up support.

16 So we're happy to support your outreach, and I would  
17 just really encourage you to ask your staff to dig deeper  
18 on the types of networks that you want them to  
19 investigate and to look at the lists of who they're  
20 reaching out to, asking them and yourselves the question  
21 of who's not here and how can we spread the net wider.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I really appreciate  
23 that. That's kind of what we've been trying to focus on.  
24 Okay, do we -- you know, and I'm just looking, since I do  
25 live in a rural area, I'm thinking what do we have.

1 We've got, you know, the church groups, we've got Rotary,  
2 we've got Lion's Club, you know, and the informal groups,  
3 of course, but that's great if that's also similar type  
4 structure going north. But I really appreciate your  
5 feedback.

6 And then the other -- there was one other question  
7 regarding the disability community. We did have a public  
8 comment on that. So do your outreach efforts also -- or  
9 your network also reach out to that, to the disability  
10 communities?

11 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So the Fair Representation Fund  
12 isn't focused on the disability community. It's  
13 obviously hugely important to reach out to that community  
14 and make sure that, you know, opportunities for input is  
15 accessible to those communities, but that hasn't been a  
16 focus of the Fair Representation Fund.

17 MS. MALLOY: And one point I would add, too, is that  
18 I think this is an area where there's legal requirements  
19 on what you provide in terms of accessibility, and then  
20 there's also above and beyond what just the bare minimum  
21 that you're legally required to do.

22 And so you know, I've been seeing even in  
23 professional conferences that I have tapped into some  
24 interesting new things that are done. Say, if I am  
25 speaking and then I will take a moment and describe

1 myself for somebody who might be listening but unable to  
2 see.

3       And so again, I would encourage with the staff you  
4 have that is setting up, you know, the backbone  
5 infrastructure for these hearings, to really encourage  
6 and push them around what is best practice as it relates  
7 to accessibility, not just the bare minimum of how do we  
8 meet the California state law.

9       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you. Next we have, I  
10 think it was Commissioner Akutagawa we have. We have 4  
11 minutes left right now, and then we'll have to take a 15-  
12 minute break, so I just want to give everybody the time  
13 frames. So Commissioner Akutagawa.

14       COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, my question will be  
15 really fast. I'm just curious, any thoughts or advice  
16 on, given the fires that have been happening, especially  
17 throughout Northern California and a lot of the rural  
18 communities have been really displaced, any thoughts on  
19 how best to conduct outreach, given that they'll probably  
20 still be in recovery mode while we'll be trying to do our  
21 outreach. And I don't know if you've faced anything like  
22 that during the 2010 Census time, any major disasters  
23 like that.

24       MS. MALLOY: You know, you've got layers of  
25 challenges between COVID, which was already causing some

1 level of displacement, and when I think about COVID in  
2 particular with educational entities. You know,  
3 normally, a lot of the colleges would have their students  
4 on campus fulltime. Some of them have had to, you know,  
5 find other lodging, go back home, et cetera, so there's  
6 both the fires and the rural displacement.

7       And then I think with COVID, that may be an area  
8 where collaboration with local elected officials, and  
9 particularly the staff. I think you have to be careful  
10 as it relates to elected officials, you know, even if  
11 they're not at the state level, but the staff is really  
12 able to help you understand how the displacement is  
13 occurring. So there may be other gathering places,  
14 shelters, clearinghouses of information, contact  
15 information for people who have had to temporarily or  
16 permanently relocate where you can design a more targeted  
17 outreach strategy that meets the conditions of what that  
18 part of the state or what those cities are actually going  
19 through.

20       And I think given how much those communities have at  
21 stake in terms of recovery efforts, in terms of  
22 leadership over the months and years to come, just I  
23 really encourage you as well to be very proactive in  
24 mapping out now what that might look like, because it  
25 will probably be more complex than what you might have in

1 other parts of the state.

2 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: And the only piece I'd add -- I  
3 think those are all excellent suggestions -- is too in  
4 many communities, and Connie reminds me with the  
5 reference to the Humboldt Area Foundation, there's  
6 community foundations who often serve as, you know, a  
7 local nexus of information and there to be of assistance  
8 and many of them have been involved in recovery efforts.  
9 So you know, one can refer to the League. There's a  
10 League of California Community Foundations that lists  
11 California community foundations; they can also be  
12 helpful partners.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner  
14 Toledo, I'm going to -- we're going to go ahead and take  
15 a break because we are at the 90-minute mark. And so  
16 when we come back, you'll be first in line. How's that?  
17 And then also we will take public comments. And even if  
18 you've asked your two questions, please feel free to  
19 follow up with more questions as well.

20 So at this point, we're going to go ahead and take a  
21 break. And if everybody can come back at 12:10, that'd  
22 be great. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you and welcome back.  
25 And I appreciate Connie and Amy staying on for additional

1 questions; I really appreciate this conversation and your  
2 willingness to share your knowledge with us. So I'm  
3 going to go first to Commissioner Toledo.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Just in terms of thinking  
5 about the North Coast and other parts -- other rural  
6 parts of the state, as well as the importance of tribal  
7 governments and Native American communities that are in  
8 those areas. I'm -- there are many reservations up in  
9 the Mendocino area, Lake County, across the rural  
10 portions of California. And perhaps doing more outreach  
11 for the fund to ensure that they at least are able to  
12 know about it and participate if they're able to.  
13 Whether it's, you know, tribal governments or tribal  
14 organizations or their consortiums, like the California  
15 Rural Indian Health Board, which has been involved in  
16 various advocacy, and you know, the engagement efforts  
17 throughout all of those regions.

18 And also, you know, some statewide health  
19 organizations have funded efforts out in those regions,  
20 such as the California Endowment and with Blue Shield  
21 Foundation, just making sure that those areas have  
22 engagement, are able to participate in civically, and  
23 especially with advocacy in Sacramento and across the --  
24 and nationally as well.

25 So just thinking about -- ensuring that those

1 communities also are aware of this effort and are aware  
2 of the possible funding opportunities, should they be  
3 interested in participating. Thank you.

4 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah, that's a great comment  
5 and just a bit of information in that regard. I had a  
6 couple of conversations with California Native Vote, an  
7 organization that does civic engagement in the Native  
8 community.

9 And in our earlier conversations, they were just  
10 quite overwhelmed with, you know, issues related to COVID  
11 and other challenging that they were facing. But yeah,  
12 I've been planning to reach out to them again to see if  
13 we might be able to engage them in this effort. Thank  
14 you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, both of you. I  
17 think it's all of our -- you helped percolate thoughts,  
18 which is exactly what we wanted.

19 One question -- oh, I think it's important for full  
20 disclosure that San Diego Grantmaker -- I'm a consultant  
21 with San Diego Grantmakers. I'm facilitating their  
22 Binational Migration Funders Group. So since they're one  
23 of the partners of California Philanthropy, for the  
24 public, I just wanted to have that full disclosure.

25 I was on one of the national funder civic

1 participation calls around redistricting, and they were  
2 talking about the millions of dollars that their  
3 fundraising goal is. And they had 14 states that were a  
4 priority and California was not one of them, so I was  
5 just curious why that was so.

6 And then my second question is, what are the gaps  
7 that you're seeing based on the investments that  
8 Philanthropy California can do; what is keeping you awake  
9 at night that you can't do?

10 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Great, so I can answer both of  
11 those. I'm actually also working with this National  
12 Funders Collaborative focused on redistricting, and that  
13 effort had identified, among all of the states, 14  
14 states, as you noted, in particular in which to focus.  
15 And the thinking there really was -- there's a number of  
16 thoughts that went into that prioritization.

17 One is states that have been jerrymandered in the  
18 past and where there is also more of a history of voter  
19 suppression and suppression of civic engagement among  
20 historically underrepresented populations, so where the  
21 threats to fair maps are particularly pronounced. And so  
22 many of the states are in the South, and then there's  
23 some additional states as well. There's also  
24 consideration of the loss of Section 5 of the Voting  
25 Rights Act and what that means in particular, again, in

1 the South to the threats to fair redistricting.

2       And there's also a recognition in some that  
3 California does have a relatively more robust  
4 philanthropic sector. This occurred in national funding  
5 for census outreach as well, where they know California  
6 foundations do have some resources to put to this, so you  
7 know, compared to states such as many of the states in  
8 the South where there's less philanthropy; that was some  
9 of the thinking.

10       And then in terms of gaps for the philanthropic --  
11 for the Philanthropy California fund, I do think that  
12 funding the needs and the interests among local civic  
13 engagement groups to educate and mobilize communities  
14 around fair -- around redistricting, that the requests  
15 will be quite a bit greater than what we've been able to  
16 fundraise for.

17       So I think without additional resources, we just  
18 wouldn't be able to support the robust civic engagement  
19 throughout the state that we'd like to be able to do. So  
20 I think that's where we'll see the gap, is really funding  
21 the grassroots groups with strong relationships in these  
22 communities to do the kind of outreach that they'd like  
23 to do.

24       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Do we have any -- Commissioner  
25 Andersen and then Commissioner Vasquez.

1           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you both. This has  
2 been very enlightening. I do have one question about  
3 how, you know, a lot of the groups that you're talking  
4 about and that are already sort of going down that path  
5 with the funding, they all tend to be involved in  
6 advocacy, obviously, which is a more -- we're looking at  
7 redistricting and voting.

8           But how do we -- but that's not the only communities  
9 of interest. You know, obviously there are lots of  
10 communities of interests. How do you get in touch with  
11 the people who -- you know, they're just busy living  
12 their lives and they have no idea that she should be --  
13 how to get involved even if they hear about it. They're  
14 not part of organizations; they're just kind of average  
15 person out there and aren't part of an advocacy group.

16           How do they -- how should you try to reach them; how  
17 should we try to reach them? And even if they hear, hey,  
18 how would they get involved?

19           MS. MALLOY: I'll just say that this is an area  
20 where having your staff team be comprised of people who  
21 have some experience doing public outreach and who have  
22 some ability on how to segment kind of media  
23 participation is going to be really important and helpful  
24 to you.

25           For example, there are ways that you can, for fairly

1 cheaply, be able to do a good amount of grassroots  
2 outreach on social media that won't cost you a lot of  
3 money, but there's very different platforms or modes of  
4 doing that depending on who you're actually trying to  
5 reach. So to go back to the example we had earlier  
6 around students who were displaced because of COVID, you  
7 know, if you're trying to reach 20-somethings who are,  
8 you know, not on campus because of COVID, the platform  
9 that you use is not going to be Facebook, right? It  
10 might be Instagram or it might be others.

11 But this is something that you want to make sure  
12 that your communications capacity is not just set up to  
13 do press releases and kind of high-level messaging for,  
14 you know, 40 and 50-something professionals, and being  
15 able to kind of target in that arena.

16 With the individuals who are, you know, in some  
17 cases, say, in a more rural area and maybe not as  
18 connected on social media, et cetera, I mean, really any  
19 kind of place where people gather, even in socially  
20 distanced ways, or have their basic needs met is an  
21 avenue that you can think about as part of your outreach  
22 strategy.

23 So you know, a grocery store. Like, this is about  
24 kind of people power that you'll need to actually get  
25 your messages in the right places. But literally, I know

1 in some communities that are more rural, the bulletin  
2 board by the bathrooms in the grocery store is where a  
3 lot of people pull off a little piece of paper that has,  
4 like, information on how to follow up around something.

5 So it is going to come down to that level of  
6 creativity and having some, you know, what works for  
7 certain demographics and just thinking about, you know,  
8 the segmentation and really digging in with whoever  
9 you're asking to act on your behalf as to what the  
10 specifics are of their strategy. Not just, we plan to  
11 reach these people and we'll report back on it, but  
12 actually what are you doing and being able to have a  
13 conversation about that as Commission that the public is  
14 aware of so that you can refine it together as a group.

15 I'll be honest, this was an area that got a little  
16 bit challenging, I think, between Commissioners and  
17 staff. We had a wonderful staff. We would have never  
18 accomplished our goals if it wasn't for the collective  
19 effort across Commissioners and staff. But it also,  
20 because we had a small team and we were all working  
21 overtime to make this happen, we had to really get in the  
22 weeds sometimes as Commissioners around, like, what's the  
23 strategy here. I see we have some gaps, like, let's  
24 address them.

25 And not just assume that what our staff was doing

1 was exactly hitting the mark for the task we had at hand,  
2 particularly when some of the staff that you may hire --  
3 you know, we made a decision to hire staff that was  
4 largely folks who had come from the State. They had come  
5 from and were really familiar and comfortable navigating  
6 the bureaucracy that we were all really unfamiliar with,  
7 but that was a really different task at hand and having  
8 to do time sensitive, high stakes outreach for, you know,  
9 drawing political maps, right?

10       It just was a completely different set of tools that  
11 we needed to do the external-facing piece of the work.  
12 And so we also had to really kind of push and engage and  
13 bring what resources we had, make our own suggestions on  
14 who to reach out to or what community venues might be  
15 worth considering in a place.

16       So just really, you know, encourage you that you --  
17 obviously here, staff is there to act on your behalf and  
18 the task at hand is so important and critical, don't be  
19 shy or assume that they are going to be thinking about  
20 all these different things. You know, really bring all  
21 your best and most creative thinking to the table.

22       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez.

23       COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. This is -- thank you  
24 to our presenters for their presentation. I have been  
25 intentionally stepping back to leave space for other

1 voices because a lot of this work is really my work, you  
2 know, in organizing and community work and grassroots  
3 work.

4       And so really my comment is more somewhat, you know,  
5 in response to Commissioner Andersen's question. The  
6 community groups that, you know, either are currently  
7 being funded, have been funded in the past, or could be  
8 potentially funded to support our work are very diverse  
9 in terms of their membership, the population that they  
10 work with, et cetera.

11       So I think it made me realize how much I take for  
12 granted, how complex these networks of community  
13 organizations are. And so certainly I think there are,  
14 you know, very robust membership organizations that have  
15 explicit, you know, ways for community folks to be  
16 members and have that, I think, much more robust  
17 infrastructure.

18       There are also other community organizations that  
19 really -- if you live in this geography, larger county  
20 region, what have you, we consider you a member whether  
21 or not you have engaged with us in any capacity or not.  
22 You know, and there's a whole spectrum in terms of how  
23 organized these community organizations are.

24       And so I think sort of to -- a point made earlier  
25 that really without -- the way I see this without

1 additional funding, whether it's from private  
2 philanthropy, or you know, the Commission partnering  
3 directly with folks that these organizations with vast  
4 levels of networks and connections to community groups  
5 would not be able to do the kinds of things, like, you  
6 know, flyer local grocery stores, or you know, go into  
7 PTA meetings and give a short presentation about  
8 redistricting and how, you know, the Commission is coming  
9 to your region in short order, right?

10       So I think there's lots of different ways that we  
11 can -- we, directly, the Commission, through our staff,  
12 promote some of that grassroots organizing. But really,  
13 I can't imagine how the Commission, without partnering in  
14 some way with a vast network of community organizations  
15 would be able to do that hyper-local grassroots  
16 organizing ourselves, and that we will really, really  
17 need to partner with local community organizers, broadly  
18 defined, in order to do that work and those folks should  
19 be paid to be doing work on our behalf.

20       So those are my comments.

21       MS. MALLOY: I'll just -- from the perspective of  
22 someone who's funding not through Irvine and not around  
23 redistricting, but also still supports a number of civic  
24 engagement efforts. There's also in this moment, there's  
25 the people power, the actual kind of time and skills and

1 capacity it takes to build relationship and do the  
2 education and outreach, and because of COVID, there are  
3 the technological tools that help enable that  
4 relationship.

5       You know, whereas many organizations have been able  
6 to use a kind of door-to-door model or they'll have a  
7 community hub where everybody comes to events at the  
8 community hub and that's where a lot of the information  
9 gets communicated and distributed. Now, many of those  
10 organizations have had to, you know, purchase a Zoom  
11 account or they've had to, you know, get new tools that  
12 they are training their staff or expanding the ability of  
13 their members and community members to be able to use  
14 those tools.

15       So I think a question also for the Commission to be  
16 wrestling with is, you know, what are the tools that you  
17 are going to use in your effort of doing the outreach,  
18 and you know, allowing community members and groups to be  
19 able to submit map proposals, and are those tools that  
20 are -- how can they be more widely available and known?

21       One example from the last redistricting cycle,  
22 which, you know, I think the jury is still out. It  
23 wasn't the most successful thing that was funded by  
24 philanthropy. But the intention was right, which was  
25 having a set of technical assistance locations where

1 there were computers available that had the mapping  
2 software where people could go in and actually get some  
3 support around how to do the mapping and how to create  
4 their own draft maps, whether it was at a really micro-  
5 level or whether they were a larger group that was trying  
6 to propose something in a regional level.

7 Now, I think the actual uptake on how much those  
8 were used, et cetera, how much they were promoted, was  
9 not as strong as it could have been. But one exciting  
10 aspect about this moment is that because of technology,  
11 you can actually get a lot more reach and access  
12 potentially for the tools that you do choose to adopt.

13 But whether that's something that -- you know, how  
14 are you going to make that available? The sooner you can  
15 make that available, the better, because these  
16 organizations and staff and volunteers are going to have  
17 to figure out how to wrap their heads around it and how  
18 to kind of build bridges with their members and clients  
19 who will be informing what they produce with it.

20 So just kind of encouraging thinking about both the  
21 resourcing for the actual people and also for the tools.  
22 And whether -- you know, it's a different thing for one  
23 of these larger statewide groups who may be much bigger  
24 and better funded, they may already have some of that  
25 infrastructure. But when you're talking about, you know,

1 like, a neighborhood housing association that does a lot  
2 of their work, like, on the streets locally, they may not  
3 have as many of those tools. So that could be another  
4 parameter or option for funding that could make these  
5 groups more successful.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do we have any other  
7 questions from the Commissioners before we go to public  
8 comment?

9 Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: For both of you, what would you  
11 tell your younger selves before you started your  
12 Commission work that we should all hear?

13 MS. MALLOY: Well, you know, I can -- of course,  
14 I've stayed the same age this whole decade, but if, in  
15 this hypothetical, I could talk to my younger self.  
16 You're going to go through some really stressful times.  
17 You know, it's a really big responsibility that you have  
18 right now and this is sort of the calm before the storm,  
19 even though I know nothing about 2020 feels calm. It's  
20 still, you know, you don't yet have the census data.  
21 You're not yet in the thick of it.

22 But just to reassure you all that you're asking  
23 really good questions. Like, you're starting off with so  
24 much more insight and context. We made lots of mistakes  
25 that you won't need to make because we already made them.

1 And even if you don't do it a hundred percent perfectly,  
2 if you do it with the right mission and values coming  
3 together as a group of citizens, you will be doing it  
4 exponentially better than it was done in the past when it  
5 was done behind closed doors with politicians that were  
6 operating in their own self-interests. And ultimately,  
7 that's what the voters wanted. They wanted for this  
8 power to sit with everyday people.

9 And so even though there will always be things that  
10 you will look back on later and think, oh, I get that  
11 now, or maybe we should have done that, you're moving the  
12 ball forward in really significant ways. And you know,  
13 people who know how badly redistricting can be done and  
14 has been done will really appreciate your work. And then  
15 the vast majority of people will have no idea what  
16 redistricting is or why you did it, right, and so you  
17 will have to do a lot of your patting on the back.

18 And that's okay, because it's a really wonderful  
19 gift that you are giving to the State of California, to  
20 the broader field of redistricting reform, and you will  
21 also receive more gifts from it than can really be  
22 articulated. I think it really has given me a much  
23 deeper empathy and appreciation for what it is to be in  
24 that decision-maker seat and to be balancing so many  
25 different complexities and interests, not just my own

1 kind of personal preferences.

2       So you're going to do great, and we're all cheering  
3 you on. You have tons of resources behind you, and don't  
4 ever hesitate to reach out. I think those of us who were  
5 Commissioners in the last round were very conscious of  
6 wanting to make sure you have your own space and your own  
7 identity and your own approach; that was really the  
8 intent of having a fresh set of Commissioners every  
9 decade, but it's not for any lack of wanting you to  
10 succeed. So we're always at the ready to pop in formally  
11 into a meeting or, you know, if you need your staff  
12 member to reach out to one of us for clarification, we're  
13 on call this whole period.

14       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much. Amy, do you  
15 have something?

16       MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: I was just going to say I  
17 haven't been in your shoes, so I don't have lessons  
18 learned. But I just wanted to let you know that I'm  
19 certainly available for any follow-up you have, you know,  
20 and on behalf of Philanthropy California, we are here to  
21 be a resource to you and support you in any way we can,  
22 so please be in touch.

23       And I'm scheduled to make another presentation  
24 somewhere else right now. I think this is the wrap-up of  
25 our period with you, so just wanted to say thank you for

1 having us.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No, thank you so much for coming.  
3 We do have public comment, but if you have to leave, we  
4 completely understand. We just want to thank you, this  
5 is great information. We appreciate what you're doing  
6 and we appreciate what you're doing for the Californians,  
7 for the majority of who don't know what you're doing, so  
8 I'm going to pat you on the back to make sure that you're  
9 acknowledged for all of your efforts, so thank you so  
10 much.

11 MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. We're going to go to public  
13 comments now. Raul, can you please read the instructions  
14 for that or directions for that, and it's just  
15 specifically for agenda item number 11. Oh, and they  
16 left our -- Connie left and Amy left. Please don't  
17 leave.

18 MS. MALLOY: Oh, no. Oh, sure, sure. Would you  
19 like me to stay on? I'm glad to, no problem.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: If you can, that'd be wonderful  
21 because normally, it's just public comments for this  
22 agenda item and it might be comments for you.

23 MS. MALLOY: Perfect, will do.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I appreciate that. Thank  
25 you. Okay, Raul.

1 MR. VILLANUEVA: Thank you, Chair. The Commission  
2 will advise the viewing audience when it's time to submit  
3 public comment. At this time, we are requesting any  
4 public comment on agenda item number 11. The  
5 Commissioners will allow time for those who wish to  
6 comment to dial in.

7 To call in, first of all on your phone, dial the  
8 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. When  
9 prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also  
10 provided on the livestream feed, using your dial pad.  
11 When prompted, enter a participant ID simply by pressing  
12 the pound sign.

13 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
14 queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers  
15 to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic  
16 message to press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating  
17 that you wish to comment. When it is your turn to speak,  
18 the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an  
19 automatic message asking that the host would like you to  
20 talk and to press star 6 to speak. You will have time to  
21 provide your comments.

22 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream  
23 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your  
24 call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for  
25 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please

1 remember to turn down the livestream volume.

2 The Commissioners will take comment for every action  
3 item on the agenda. At this time, we're seeking public  
4 comment for item number 11. The process for making a  
5 comment will be the same each time. Begin by dialing the  
6 telephone number provided on the livestream feed, and  
7 then following the steps that I have described. These  
8 instructions are also located on the website.

9 Chair?

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have one person in  
11 the queue.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Katie, because my  
13 internet went blank again, so thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay, I got you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you'll press star 6 to  
17 unmute yourself. Thank you. If you could please state  
18 and spell your name for the court reporter and then share  
19 your comment.

20 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yeah. This is Renee Westa-Lusk.  
21 My name is spelled R-E-N-E-E, and then the last name is  
22 W-E-S-T-A and then there's a hyphen and then it's Lusk,  
23 L-U-S-K.

24 I have a couple of comments. One is I did  
25 participate in the regional hearings in 2011 as a

1 representative of my community. There was one problem I  
2 think with informing all the small towns in my county,  
3 because the only evidence I saw of outreach was a press  
4 release maybe, and maybe one article in my county  
5 newspaper, and that happened, like, three weeks -- I  
6 think two to three weeks before the hearing happened.  
7 And I -- most people in our county, especially the  
8 smaller towns, don't subscribe to the county newspaper.  
9 There was nothing in my local newspapers. I have two  
10 small local newspapers I subscribe to in my town.

11       And my suggestion for the Commission is that you  
12 should run press releases, usually don't cost anything  
13 other than the time and labor of a person sending them to  
14 the various newspapers. But before you have a regional  
15 hearing, I recommend that you contact all the small  
16 newspapers in the area, and I think you'd get more  
17 turnout, more interest in the smaller areas of the state,  
18 the more rural/less populated areas. I think they care  
19 about where they're being districted; it's just most  
20 don't even know that redistricting is even happening.

21       And then a second, I have a question regarding  
22 regional philanthropies. Are they influenced to fund  
23 grants that benefit their area of where they're located  
24 versus the overall redistricting effort, because I'm  
25 getting the feeling that the regional philanthropies

1 concentrate on the large urban populations and that the  
2 rural areas are left out.

3         And I just want to let you know if I had not been  
4 involved in another organization, I would not have  
5 probably known about these redistricting hearings. But I  
6 knew they were coming up, so I, you know, looked in the  
7 newspapers I subscribed to at the time to find out where  
8 the ones that were closest my area, and my area is very  
9 remote where the nearest urban areas are two hours' drive  
10 and then there's another one an hour and 45 minutes. And  
11 so we're remote, and I think remote areas of the state  
12 should have the same rights of finding out about these  
13 regional hearings as the urban areas. That's my comment.

14         CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for those  
15 comments, and we did bring up the rural areas, and I  
16 believe Amy was going to go back and maybe rethink their  
17 direction of how they've been outreaching that effort. I  
18 think that those two were combined in terms of trying to  
19 reach the rural.

20         Connie, do you have something for that?

21         MS. MALLOY: I think -- I mean, these are wonderful  
22 pieces of feedback. And you know, to the extent there  
23 will be press releases that you're generating for  
24 circulation, and being able to have a more nuanced  
25 assessment of each regional media market and not just who

1 the biggest player is in town, but also all of the  
2 different more localized or specialized outlets, as well  
3 as the online connection points and forums that exist is  
4 really, really important.

5 I mean, my experience with philanthropy, having  
6 worked in a statewide foundation, are that the more  
7 locally based, the regional-serving foundations like the  
8 community foundations, they tend to have a specific  
9 geographic area that they serve. And so all of their  
10 grantees are usually located in or at least primarily  
11 serving issues and constituents that are in that region.  
12 So they do take the form of really representing much more  
13 local interests and concerns than some of the  
14 organizations that have more of a statewide presence  
15 with, like, multiple satellite offices or kind of  
16 headquarters in Sacramento, that kind of thing.

17 But there are some of the community foundations  
18 that -- like, I think about, you know, Fresno where  
19 there's a community foundation there or they have a lot  
20 of activity that's there in the most populated area. But  
21 whether, you know, it's important to understand what  
22 reach they have into the more rural areas around and what  
23 gaps there are to be filled.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And I think, you know, Amy's

1 not here to answer this. But in the conversations that  
2 I've heard from the Grantmakers Association, a lot of --  
3 we're building on lessons learned. Philanthropy is  
4 building on the census, that we've just had one of the  
5 most innovative creative funding opportunities with the  
6 census, and they're still out there doing a lot of work,  
7 as well as civic engagement for the election, as well,  
8 you know.

9       So the redistricting will build on some of that  
10 civic infrastructure, and I want to -- you know, the  
11 civic infrastructure is not just advocacy groups or  
12 lobbying groups. The civic infrastructure is every way  
13 people engage with their communities, so it's PTAs,  
14 community clinics, you know, business associates,  
15 Chambers of Commerce.

16       So I think everybody is looking at how to continue  
17 building on that. The challenge is limited funding. But  
18 your point is well taken, and it is something that I know  
19 keeps a lot of folks awake at night.

20       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much.

21       MS. WESTA-LUSK: Thank you.

22       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our only  
23 person in queue at this time.

24       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Again, Connie, I  
25 just want to thank you. I want to thank you for coming

1 here today and then also thank you for the work that you  
2 did last time in the 2010. You left some -- what is the  
3 saying, something about shoes to fill, you know? English  
4 is my second language, so I'm not very good at those.

5 But thank you so much for what you did then and what  
6 you're continuing to do now, so thank you.

7 MS. MALLOY: Absolutely. Best of luck to you and  
8 look forward to following and supporting your work in  
9 whatever way I can. Take care.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay, so before we  
11 break for lunch, just a reminder, interviews next week.  
12 There's been a couple of questions, follow-ups from  
13 Commissioners; one of them had to do with travel. If the  
14 Commissioners decide to travel to Sacramento to be here  
15 for the interviews, if that would be reimbursed, and I  
16 would say it is reimbursed. I think it has to do, as  
17 long as you're 50 miles away. And I'm going to defer to  
18 Raul for that.

19 MR. VILLANUEVA: That's true. And actually, the  
20 question was an applicant in Southern California.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, it was an applicant.

22 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yeah, an applicant is asking that  
23 if they flew here for their interview, would they be  
24 reimbursed.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Have we ever done that in the

1 past? I don't --

2 MR. VILLANUEVA: It's not typical. But given that  
3 you have limited staff at this time, I brought it up for  
4 discussion.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I know in my years at state  
6 work, if an applicant wanted to come, that was on them in  
7 terms of the costs. But it's open for discussion.  
8 Commissioner Vasquez.

9 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. We were offered  
10 reimbursement to interview for this position. We're  
11 hoping at least for someone fairly high-level, and so I  
12 know it's not uncommon, if not standard practice in the  
13 private sector, if we are inviting someone to interview  
14 for a position who is outside of the region, we would,  
15 you know, reimburse them for their travel expenses.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments? Commissioner  
17 Ahmad and then Kennedy.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: The only thing I would add to  
19 that is that if that opportunity is made available to one  
20 candidate, it should be made available to all the  
21 candidates regardless of which position they are  
22 interviewing for, counsel or communications director.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: The choice that was given to the  
25 candidates as instructed was that they could either

1 attend via Zoom or come in in person.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm glad to hear that. I  
4 mean, my sense has always been it's best to have all  
5 candidates interviewing in the same format, whatever  
6 format that is. But as long as the choice was given to  
7 them, then I guess it's on them.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And also, I mean, if it's  
9 something that we decide that we're going to -- we would  
10 pay for it, then I would advise that we go back to those  
11 that have decided to be virtual to give them the  
12 opportunity that if they want to come in person, that we  
13 would pay for their expenses as well.

14 Commissioner Vasquez.

15 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. To that end, I  
16 would -- to Commissioner Kennedy's point, I do think it'd  
17 be nice if possible if we had a similar format whether in  
18 person or virtual. And I thought I saw that most of the  
19 communications candidates had chosen virtual.

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: That is correct.

21 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Okay. Maybe the  
22 reimbursement will change some of their minds? Although  
23 if they're local, it may more be a flexibility issue  
24 since we're asking them about a week out to take a day  
25 off work ostensibly to interview.

1 MR. VILLANUEVA: And Commissioner Vasquez, that's a  
2 good point. I spoke with all of them over the phone, and  
3 several of them did mention that as a consideration. And  
4 I thought it was appropriate because given the short  
5 amount of notice -- I mean, a week -- I thought that  
6 being able to offer them the opportunity then to attend  
7 via live Zoom was a good option for them.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So it was only one candidate,  
9 Raul, that request or asked?

10 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And was that communications or  
12 chief counsel?

13 MR. VILLANUEVA: It was an applicant for  
14 communications director.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And as Commissioner Vasquez  
16 noted, the last time we saw four of the five were going  
17 to go virtual. Any other comments on this? Commissioner  
18 Turner.

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to go back to  
20 another piece that Commissioner Kennedy mentioned because  
21 it was kind of my thought, but it was just a personal  
22 preference. I'm hoping that moving forward, we can  
23 maintain the same form or way that we interview. I think  
24 that there is always -- not always -- I think there has  
25 the potential for being a difference of how you receive a

1 candidate when they're in person, as opposed to when  
2 they're online.

3 And I think it evens the playing field if those that  
4 are going through the interview process, that they're  
5 either all online or they're all in person, so I'm glad  
6 most of them chose to be online. And if we made any  
7 calls, I'd be hopeful that we call the one that's  
8 planning on coming in and suggest that they just conduct  
9 it online.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments on that?

11 Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner Toledo.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just for -- but it does  
13 mean, because I think -- and correct me if I'm wrong --  
14 basically all the counsels were coming in in person and  
15 most of the communications were virtual; is that correct?

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: The decision yesterday was a  
17 request to have all of the chief counsel candidates  
18 appear in person. And because of the way the recruitment  
19 was done with communications director, that that was not  
20 just limited to Sacramento, to allow those candidates to  
21 be able to attend by live Zoom or in person.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Then I --

23 MR. VILLANUEVA: So that choice was given to them.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Then I would like it if all  
25 three of the chief counsels came in person and then all

1 five of the communications came virtually, because I  
2 agree with Commissioner Turner, there is -- we want to be  
3 able to compare equally.

4 And communications is something we did mention --  
5 I'm not sure who first mentioned that -- but actually,  
6 it's sort of part of the interview, how they handle, you  
7 know, remote and talking about tools and communications.  
8 So I think it's also almost like part of the interview,  
9 as opposed to coming in person; whereas, the chief  
10 counsel certainly will be in Sacramento in person and  
11 then sort of being -- it's in a different position, so  
12 that would be what I would prefer.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: My question's been answered.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Vasquez.

17 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: So it sounds like the  
18 direction to Raul is to communicate -- yes, we would in  
19 theory, but also we would like to have all applicants for  
20 this position attend via Zoom, that that's our direction.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I think so. Is everybody  
22 good with that?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Can we make that a motion and have a  
24 vote on it?

25 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I motion to --

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So if we make a motion and vote on  
2 it, we have to take public comment, correct?

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Does it have to be a motion?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it's a decision that's a change  
6 from a consensus yesterday, that's my concern.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's a new consensus?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: There was a consensus yesterday to  
9 give them a choice and this is a change from that, and  
10 I'd like -- I think it's better to formalize it.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I don't recall us making a  
13 consensus decision on the format of interviews for  
14 communications director yesterday.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Commissioner Vasquez, did  
16 you have something?

17 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. I mean, we did talk  
18 about it. I guess there was that. And I'm not recalling  
19 the level of input. I do remember a couple of us talking  
20 about it. I don't remember the level of input.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I think it was more a  
23 conversation within this, between Commissioner Taylor and  
24 I that was observed by the Commission.

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, it was sufficient to provide

1 direction in terms of how the group wanted that part to  
2 go.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Now the direction is --

4 MR. VILLANUEVA: -- changed.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- been defined, been redefined  
6 that for communications it would be virtual and for the  
7 chief counsel would be in person. Anyone that --  
8 Commissioner Toledo.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'll just say I think our  
10 direction from yesterday was pretty clear, right, that we  
11 would prioritize --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: I can't understand you.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We can't hear you. Commissioner  
14 Toledo, your sound keeps coming in -- or maybe it's me.

15 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think it's my end.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Your sound keeps coming in and  
17 out.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's a bad connection.

19 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So I thought our direction was  
20 pretty clear that we would give folks the ability to --

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We still can't hear you.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, you can't? That's okay.  
23 Can you hear me now? I'm trying to play with the --

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It just keeps going in and out.  
25 Like I'm using my cell phone and I'm going in and out of

1 range; that's kind of what it sounds like.

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think my broadband is pretty  
3 bad right now because I keep getting an error message.

4 But I think out direction was pretty clear in terms  
5 of giving folks the option, right, to participate online  
6 or in person with a priority of in person for the general  
7 counsel. And I think that direction, the way that Raul  
8 framed it, it so made sense to me, right, where we --  
9 where folks have the ability to do both, but are picking  
10 one or the other, online or in person.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I probably caught, like,  
12 every third word or something. But I think what you were  
13 saying -- correct me if I'm wrong -- is that the  
14 direction was yesterday, we'd prefer to have the chief  
15 counsel in person and then the communications was kind of  
16 up in the air in terms of virtual versus them coming in.  
17 Is that kind of -- okay.

18 So the new direction is communications virtual, and  
19 then chief counsel in person. Everybody okay with that  
20 direction, thumbs up? Okay. All right, so that's the  
21 new direction, that piece of it.

22 Anything else, Raul, in terms of -- oh, you asked  
23 about masks, if masks would be required.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: Just wanted to verify that the  
25 applicants who are coming in, they will be required to

1 wear a mask throughout the interview process.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Well, I --

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, let's just not throw things  
6 out there. But I'm going to say something quick and then  
7 Commissioner Sinay, then Commissioner Le Mons. I would  
8 like to look into that because if we are already social  
9 distanced six feet, I believe the mask is not required.  
10 But I'm going to go to Commissioner Sinay and then  
11 Commissioner Le Mons.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have heard from many doctors  
13 that that six-foot thing is just for protection, but  
14 indoors, it's a lot bigger, you know. I would say yes  
15 for masks, especially because it's a public meeting and  
16 we would like to show publicly that that's responsible.  
17 But can we please provide them the lighter paper masks as  
18 Commissioner Fornaciari -- I'm going to do it again,  
19 sorry -- recommended last time. I keep wanting to say it  
20 in Spanish.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: There's a lot of vowels.

22 MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, they have to come in with a  
23 mask.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: There was one last year that had a

1 heavy mask on, it made it difficult.

2 MR. VILLANUEVA: Okay, so we'll give them one of  
3 ours?

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, I was going to ask if  
5 we could get a plexiglass barrier or maybe have the  
6 shield as an option, but I'll go with whatever. It's  
7 very difficult for the person with a mask on trying to  
8 interview and ask questions. I mean, I get it and I  
9 understand why. But are the people in the room, like for  
10 example, right now, we have people in the room that don't  
11 have masks on. So it sounds like we're making a policy  
12 around indoor air and all that, but then I look and go,  
13 well, okay, but we have people in the room without a  
14 mask. So I'm not quite sure that we're consistent, but I  
15 want to err on the side of safety, of course.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I do like the idea of the  
17 plexiglass. Commissioner Ahmad.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Sorry, I'm looking it up right  
19 now. Whatever we decide has to be in compliance with  
20 Sacramento County Health Order and Governor Newsom's  
21 Public Health Order. So if we can confirm that, that  
22 will help direct us in one way or the other.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner  
24 Andersen.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. You know, I was the

1 in the State Auditor's building, which is right next  
2 door. I went around the block quite a bit on this very  
3 issue with them in terms of -- because, you know, were we  
4 supposed to go or not.

5 And there's a group, which I will forward this  
6 information to -- it's called ASHRAE, who they are the  
7 group who they design the HVAC systems and they're the  
8 standard who set up what you need to do.

9 And in terms of this, the new building, I don't know  
10 if that's actually been cleared in terms of what the  
11 filter is that the building is using. But the State  
12 Auditor's office, the policy is unless you are in your  
13 own office that closes a door, enclosed office, everyone  
14 wears masks because everything else is open.

15 And in the meeting room that the eight were in, it  
16 was a much larger room than the space that is currently  
17 available in our new space, and it had quite a lot of --  
18 there's a whole thing about airflow which we won't get  
19 into right now, but it met all that criteria.  
20 Regardless, you wore a mask the whole time.

21 And I agree it should be the light mask. But this  
22 space, it doesn't have private offices, so it's basically  
23 it's all open. And so to be consistent with the State  
24 Auditor's office, which is the building next door, and  
25 sort of has been State policy, that's really the way I

1 would come down, and they do always follow the County of  
2 Sacramento.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner  
4 Vasquez.

5 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. I just looked up  
6 County of Sacramento's Public Health Order. So "face  
7 coverings are required when six feet cannot be  
8 maintained." That being said, this is something for us  
9 to note. "Businesses must include a policy for face  
10 coverings in their protocols and provide face coverings  
11 to staff."

12 So it sounds like we actually do need a policy, and  
13 if someone with COVID who was exposed outdoors without a  
14 mask, I would like to have a policy that is more  
15 conservative towards safety.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And we'll have to  
17 remember that for future agenda items, that we need to  
18 put that on the list of policies.

19 So at this point in time, it sounds like masks are a  
20 yes and we will try to provide some of the lighter ones.  
21 I actually have some, so I'll just bring them with me,  
22 the lighter ones that we can use. And then if we can --  
23 I'm not sure if the state government talks about the  
24 plexiglass, but that would be an option as well. At  
25 least during the interview, if they could take it off

1 during the interview part and then put it back on as  
2 they're leaving and coming in, that might be an option as  
3 well.

4 So any other questions? Raul, was there anything  
5 you needed to ask Marian regarding these interviews?

6 MR. VILLANUEVA: Not that I know of.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

8 All right, so we're going to break for lunch. It's  
9 going to be shorter than an hour because our next  
10 presentation is at 2 o'clock. So if everybody could come  
11 back at 12:55, and that way we're all here and ready for  
12 the presentation.

13 Thank you everyone.

14 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, and welcome back,  
16 everyone. And so we are on agenda item number 12, which  
17 is the strategies for public input meetings for  
18 discussion and possible actions. And we have Jonathan  
19 Mehta Stein from Common Cause and Alejandra Ponce De Leon  
20 from Advancement Project California. And I apologize  
21 ahead of time if I did not pronounce your names  
22 correctly.

23 And so what I'm going to do, I'm going to pass --  
24 first I'm going to thank Commissioner Sinay for  
25 organizing this and coordinating the presentation, and

1 then I am going to hand it off to Commissioner Vasquez.

2           COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, thank you. And thank  
3 you to Jonathan and Alejandra for joining us today. The  
4 Community Outreach Committee has been engaging several  
5 folks and partners in the community who, you know, have  
6 been doing this work around redistricting in the previous  
7 iteration and also new folks. And we really -- the  
8 purpose is for inviting these speakers, both Jonathan and  
9 Alejandra, but also future meetings for folks, is really  
10 to get a broad 360 view of what strategies there are that  
11 we, the Commission, should be considering when we're  
12 gathering public input.

13           So we really appreciate the work that Jonathan and  
14 Alejandra and their organizations are doing. And we also  
15 want to make sure that the Commission and that the public  
16 knows that they are here speaking today on behalf of  
17 their perspectives and their respective organizations'  
18 perspectives and not necessarily the coalitions -- the  
19 various coalitions that they are a part of doing this  
20 work.

21           And the organizations who are also doing this work  
22 will have their opportunity to sort of share their  
23 perspectives as well. So with that, I will hand it over  
24 to Jonathan and Alejandra.

25           MS. PONCE DE LEON: Perfect. Thank you so much.

1 Really appreciate the opportunity to share this space  
2 with all of you and to be able to speak as advocates  
3 about the work that has been done so far as individual  
4 organizations but also part of these larger collectives,  
5 and really trying to increase participation from folks  
6 that, you know, get to be heard less of in our political  
7 processes, our democratic processes.

8       So again, my name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon, I am a  
9 senior research -- policy and research analyst with the  
10 Advancement Project of California. And with me I have my  
11 colleague, Jonathan.

12       MR. STEIN: Hi, everyone. Yeah, hi, everyone. I'm  
13 Jonathan Mehta Stein. I'm the Executive Director at  
14 California Common Cause. It's a pleasure and an honor to  
15 be joined with you today and we look forward to this  
16 presentation.

17       MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yeah, and so we really hope this  
18 presentation is the beginning of several conversations,  
19 as Commissioner Vasquez raised, and also Commissioner  
20 Sinay also expressed for us, that this is the first of  
21 many conversations with so many community organizations  
22 out there that are here as allies in support of the work  
23 that all of you are doing as Commissioners, and to really  
24 see the development of fair district lines for everybody.

25       And so I'm going to go on to the next slide and just

1 give you an overview of what we'll be covering today.  
2 And so one, we want to first start off with providing,  
3 like, just the landscape of the nonprofit and advocacy  
4 world that we're a part of, and recognizing that there's  
5 a multitude of organizations and other spaces that are  
6 also reaching out to you and engaging and representing  
7 different communities, but we wanted to give you -- paint  
8 a picture of who we are and who we work with.

9       We will then go ahead and talk a little bit about  
10 how our individual organizations approach communities of  
11 interest. And then, given the context which we're in,  
12 living in COVID, you know, and thinking about the  
13 opportunity that you have as Commissioners -- this second  
14 cycle of the redistricting process, you know, how can we  
15 reimagine the type of engagement that can be seen with  
16 communities.

17       And then, lastly, we will uplift, you know, some  
18 broad high-level recommendations around education,  
19 outreach and engagement for all of you to consider. And  
20 so that's going to be the agenda for today. So next  
21 slide?

22       MR. STEIN: And instead of taking questions at the  
23 end, we -- Alejandra and I decided we would take  
24 questions after each of these sections. And so  
25 hopefully, we can manage our time and get to two hours

1 sort of all told.

2 MS. PONCE DE LEON: So we'll begin with the overview  
3 of the landscape. And to begin with, we'll begin with  
4 ourselves. So who is Advancement Project California? So  
5 for many of you that are not familiar with our  
6 organization, we are a racial justice civil rights  
7 organization. We have been around for over 20 years and  
8 have expertise in policy research and advocacy. And so  
9 how we do our work is that our focus is focused on  
10 transforming public systems and shifting investments to  
11 create, you know, what we want to see as a more racially  
12 equitable California.

13 And the way that we do our work is that we partner  
14 alongside community organizations to research and  
15 advocate for policies that prioritize and meet the needs  
16 of low income people of color. And so our participation  
17 within the redistricting world, we had the opportunity to  
18 be a part of last cycle, where we provided -- we created  
19 what was known as Redraw California. And this was a web-  
20 based tool that was used to draw a community of interest  
21 maps, and to enable community residents to participate in  
22 the redistricting process.

23 And so we created that web-based tool. We provided  
24 technical assistance, provided trainings through webinars  
25 and onsite training on how to use this tool. And I mean,

1 you've already been engaging with the statewide database,  
2 and basically at that time, there was no other tool. And  
3 so Advancement Project California came in to provide that  
4 opportunity with, given our capacities at that time, to  
5 do this tool and to really enable a lot of the  
6 participation of residents. And even, we were able to  
7 attend several hearings across the state and bring  
8 laptops to the hearings for residents to be able to, you  
9 know, develop their maps onsite and print them out on the  
10 spot so that they were able to use those during public  
11 hearings.

12 And so at this point, for this redistricting cycle,  
13 we convene and provide research and data support to the  
14 Redistricting Alliance. And we'll get into a little bit  
15 more about this coalition. And much of our work is  
16 focused on the capacity building of our partners, of  
17 residents. We're also focused on community empowerment  
18 with the partners that we're working with in the alliance  
19 but also across this larger network, and advocacy. And  
20 so that's who we are as Advancement Project. I'll pass  
21 it over to you, Jonathan.

22 MR. STEIN: Thank you. Yeah, so who is California  
23 Common Cause? We are a nonprofit organization dedicated  
24 to building a California democracy that includes  
25 everyone. We work on redistricting, voting rights, money

1 and politic reform, government transparency, lobbying  
2 reform, the full range of democracy related issues.

3       What's the goal of that work? Our process -- our  
4 purpose is not just good civics. We're trying to build  
5 democratic systems that are more fair and more  
6 accessible, essentially a level playing field. We hope  
7 to build California State and local governments that are  
8 responsive to everyday people and reflective of  
9 California's diverse communities.

10       We are long-time supporters of independent  
11 redistricting. We helped create the California Citizens  
12 Redistricting Commission as major supporters and  
13 coarchitects of Prop 11 in 2008 and Prop 20 in 2010.  
14 Early on, the first CRC had very little infrastructure  
15 and it took a while before they could hire staff, and  
16 build a website, and do all these things. We stepped in  
17 to provide some early infrastructure for that first  
18 redistricting commission. And we held events and  
19 conferences to introduce that first CRC to Californians  
20 and produced an early website and a variety of materials  
21 to help people understand what this newfangled  
22 independent redistricting thing was and what it meant for  
23 them.

24       Today, ten years later in this new cycle, we convene  
25 a redistricting coalition space, a collaborative space.

1 On the next slide I'll explain what the different spaces  
2 are, the different coalitions are.

3 We, more so than most of our partners, are focused  
4 on issues of process -- accessibility, transparency,  
5 independence, and upholding the original intent of  
6 Propositions 11 and 20. We are a national organization.  
7 I am the executive director of the state chapter here in  
8 California, but we have state chapters around the country  
9 and a national office in Washington, D.C. And our  
10 national team is taking the success of the California  
11 Citizens Redistricting Commission and bringing it to  
12 other states. Other states in a decade since the first  
13 CRC was established have used the ballot to pass  
14 independent redistricting commissions that are modeled  
15 after you all. And so we are on the move, trying to  
16 bring -- sort of spreading the gospel of independent  
17 redistricting around the country.

18 So who are our networks? You've already heard us  
19 refer to a couple of them. So first, there is the  
20 Redistricting California Collaborative. It's an umbrella  
21 space, sort of an all-inclusive space that includes  
22 representatives from the other two coalitions I'm about  
23 to mention in just a second, as well as others. That  
24 space is facilitated by California Common Cause.

25 Then there's also the Redistricting Alliance, which

1 Alejandra just mentioned, a coalition of regional and  
2 statewide organizations working to empower low-income  
3 communities of color and helping them participate in the  
4 redistricting process. A number of those groups are  
5 really community rooted and some of them are newer to  
6 redistricting. And then there's the unity mapping, which  
7 are larger, usually statewide organizations that are  
8 long-time redistricting experts and bring both legal and  
9 mapping capacity to the work.

10       So there's a number of different spaces, but people  
11 come together in the Redistricting California  
12 Collaborative, and despite a wide variety of priorities  
13 and perspectives, we try to act as collaboratively as we  
14 can. Alejandra will get into our values and our  
15 priorities in just a second.

16       So this is a full list of the organizations we work  
17 with. But I don't mean for you to read this entire list  
18 now. It's for your future reference. We have a wide  
19 representation from a broad diversity of groups.

20 Alejandra will cover the communities we work in and with  
21 on the next slide. But I want to take this moment to  
22 note that our networks are not a comprehensive or  
23 exhaustive list of every nonprofit in California that  
24 cares about redistricting.

25       There are hundreds of organizations that will be

1 interested in your work, and there's no way that any one  
2 coalition -- and we're sort of a set of multiple  
3 coordinating coalitions -- there's no way that any  
4 coalition or set of coalitions could represent every  
5 single corner of California. So we have gaps, like any  
6 coalition would. Rural communities are somewhat less  
7 represented. The League of Women Voters of California  
8 has a wide range of chapters, though, in rural  
9 communities. Disability Rights California does voting  
10 rights engagement in rural counties, and PICO California  
11 has some affiliates in rural communities.

12 Far Northern California, I know that's been a topic  
13 of conversation earlier today and throughout the last  
14 several weeks -- PICO California does have some chapters,  
15 though, in Far Northern California. And then, of course,  
16 there are just a million networks, interests, and  
17 perspectives that we can't represent and no one coalition  
18 could fully represent. Renters, labor, business, transit  
19 users, health networks, the LGBT community, unsheltered  
20 communities. I mean, there's just so many, and we just  
21 want to acknowledge right here at the beginning of our  
22 time with you that there are plenty of communities that  
23 we don't represent, despite sort of a really broad and  
24 inclusive approach to our work.

25 MS. PONCE DE LEON: So in terms of who do we

1 represent -- and so given the work that all of our  
2 partners carry forward in the communities that they're  
3 based in, we actually have a reach to a variety of  
4 demographics. And so listed here you can see many of the  
5 communities that -- particularly what makes our network  
6 unique in many respects is that we are focusing on  
7 communities that face the greatest barriers to democratic  
8 participation.

9       And so that includes communities of color, which  
10 include, you know, Asian American Pacific Islander, black  
11 community, Latinx, Middle Eastern North African, Native-  
12 American. It also includes communities that are  
13 immigrants and refugees, low-income communities, Muslims  
14 and other faith-based communities, as well as people with  
15 disabilities, women, and youth, particularly youth of  
16 color. And so we do represent a variety of individuals,  
17 of communities that we have a particular reach -- a  
18 grassroots reach for many of them through the different  
19 partners that we work with. Next slide.

20       So what brings us together are really our values,  
21 our shared values and priorities when it comes to  
22 redistricting. For us, all of us, we believe that we  
23 need to have more equitable democracies. You know, not  
24 just at the state level when it comes to redistricting  
25 and other forms of participation, but also at the local

1 level. And when we talk about equitable democracies,  
2 it's really thinking about who are the groups that tend  
3 to be less represented? You know, either represented  
4 by -- as elected officials or their voices are heard less  
5 from.

6 And so as a value, it is about uplifting the voices  
7 of communities that historically have been marginalized  
8 or locked out of power and participation. And a lot of  
9 what allows us to do our work is the fact that we also  
10 share the value of collaboration and consensus building.  
11 Right? Whatever work that we do, whatever decisions we  
12 take, you know, even writing letters to the Commission or  
13 speaking, providing public comment, it really is a  
14 collaborative effort of digging into the strengths and  
15 experiences and expertise that each of us bring, and  
16 being able to come to a process of agreeing, you know,  
17 and recognizing that that is very, very hard to do. But  
18 we do strive for consensus building in the actions that  
19 we take together.

20 We also prioritize -- like, as a priority is that we  
21 want to see that the redistricting process retains its  
22 integrity and it includes everyone. And so for all of  
23 us, we can strongly say that we're here to see all of you  
24 succeed, the Commission succeed, this redistricting  
25 process succeed. So at the end of the day, you know, we

1 want to make sure that what was put in place through  
2 those propositions that brought forth this opportunity to  
3 have an independent redistricting commission, the  
4 transparency and the accountability mechanisms, we want  
5 to make sure that those actually are reflected and are  
6 carried forward.

7 And so we're here as maybe, like, your top  
8 supporters and redistricting nerds about everything  
9 redistricting because we know the impact that this has.  
10 And we're here for you, right?

11 And then also, I mean, another priority is that we  
12 want to make sure that we support legally compliant maps,  
13 you know, with respect to voting rights and other laws.  
14 And that -- you know, that the maps also respect  
15 communities of interest as much as possible. And we  
16 understand that it's a challenge and how lines will be  
17 drawn, but these are the kinds of values and priorities  
18 that brought us together to want to work together on  
19 redistricting. Next slide.

20 So in talking about who are the communities that we  
21 represent, the values and the priorities that brought us  
22 together, I definitely wanted -- we wanted to make a  
23 pause and kind of really uplift the context that we live  
24 in, you know, in terms of our democracy here in  
25 California, and really raise the question of why do we

1 need a more equitable California democracy.

2       And so for Advancement Project in 2016, we led a  
3 study in looking at data, collections of data that show  
4 voting participation and other forms and other data to  
5 really analyze, you know, what is the participation of  
6 the communities here in our state. And we compiled this  
7 information and put together a report called Unequal  
8 Voices. And so folks, feel free to open the link at a  
9 later time. But I wanted just to uplift some of the key  
10 findings here to really put into context a lot of the  
11 motivation for so many of our partners and being engaged  
12 in redistricting.

13       When it comes to voting and just any other form of  
14 political participation, you know, racial disparities are  
15 there and they're really bad, along with other  
16 disparities, such as folks that are communities of --  
17 people with disabilities and others, right? But racial  
18 disparities are critical. And what this means is that  
19 when it comes to even engaging public officials, and all  
20 of you as Commissioners are public officials, right?  
21 When it comes to public officials we found that 1 in 10  
22 blacks and only about 1 in 20 Asian Americans and Latinx  
23 have contact with public officials to express their  
24 opinions, compared to nearly 1 in 6 whites.

25       And so in looking at education, income, and home

1 ownership, although these do play significant roles in  
2 explaining disparities, racial gaps persist even when we  
3 account for these factors. And so at the end of the day,  
4 when it comes to making decisions of elections, to  
5 determine the outcome of elections, determine the outcome  
6 of propositions, who elected officials are hearing from,  
7 the reality is that despite California being so  
8 progressive when it comes to putting in different  
9 policies that are making voting easier, you know, that  
10 there is an infrastructure -- relatively speaking, a  
11 strong infrastructure of community organizations, civic  
12 organizations engaging communities to participate, to get  
13 out the vote, to be part of going to city council  
14 meetings and whatnot. There are still disparities. And  
15 it really breaks down by, at the core, racial disparities  
16 that are the gravest for all of us.

17       And so in thinking about your role, and thinking  
18 about the approach that you will have in engaging  
19 diversity of communities, we wanted to uplift this  
20 context and this crucial issue. The reality is if  
21 nothing is done, who will you hear the most from? Right?  
22 And then who's going to be left out? And that's critical  
23 to center in this presentation as well. So next slide?

24       And so when we think about it, you know, that there  
25 are all of these disparities -- you know, questions may

1 come up like, well, why? Why are folks not engaging?  
2 Why are particular communities not engaging, not  
3 participating, not voting? Is it apathy? Is it folks  
4 just choosing not to? And the reality is that they are,  
5 for the vast majority, they're mostly impacted by  
6 barriers to engagement. And so these barriers consist of  
7 one, like, lack of civic knowledge. Just not even  
8 understanding, you know, the different levels of  
9 government and the different types of processes that they  
10 take at the federal, state, and local level. Or why is  
11 it important to participate?

12       And also for a lot of immigrant communities, you  
13 know, they come from backgrounds and countries that their  
14 government system is very much different, and their  
15 experience with government is very different. And so  
16 what -- how things roll out here in the United States is  
17 also very, very new and very foreign, right? The other  
18 thing is that there's lack of civic skills. You know,  
19 how do you engage with public officials? How do you eve  
20 write letters, to address it to who? What's the proper  
21 way? How do you go about providing public comment?  
22 There's definitely a barrier there when you don't have  
23 the civic skills.

24       The other thing is lack of political efficacy or  
25 confidence, right? Just the fact that you don't have

1 that knowledge or the skills, it really impacts a  
2 person's ability to feel that they know enough or that --  
3 will their voice matter? And so this really affects even  
4 their ability to want to participate, because there are  
5 questions about -- I don't know enough, why bother if  
6 it's so hard to understand? My voice won't even matter  
7 at the end of the day. Things get done regardless of  
8 what I say or what I could do. And so those are things  
9 that are contributing barriers to engagement. Next  
10 slide?

11 But other barriers are impacting -- a lot of the  
12 communities that we work with, communities of color, low-  
13 income communities, have a greater impact. And so some  
14 of these barriers include economic hardships. So the  
15 fact that you work two jobs just to make ends meet. You  
16 have no time to attend a public hearing, right? Or the  
17 meetings, when they take place during a time that you're  
18 working. You know, not having enough money, which means  
19 that you might be constrained with the kind of  
20 transportation that you have available. You may not have  
21 the resources or the means to even secure childcare so  
22 that you're able to attend or participate. And that  
23 could also impact your ability to access technology.

24 Another major barrier for a lot of the communities  
25 that we work with is the lack of language accessibility

1 and accessibility for folks with disabilities. Right?  
2 And so those are something that are very real and have a  
3 bigger impact, especially among communities that are  
4 more -- that are immigrants, that are not English  
5 proficient -- this impacts their ability to participate.

6 And then, lastly, another major barrier is just  
7 there isn't sufficient outreach to particular  
8 communities. There's a lack of civic infrastructure,  
9 there's not a lot of organizations out there that are  
10 reaching out to a diversity of populations and bringing  
11 up their capacity -- their knowledge about issues that  
12 are happening on the ground and how to even activate and  
13 feel empowered, right? And there's no mobilization to  
14 many of these communities. Nobody's seeking their input  
15 directly, right? Nobody's putting it out there, the  
16 messaging, the framing, the resources, investing to  
17 really bring those communities in. And so if that's not  
18 there, it makes it much harder for a regular person to  
19 want to participate or even know that they could  
20 participate. Next slide?

21 So given the complexity, given this context of the  
22 disparities that exist with public participation, given  
23 the diversity of communities that are facing so many  
24 barriers, you know, as a collective, as a network, all of  
25 those are representing different perspectives, different

1 communities, different geographic areas, and we are  
2 working together to try to address those barriers, to  
3 remove those barriers, to educate many residents to come  
4 in and get involved in this process. But even beyond  
5 this process, right, of just staying engaged in other  
6 issues that are impacting their community.

7       And so all of us coming together, working together,  
8 again, we are bringing, you know, resources, we are  
9 bringing expertise, levels of experience are very  
10 different among us. There are some folks that have been  
11 engaged with redistricting for decades; others that this  
12 is their first time engaging with statewide  
13 redistricting. And so for all of us to be able to work  
14 together, it does take a lot of our commitment, a lot of  
15 time, but again, the values have really helped us to move  
16 forward.

17       And so some aspects that I just wanted to elevate in  
18 terms of how we work together is that, again, we are very  
19 collaborative and we have a consensus-driven approach.  
20 And so we recognize that we don't always see things the  
21 same way, and that tensions are always inevitable.  
22 Right? However, you know, we also see that those are  
23 healthy and it helps to educate and expand also our  
24 understanding of so many different things in our own  
25 communities and how we each work.

1 But at the end of the day, we're able to sit, we're  
2 able to communicate, we're able to talk through a lot of  
3 the issues and the challenges and navigate and figure out  
4 how best to approach our collective efforts.

5 We're also, as a network, very attentive to process  
6 and outcome, right? We want to make sure that more  
7 communities are participating and engaging. We want to  
8 see the result of fair district lines. But how we get  
9 there also matters. Right? And so even when we think  
10 about -- you know, so we really take time to think about  
11 the process that we need to take. Who's being engaged,  
12 how we're engaging, the kinds of conversations, the  
13 opportunities that we're putting out there, you know, for  
14 all of our partners to weigh in.

15 And so when you see letters that come from our  
16 larger network, definitely this letter may seem very  
17 simple, like, well, here's your message, but behind that,  
18 you know, there's a lot of thoughtful discussion that  
19 went through it, negotiation to really think about how we  
20 align our interest and our advocacy ultimately to  
21 better -- to have a positive impact of improving and just  
22 ensuring that everybody who we are working with is  
23 impacted in a positive way.

24 And a lot of the work that we do, you know, we  
25 actually -- just like how all of you are organizing

1 yourselves in work groups, we also do that within our  
2 spaces as well. We want to make sure that we lean into  
3 everybody's expertise and knowledge of certain areas.  
4 And so we definitely want -- you know, we see partners,  
5 like, taking the lead on many issues and helping to  
6 really shape and guide the larger group. Next slide?

7 And so here I want to pause. But we've kind of laid  
8 out the landscape of who we are, what we do, the values,  
9 the priorities that we have, and really centering in why  
10 we do the work that we do. And so I just want to pause  
11 there and just open it up, if there are any questions at  
12 this point.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Can you just unpin for a minute so  
14 I can see if there are questions from the other  
15 Commissioners? Thank you so much; I appreciate that. Do  
16 we have any questions from the -- Commissioner Andersen?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. It was very  
18 interesting. I have one question. When you were talking  
19 about you actually -- and this is to Ms. Ponce De Leon --  
20 the Advancement Placement Project created the Redraw  
21 California web-based tool. Are you currently now working  
22 with the statewide database on their new COI tool? Are  
23 you part of that beta testing?

24 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yes, we are, we are.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great.

1 MS. PONCE DE LEON: We have been in communication  
2 with them directly and providing feedback to it. And so  
3 we're really happy that they're taking the lead this  
4 time. In developing this tool, I think it's best to be  
5 within the statewide database to create it. So it's been  
6 good to be a part of that and also helping to connect a  
7 lot of our partners from the Redistricting Alliance to be  
8 part of that testing as well.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you. Mr.  
10 Stein, is that also true with Common Cause?

11 MR. STEIN: We're in conversation with Karin Mac  
12 Donald from the statewide database, yes. And we  
13 recognize that -- we actually in a recent conversation,  
14 all of our partners were able to upload a number of  
15 questions, and thoughts, and concerns with Ms. Mac  
16 Donald. So yeah, we're providing our feedback.  
17 Literally, this week we were doing that.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions before we  
20 continue? And I forgot to mention in the morning, or  
21 earlier, that every 90 minutes we have to take a break,  
22 so I might have to cut you off at some point, but we'll  
23 return afterwards. Any questions? Then we can move on.  
24 It looks like we can move on. Okay.

25 MR. STEIN: Okay, let me go back to screen-sharing.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

2 MR. STEIN: No problem. Okay, so we were asked to  
3 share our definitions of communities of interest, and  
4 we're going to share our approach to communities of  
5 interest. There's sort of a subtle distinction there. I  
6 think it is a term that although it's a simple  
7 definition, and needs to be used broadly and flexibly.  
8 First, we want to just share a couple caveats. We, as  
9 Alejandra mentioned, we work with a number of dedicated,  
10 active, strongminded advocate partners, and we all think  
11 differently at times about some of these issues. Our  
12 thoughts today are informed by the dialogues we've had  
13 with our colleagues, but they may not be endorsed by  
14 every single partner.

15 And in fact, we actually put this question out, how  
16 do you define communities of interest, to our partners.  
17 And we got a variety of responses. One said, for  
18 example, that they don't define it, essentially. That  
19 with very few restrictions, they rely on communities to  
20 define themselves, which is a very valid approach as well  
21 and really suggests, I think, when you consider that  
22 versus how we think about it, the really broad range of  
23 thoughts and that people (audio interference) to this  
24 concept.

25 So first, I will hand it back over to Alejandra to

1 provide a definition from Advancement Project.

2 MS. PONCE DE LEON: So from our end -- I mean, we  
3 also are very similar to that of the League of Women  
4 Voters. Like, you know, we take guidance from the  
5 community members to define their communities. They live  
6 there, they know who's connected and in what ways they're  
7 connected to each other. And so we really defer to the  
8 community members to define that.

9 For us, communities of interest can be geographic  
10 based, but we don't necessarily believe that they should  
11 be constrained by physical boundaries such as freeways.  
12 And for us, we uplift that communities of interest -- you  
13 know, are those that connect people with who they are?  
14 So for example, if they're Vietnamese immigrants, right,  
15 and what they value. So for example, the value  
16 education, not incarceration, as an example. And/or what  
17 their issues or circumstances are. You know, they care  
18 about immigrant rights or they're currently being  
19 impacted by gentrification.

20 So at this moment, I mean, that is, like, our very  
21 broad definition that we have as an organization. And  
22 for us, one of the values that we have about  
23 collaboration is that we really follow the guidance of  
24 our partners. Because recognizing that we are not a base  
25 fielding organization, we definitely defer to our

1 partners who are, to help guide us in that way. Pass it  
2 over to you.

3 MR. STEIN: So from our perspective, the first  
4 thing -- and there's a lot on this slide and I'd ask you  
5 just to focus on the first bullet for the time being. I  
6 really want -- I hope you will all resist an easy or  
7 simple definition of communities of interest. You have  
8 so much to wrap your arms around right now. And it would  
9 be great if there was one simple straightforward  
10 definition of communities of interest. And in fact, I  
11 think it's a term that deserves flexibility.

12 There are probably across California hundreds or  
13 thousands of different communities of interest and  
14 different people, or families, or neighborhoods might fit  
15 into more than one or several. It is a really, really  
16 diverse, flexible, and dynamic term.

17 So in my attempt to define -- have something close  
18 to a definition, I came up -- or we came up with the  
19 following: Neighborhoods, networks, communities, and  
20 groups that share identities, interests, cultures,  
21 histories, languages, and/or values. So I mean, just  
22 from that definition, quote-unquote, "definition", you  
23 can see the capaciousness we've tried to bake in here,  
24 how flexible this needs to be.

25 It may be helpful to talk about examples, and these

1 examples sort of show, I think, how diverse communities  
2 of interest can be. So one straightforward form of a  
3 community of interest is a group that shares a racial  
4 ethnic identity, cultural identity, faith, or language,  
5 right? So the historic Filipino community in Stockton.  
6 For a period of the 20th century, the Filipino community  
7 in Stockton was the largest Filipino community outside of  
8 the Philippines, and there's a rich and history there.  
9 That's a community of interest.

10       The Chaldean community in East San Diego County, and  
11 specifically in El Cajon. That's a community of  
12 interest. And these sort of -- these smaller cultural or  
13 ethnic communities are all over California, and I'm sure  
14 all of you know several.

15       Another example, though, is a community that shares  
16 common interests in some policy issue or political issue.  
17 Schools, or housing, or crime, or transit, or whatever  
18 the case may be, right? So all the parents who send their  
19 children to the Fremont Union High School District, where  
20 I grew up in the Bay Area, South Bay Area. That might be  
21 a community of interest. Communities impacted by  
22 environmental justice issues created by the Chevron  
23 refineries in Richmond, California. Those could be a  
24 community of interest. Or Northern California  
25 communities -- and I mean, Northern-Northern California

1 communities. They're all impacted by the same fire  
2 patterns year after year and use the same wildfire  
3 response systems. That -- those could be a community of  
4 interest.

5       And we're not done yet. There's way more. So  
6 communities that share similar socioeconomic statuses,  
7 right? Income, home ownership, education levels. But  
8 more than that. So for example, the historically lower  
9 income east side of San Jose. And this is a good  
10 illustration of how communities of interest overlap.  
11 They bring in multiple factors, right? So that lower  
12 income east side of San Jose is disproportionally people  
13 of color because of redlining and racial covenants that  
14 existed in wealthier parts of San Jose. And so you have  
15 not just a shared socioeconomic status but you also have  
16 a higher percentage of communities of color with a shared  
17 history and a shared set of interest around housing,  
18 schools, crime, and other issues.

19       Another way to define a community of interest might  
20 be common social, business, or civic networks. For  
21 example, Koreatown in Los Angeles, the queer community in  
22 San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood. I mean, there are  
23 legion -- I mean, there are so many of these that we can  
24 think of in every city and every town. Or simply regions  
25 or parts of town that are bound by natural features or

1 manmade features. So one example that I know well  
2 because I worked on the districting process in the City  
3 of Chula Vista, is the southeastern corner of Chula  
4 Vista, which is bound to the west by the coast, it's  
5 bound to the east by the 805, it's bound to the north by  
6 the city's downtown area, and it's bound to the south by  
7 the city's border.

8 Now, here, that is a really definable, clear chunk  
9 of town. And they came forward in the districting  
10 process to say, we are one community and we want our own  
11 district. But the reality is that this is, again, an  
12 example of how communities overlap. That is a lower  
13 socioeconomic status part of town. It's just a lower  
14 income part of town, lower education levels, fewer city  
15 services, fewer sidewalks, streetlights. They shared an  
16 interest in developing better city services for their  
17 community, right?

18 So one community might fit into multiple examples  
19 that I provided today, and also one person, one family,  
20 one community might fit into multiple communities of  
21 interest. There's a huge degree of flexibility that's  
22 needed, I think, when we think about this topic.

23 And I want to zero in by giving you one really  
24 concrete example. I had the opportunity, the privilege  
25 to work on the City of Fremont's districting process.

1 The City of Fremont, many believe is home to the largest  
2 Afghan community outside of Afghanistan. If you watched  
3 the movie or read the book "Kite Runner", you know that  
4 it's set in Afghanistan and in the City of Fremont. The  
5 Afghan community -- the Afghan diaspora worldwide knows  
6 this one suburb in the Bay Area because of how rich the  
7 Afghan community -- the way in which the Afghan community  
8 has made Fremont their home.

9       And yet despite that history, the Afghan community  
10 is largely left out of local politics and local  
11 government. And I was working at a different  
12 organization at the time. We realized that the  
13 districting process in the City of Fremont had begun and  
14 the Afghan community knew nothing about it. So we found  
15 community leaders that could unlock the rest of the  
16 community for us and could open gateways to community  
17 organizations and community settings, and we started  
18 talking about what redistricting is and why it's  
19 important.

20       Now, we tried to get the city to bring forward data  
21 about the Afghan community, and they really seemed  
22 incapable of doing it. At one point the demographer said  
23 to us that there were 2,000 Afghans in the City of  
24 Fremont. And we took that information to Afghan  
25 community leaders and they said, there might be 2,000

1 Afghans at one high school in Fremont. They really felt  
2 that the city could not wrap their hands around the size  
3 and the importance of their community.

4       And so we sat -- we printed 8-1/2 by 11 maps of the  
5 City of Fremont and we sat over tea at kitchen tables and  
6 at cafes with folks, and we gave them markers and asked  
7 them to plot out where are your restaurants, where are  
8 your markets, where are your community centers, where are  
9 your nonprofits, where are your religious institutions,  
10 where are the apartment buildings with the greatest  
11 densities of Afghan residents and renters? And we  
12 brought those forward to the city and we said, listen, if  
13 you can't map the Afghan community, we did it for you.  
14 Look at these hand-drawn maps that show you where the  
15 Afghan community is.

16       And Afghan community speakers came forward for the  
17 first time, having never spoken to city council or any  
18 government body before. They gave testimony, sometimes  
19 through a translator, talking about how important Fremont  
20 was to the Afghan community and talking about how  
21 important they hoped the Afghan community was to Fremont.

22       And one mother said to the dais, I had to leave  
23 Afghanistan at a time of war, and I'm happy that I found  
24 a new home here in Fremont, but I know I haven't had  
25 opportunities that I would like to, to live my life in

1 this country. But my son, he has had those  
2 opportunities, and my hope is that my son will someday be  
3 sitting where you are as the mayor of Fremont. And all  
4 of these people in this city hall erupted into applause.  
5 People who had an eyebrow cocked about the Afghan  
6 community -- who were these newcomers that were showing  
7 up in city politics we'd never heard from before? But  
8 the power of that moment was so great that no one could  
9 deny it. Literally, the entire room erupted into  
10 applause.

11 And ultimately, a district was drawn that kept the  
12 Afghan cultural and commercial hub together and grouped  
13 it with apartment buildings that had concentrations of  
14 Afghan renters. And at the end of the process, city  
15 councilmembers in the City of Fremont came down off the  
16 dais and approached Afghan community leaders and said,  
17 how can we keep you involved in future processes? How  
18 can we keep you involved in all the policy discussions  
19 that we're having here that impact our city?

20 And so it is an opportunity, districting and  
21 redistricting have these waterfall effects. If you can  
22 bring people into this process, they become more  
23 civically engaged in all the work that comes forward.  
24 And California has thousands of equivalents of the Afghan  
25 community in Fremont. I've mentioned some of them

1 already today. And your joyful task is to find all of  
2 them and listen as best you can.

3 So that was a shorter section, and with that, we're  
4 going to stop for questions again before I hand it back  
5 over to Ale. And I will take off screen share so we can  
6 see each other.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay. Great, thank  
8 you. Do any of the Commissioners have questions at this  
9 point? Oh, Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Kennedy?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I loved your story because that  
11 makes it even more fun for us to think through. I kind  
12 of look at it as Easter eggs, you know, in different  
13 ways. But how do we, as Commissioners, who have a whole  
14 state to look at, find those communities of interest if  
15 they're not in the data -- like, Afghans a lot of  
16 times -- you know, Chaldeans, they'll say they're white.  
17 They don't say they're Chaldean.

18 And if the local government doesn't acknowledge  
19 them -- so how -- what are some of the strategies that  
20 you all have used to identify communities of interest  
21 that may not be as visible?

22 MR. STEIN: Well, I'll just say that from my  
23 personal experience, at the time, I worked with an Asian  
24 American civil rights organization in the Bay Area called  
25 Asian Law Caucus, and we had a wide range of networks in

1 different API and Middle Eastern communities. We put  
2 real investments -- 20 years of work into reaching not --  
3 a really broad notion of the Asian American community,  
4 including Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian  
5 communities, and so on.

6 And so it was because we heard from a community  
7 leader that this was happening, that we were able to dive  
8 in and ultimately really it was about finding the one  
9 right person. It was the executive director of a group  
10 called Afghan Coalition. And she unlocked the whole  
11 community for us.

12 And so it was a -- really, in that instance, it was  
13 a larger organization finding a smaller organization that  
14 then led to community. And so I guess my answer would be  
15 you just have to tap these networks. And I'm cognizant  
16 that there is really different levels of civic  
17 infrastructure in -- among -- by community, right?

18 When I was working at Asian Law Caucus, if we wanted  
19 to work with the Filipino community, because of different  
20 eras of immigration history and because of different past  
21 experiences of activism, we could find networks, we could  
22 find infrastructure -- civic infrastructure. And then,  
23 conversely, we tried to reach the Indian American  
24 community. Even the Indian American community, where I  
25 grew up, a community that I was rooted, and there's

1 almost no civic infrastructure. I mean, there's a  
2 religious infrastructure, there's a cultural  
3 infrastructure, but there's very little sort of civic or  
4 political infrastructure. And so you just have to find  
5 the people who have mapped these things and do your best  
6 to tap their knowledge.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy?

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
9 wanted to get your sense of how you see this interacting  
10 with local redistricting -- counties, cities, whatever,  
11 because that's a new variable that the 2010 Commission  
12 wasn't really dealing with. I mean, we're already  
13 looking at, okay, how do we reduce the confusion of  
14 somebody who says, well, I just went to a redistricting  
15 here and I don't need to come to this one or -- you know,  
16 you're telling me something completely different than  
17 what I heard elsewhere. So I wanted to get your sense of  
18 what you see as the issues and how we might deal with  
19 them.

20 MR. STEIN: Yeah, I'm happy to take that.  
21 Alejandra, would you like to go first, though? If you --

22 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Sure. So one thing that comes  
23 to mind, I think, for a lot of the partners that are  
24 doing the organizing on the ground, one, it's a lot about  
25 building up, like, the education and making those

1 connections, right? Because even though you have all of  
2 these different levels of redistricting happening, I  
3 think at the end of the day it's like, how do you make  
4 that connection to an individual of, like, why they all  
5 matter and how they're all impacting your quality of  
6 life, your ability to have a healthy community, your  
7 ability to have better economic opportunities or for your  
8 education system to be better for your children. Right?

9       And so I think it's, one, building up the capacity  
10 and knowledge of residents, and that's where a lot of the  
11 community organizations, grassroots organizations are  
12 best equipped and have the experience to really think  
13 through, you know, how do you utilize popular education  
14 methods, of example? How do you build up the  
15 consciousness of residents and speak to the residents  
16 that they work with in a way that it makes sense to  
17 them -- that becomes tangible to them?

18       They are the best messengers, right? And they also  
19 are really thoughtful and intentional about what -- how  
20 do you approach something this abstract, this foreign,  
21 you know, in many ways, and actually crystallize it to  
22 kind of connect the dots of their everyday life  
23 circumstances and how the lines are drawn will impact,  
24 you know, your livelihood in the next ten years.

25       And so I think that it is about the community

1 organizations being able to bridge that gap of  
2 understanding. That they have a sense of what -- you  
3 know, what is the approach in terms of the culture, of  
4 the language, the understanding of the socioeconomic, you  
5 know, situation -- you know, the context that these  
6 communities live in, to really break it down in a very  
7 simple way and very direct, like, what it means to you to  
8 participate.

9       And so I think that that's something -- like, that's  
10 where I do encourage all of you, as you're beginning this  
11 segment of, like, having these conversations and these  
12 presentations, to bring in organizations that do that  
13 work directly because they're the ones that actually have  
14 the innovative ideas of how to do it. And even now with  
15 COVID, you know, how have they been engaging residents to  
16 talk about census and why census matters? You know, and  
17 also now with the election, why it matters to get  
18 involved. All the different levels of elections that  
19 they're going to be able to vote on.

20       And so I do recommend and highly encourage that, you  
21 know, you create a space where you have those groups that  
22 are speaking and working in community to be the ones that  
23 really bring more -- shed more light in terms of how best  
24 to do it.

25       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And if I can toss a follow-up

1 in, do you see value in us going out and organizing  
2 sessions to gather input on how people perceive the 2010  
3 Commission's maps? I mean, it seems to me that that's  
4 something that would help them understand how we're  
5 different from their county redistricting commission or  
6 city redistricting commission, and at the same time,  
7 perhaps help us gather some useful information from them  
8 and establish some of these ties before we get the 2020  
9 Census data.

10 MS. PONCE DE LEON: I mean, I think it's super  
11 helpful to be able to engage at a smaller scale with a  
12 lot of groups. Like, having either these smaller  
13 discussions -- kind of breaking -- creating those  
14 channels of communication and getting their input. I  
15 think for a lot of organizations, I think they can give a  
16 lot of their perspective, maybe, of 2010. But I would  
17 say at least from our network, there's a good number of  
18 folks that were not involved with the redistricting ten  
19 years ago. Some of them were. I mean, there were a lot  
20 that have been involved for years -- at least for the  
21 ones that are involved with the Redistricting Alliance, a  
22 lot of them, this is their first time. Others had had  
23 experience working at the local level for their local  
24 redistricting. For example (Indiscernible) Foundation,  
25 (Indiscernible) was another organization that was

1 involved with redistricting last time around as well.

2       But a lot of them are new, right? And so you're  
3 going to get a lot of organizations that are going to be  
4 thinking also like, well, how do we now connect  
5 communities now to redistricting, and to thinking about  
6 redistricting? And I think it's very valuable to be able  
7 to hold like, focus groups -- a focus group discussion  
8 with a variety of groups that can really be a thought  
9 partner to all of you in thinking about all of these  
10 different questions.

11       And for them, I would say something to uplift --  
12 that a lot of the partners that we work with are  
13 currently engaging in census, you know, and are currently  
14 engaged in getting out the vote. And so even just  
15 thinking about how many of the things that they're  
16 currently doing, a lot of the innovative things that  
17 they're doing, how do those transfer over to now  
18 redistricting (audio interference) valuable to engage and  
19 just for your own knowledge -- also to build -- I would  
20 say, not just to gain knowledge and get ideas, but to  
21 build a partnership. You know, what does building a  
22 partnership with community look like? And how do you as  
23 individual Commissioners and as a collective, you know,  
24 build those partnerships? And what do those mean, and  
25 what do those look like as an opportunity, right?

1 MR. STEIN: Commissioner Kennedy, I'll add a couple  
2 thoughts, and thank you for the question. I'll just say,  
3 one, the fact that redistricting at the state and local  
4 level sort of overlaps this year might be -- it's a  
5 challenge but also potentially an opportunity, if you can  
6 find economies of scale in terms of advertising and  
7 publicity. If you are able to coordinate with -- when  
8 you're advertising in the Sacramento region, if you're  
9 able to coordinate with the Sacramento County Board of  
10 Supervisors, for example, because they're leading their  
11 country redistricting hearings at the same time you're  
12 leading a state redistricting hearing, or the same week,  
13 or whatever the case may be. I wonder if there's an  
14 opportunity, through collaboration, careful coordination,  
15 to find economies of scale in your advertising dollars  
16 and your publicity dollars.

17 I also think when seeking to distinguish between the  
18 two, one, the important way to do so might be to  
19 distinguish on substance. So what I mean by that is we  
20 are working on state redistricting. That means the  
21 people who are going to be elected for the next decade to  
22 determine California's budget, California's climate  
23 goals, California's X, Y, and Z. Name the sort of  
24 function, the core functions of state government.

25 Whereas at the local level, redistricting is

1 different. We're talking about who is able to get  
2 elected, to govern issues around public safety and  
3 policing in your community, or health services in your  
4 county, or what parks and green spaces look like, or --  
5 name the other sort of local function. Simply telling  
6 people, we're drawing one set of lines and these other  
7 folks are drawing a different set of lines, may be too  
8 esoteric. But if you're able to attach those different  
9 sets of lines from different policy issues that the  
10 different levels of government control, maybe you're able  
11 to create a more meaningful distinction for folks.

12       And then the last thing I'll say on this subject is  
13 ultimately it comes down to funding. I mean, the fact of  
14 the matter is -- you heard a lot about funding in the  
15 earlier agenda item today -- there's less money for state  
16 redistricting this year than there was ten years ago, but  
17 there's substantially less money for local redistricting  
18 this time than there is for state redistricting this  
19 time. That is to say, it's at current a relatively  
20 barren landscape.

21       And so if groups are going to really dig in on  
22 redistricting in the city and local level -- sorry, city  
23 and county level, and I hope that they can because this  
24 opportunity of working on them both simultaneously is  
25 just sitting waiting for us, it will require investment

1 and it's TBD, I think, on where that comes from.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And we've spoken, at least on  
3 a conceptual level with Statewide Database about, okay,  
4 if somebody comes to us and says, this is my community of  
5 interest, and I want to share it both with you and with  
6 my local redistricting commission, how do we do that? So  
7 right now that's set just as, okay, the person's going to  
8 get a PDF of what they input as far as a description of  
9 their community of interest, both geographic description  
10 as well as the narrative description, and they would just  
11 have to give that PDF -- a copy of that PDF to the local  
12 commission. But eventually we may be able to find other  
13 ways to tighten the links between the two.

14 MR. STEIN: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? I kind of  
17 have one question, I think. Jonathan, when you were  
18 talking about the Afghan community, how do you address  
19 when there's, like, a disconnect? Like, you have a group  
20 saying, this is our community and then you have another  
21 group saying, no, this is our community. So how do you  
22 approach that?

23 MR. STEIN: Yeah. I mean, you're likely to see  
24 that -- you know, this is an unscientific number -- but  
25 thousands of times over the course of the next couple

1 years. I mean, it's inevitable in your work. You know,  
2 I had the opportunity to work in the districting process  
3 in the City of Sunnyvale, which is very close to where I  
4 grew up. And we had -- we were able to invest community  
5 organizing capacity, a community organizer on my team who  
6 was a wonderful organizer was able to do direct face-to-  
7 face outreach in which she was able to bring together the  
8 Asian American community, the Latino community, the  
9 mobile home community, renters, representatives from  
10 neighborhood associations, and work on building a map  
11 together. And they were able to go forward to the city  
12 council with one, what they called a unity map. That's  
13 such a powerful opportunity. It builds new bonds.

14 And a gentleman said at the last redistricting  
15 hearing in the City of Sunnyvale, I've lived in Sunnyvale  
16 for 50 years. I have met more of my neighbors in the  
17 last one than I did in the previous 49. Like, this is  
18 what I mean about the sort of -- the power of districting  
19 and redistricting. It is this incredible exercise in  
20 civic engagement. But those moments are rare. You need  
21 somebody who's willing to play that sort of connective  
22 tissue role, right?

23 And it's possible in some settings, particularly I  
24 think in cities and communities that have more of that  
25 civic infrastructure. But it's not always possible and

1 you will have people who say, like, we differ, right?  
2 And then it's up to you to look more deeply at sort of  
3 the -- what's animating people. When they say, my  
4 community is bound by this avenue or this highway, are  
5 they really saying like, there is something specific  
6 about this outer bound of my community? Or are they  
7 speaking from a place of values and saying, I want the --  
8 you know, I want the Chinese American community in this  
9 part of town to be largely kept together because it is my  
10 faith network, and my social network, and my cultural  
11 network.

12 And so it's up to you to determine, like, are we  
13 able to satisfy everybody by looking more deeply at their  
14 testimony and saying, are they coming from a place of  
15 values as opposed to hard boundaries? But even then,  
16 you're going to have conflicts. Like, it's just  
17 inevitable. And sometimes you're going to be forced into  
18 really, really hard decisions.

19 And you may even have situations -- I know all of  
20 you know this -- you may even have situations where the  
21 communities of interest -- the community of interest  
22 testimony aligns, but the community of interest testimony  
23 conflicts with what the demands of the Voting Rights Act  
24 are, or the demands of the Constitution with respect to  
25 population equality. And so you're just going to be

1 forced into really hard decisions in which people are  
2 left unhappy.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any other questions  
4 before we continue? I think we're good. Oh, wait.  
5 Commission Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: In short, just on what we just  
7 heard, as much as it's overwhelming to hear what you're  
8 saying and us to think about how are we going to do this,  
9 I think you've given us kind of the answer by saying you  
10 can't do it all yourselves as Commissioners. That you  
11 really need to partner with organizations that are kind  
12 of that connective tissue, and there are different  
13 organizations in different places but don't start  
14 stressing yourselves out that you're going to have to  
15 find that Afghan community yourself.

16 MR. STEIN: Right. Please do not start stressing  
17 yourself out. You have so much time. I know you feel  
18 like you have the most monumental task in the history of  
19 a public commission, but you have so much time and  
20 everybody wants you to succeed.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any other questions  
22 before we proceed? Okay.

23 MR. STEIN: Okay. I will go back to the screen  
24 share, and I'm going to hand it over to Alejandra.

25 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Okay. All right. So for this

1 section, I just wanted to preface that this was an  
2 opportunity to invite all of you to think about how you  
3 could reimagine your engagement with community. The  
4 purpose of this is really just to, you know, get your  
5 juices flowing and thinking outside the box, and thinking  
6 about -- you have this opportunity, you just received the  
7 baton from the former Commission 10 years ago and all the  
8 amazing work that they did to lay the foundation, and now  
9 it's thinking about what you as the Commissioners will be  
10 able to carry forward. And even thinking about what are  
11 aspects to the engagement of a community that you could  
12 really think about how it could be different. And so  
13 this is just an invitation. It's not like, a set of  
14 like, these are recommendations that we're pushing for --  
15 but it's just more, I think, our collective thoughts  
16 between Jonathan and I of just thinking about, you know,  
17 outside the box and rethinking engagement with community.  
18 And this is just a starting point, and I think that there  
19 is a lot of creativity and innovation that's already  
20 coming from other community partners that are on the  
21 ground doing this work. And so I just wanted to preface  
22 that for this section. And so next slide?

23       So first off, COVID. Yes, it's here. This is the  
24 new normal. And we don't know what things are going to  
25 look like in the upcoming year, you know, and the impact

1 that it will have with the approach and the process for  
2 redistricting. And so this is just -- this is for us to  
3 be grounded. Now that we're in a new playing field with  
4 COVID, that if circumstances continue as they are, you  
5 know, it's really going to, one, create challenges,  
6 right, of how do we carry out a redistricting process to  
7 bring as many people to come together and uplift their  
8 communities of interest -- but also it's an opportunity  
9 to imagine, reimagine the processes, to think about other  
10 ways of engagement.

11 And so it's an invitation, right? To think about  
12 COVID as that opportunity to develop something that could  
13 be new and even more effective, you know? And to also  
14 not feel like it's on all of you to think about all these  
15 innovative ideas, but to be open to possibilities and  
16 ideas, right? Next slide?

17 So in thinking about reimagining engagement, you  
18 know, one arena, I guess, or one concept to think about  
19 is, like, how could -- as you're outreaching into the  
20 community, how are you building with community, right?  
21 And the idea around building community, and that that  
22 means to each of you, right? Building community. And  
23 your own personal experience of what you've seen, what  
24 you've engaged in as practices of building community.

25 One thing we wanted to uplift, you know, was like,

1 how can this be an opportunity to tear down hierarchies?

2 I think for a lot of folks to engage public officials,  
3 elected officials, and thinking about, like, having the  
4 lack of civic skills or efficacy, you know, how can you  
5 as Commissioners help to break that dynamic, that power  
6 structure that exists? You know, the 14 of you sitting  
7 in a big dais, you know, and members having to go up and  
8 give their piece in like, two minutes, and how do you do  
9 it in a way -- how do we break that dynamic?

10       What are different things, different elements,  
11 different practices that could be integrated as you move  
12 forward and making sure that communities don't feel like  
13 they're down here and you're up here, and I need to speak  
14 to you in a certain way because you are the Commission,  
15 right? And not to take away the level of responsibility  
16 and decision-making that you have, but how is it that  
17 you're bringing communities closer to you versus keeping  
18 them at a distance, right, because of the hierarchy,  
19 right?

20       So this is just for you all to think about. What  
21 are ways that you can break those hierarchies? What are  
22 things, practices? Even the smallest things can make a  
23 big impact in the ability for residents to feel more  
24 comfortable, more at ease, and more feeling like we're  
25 working together.

1           And that comes to another idea. You know, we're in  
2 this together, right? And a lot has to do with even just  
3 how you personally will be approaching, you know,  
4 communities. You'll have opportunities to maybe  
5 hopefully come and speak to different organizations as  
6 they're doing a training on, like, why does redistricting  
7 matter and coming out to a hearing.

8           But there might be an opportunity for you to be a  
9 guest speaker and talking to folks directly, or being  
10 invited to the local radio station that plays mariachi  
11 music, or whatever, right? Like, the local ethnic media.  
12 You know, you're coming in and talking about the work  
13 that you're doing in redistricting. How do you do it in  
14 a way that they hear from you as a person, a regular  
15 person? Like, hi, my name is Patricia Sinay. This is my  
16 story of how I've been unseen and unheard.

17           And I bring up unseen and unheard because when we  
18 think about redistricting and drawing lines, and just in  
19 our democracy and general processes, you know, how many  
20 communities that face the greatest barriers do feel  
21 invisible and do feel unheard. And so for you to connect  
22 at a human level, you know, moments where you felt unseen  
23 and unheard. It's something that can really help them to  
24 feel connected to you personally and find shared  
25 experiences of being unseen and unheard, right?

1           And for them to hear from you like, I want to hear  
2 your story. Here's my story of how I've been unseen and  
3 unheard. I want to hear your story. You know, like your  
4 community story. And uplifting how -- again, I need  
5 you -- we need you, the Commission needs you so that  
6 together we can make fair district maps so that we're all  
7 seen and we're all heard.

8           So bringing it down to that value or to that  
9 sentiment of being seen and heard, I think it allows for  
10 communities to be one with you directly as individuals  
11 but then also to see how redistricting really connects to  
12 them in a deeper way that is not like, what are the  
13 boundaries of your community, right? Next slide?

14           And continuing on with like, building community,  
15 right? Again, so I talked about, like, tell me your  
16 story, right, and for you to share your story, right? So  
17 the power of story -- I just wanted to uplift this. And  
18 this is something from my own personal experience, and  
19 working with so many community organizations, like, that  
20 is central to their organizing and to connecting with  
21 people and their base. You know, the power of story, and  
22 how can you use the power of story to enable and to  
23 facilitate residents to talk about communities of  
24 interest?

25           You know, like, who is part of your community and

1 what's been your community's story of shared struggles?  
2 What's been your community's story on the shared hopes  
3 for the future? So those are other ways of approaching  
4 the questions of, like, well, who's in your community?  
5 Who do you define as community of interest? What are the  
6 boundaries? What are the shared values? You know, what  
7 are the shared issues? Maybe there's a way of  
8 approaching it that is utilizing narrative and  
9 storytelling. And that, I think, for a lot of our  
10 communities across the board -- you know, folks connect  
11 to story, right? And it's easier to talk about that than  
12 using certain jargon when it comes to redistricting.

13       And another way of thinking about building community  
14 is, you know, how powerful it is to hear from  
15 Commissioners to say, you know -- naming the communities  
16 that are mostly left out of our democracy, and that  
17 you're saying, I want to hear your story. You know, I  
18 want to hear from the mom that has two jobs, you know,  
19 and is trying to make ends meet and not lose her  
20 apartment -- to talk to me about your story of your  
21 community.

22       I want to hear from that young person going to  
23 college and having to work, you know, multiple jobs,  
24 part-time jobs so that they're able to pay their tuition  
25 and still struggling to pay tuition but going --

1 committed to, you know, getting their higher education.

2 I want to hear your story of your community.

3 I want to hear the story of the residents that, you  
4 know, regardless of your immigration status, that you're  
5 undocumented, you're a permanent resident -- your story  
6 matters to me because you're in this community of  
7 California. So calling out specific groups that you are  
8 aware will either be more fearful of engaging or feel  
9 like they're disconnected or that they don't matter. If  
10 you're able to even uplift them by identifying them, that  
11 is powerful. And to hear that from Commissioners, that  
12 you're acknowledging their existence, that makes folks  
13 feel like they belong and that they are more interested  
14 in participating because someone actually is thinking  
15 about them.

16 And then thinking about the gaps that you have in  
17 terms of who, as Commissioners, who -- the different  
18 communities and intersectional identities that you all  
19 have, be like, who's missing? And like, damn, I need to  
20 hear from this community, because we don't get to work  
21 with someone who is from that community, right? So those  
22 are some ideas in terms of like, how do you build  
23 community, or have that approach of building community?  
24 Next slide?

25 So reimagining also, you know, physical and online

1 hearings. That's going to be one of the major ways that  
2 you'll be engaging with the public, right? And so if,  
3 you know, things change and improve and that we're able  
4 to be in a physical setting with one another, how can --  
5 or even online, you know, how do you make hearings feel  
6 welcoming, friendly, accessible, comfortable, familiar?  
7 Versus just, it's a hearing. And for folks that are not  
8 comfortable in those settings, are not very -- don't have  
9 that experience, those are intimidating settings.

10       So how are things -- elements that could be  
11 interjected in there to transform how it even feels to be  
12 in a hearing, versus if it's either online or physically  
13 onsite, right? So thinking about elements like that.

14       Thinking about how, you know -- and again, this is  
15 something that may be common sense, but again, you know,  
16 how are we scheduling times when people work and have  
17 family responsibilities that they can attend? Being  
18 mindful of those. And other ideas like -- an opportunity  
19 to cohost hearings, right? This is -- we have -- all of  
20 these organizations from this region are hosting us to  
21 come and speak to you, you know, from a variety of groups  
22 that are known in that community, that are trusted  
23 messengers for distinct communities. The fact that  
24 collectively they're saying, like, we're hosting this,  
25 come. And you can see representation from them in

1 banners and signs. Signs that say welcome, bienvenidos,  
2 you know, in multiple languages. Whatever the visuals --  
3 but having organizations that are working with you,  
4 coordinating with you to really make it a community  
5 event.

6       And then, lastly, thinking about do we want to  
7 provide childcare? That is something that -- in thinking  
8 like -- in my background, I did a lot of community  
9 organizing. And the things that really helped when we  
10 wanted to put events together, to bring the community to  
11 come forward, is thinking about what's going to make it  
12 easy for someone to come. And so providing childcare.  
13 That makes a huge difference, you know? To have  
14 refreshments, you know, cafe con pan, you know, some  
15 coffee and some sweet bread, or whatever. It makes a big  
16 difference to stay in a meeting that's going to be hours  
17 and hours and to know that, hey, there'll be a snack at  
18 least. And that can be an opportunity even for like, the  
19 local food vendors to say, we're sponsoring this. We're  
20 going to bring this many dozens of whatever. They're  
21 advertising but they're also supporting the community to  
22 be present. And having interpretation and translation.  
23 Next slide?

24       And then just additional -- just a few more ideas of  
25 reimagining. You know, ensuring -- you know, again,

1 ensuring and announcing accessibility. You know, that  
2 you're providing language, you're providing ESL  
3 interpreters, other accommodations to ensure that  
4 multiple communities can actually feel welcomed to  
5 participate and to be there.

6 Thinking about the power of culture, music, and art,  
7 and especially elevating regions that, you know, have  
8 distinct communities that have their culture, their  
9 taste, their vibe, their flavor. If you were to inject  
10 some of that in whatever form. But it feels like we're  
11 in community again, right?

12 And then also just making virtual meetings  
13 accessible. And maybe thinking about can we have  
14 breakout groups, you know, smaller spaces, so that we're  
15 in conversation with Commissioners during hearings?  
16 Build that connection. Have more dialogue versus, here  
17 we are sharing our thoughts in two minutes and then  
18 stepping away to the next person.

19 So again, we are not providing, like, this is the  
20 best way of doing it, but it's just putting some ideas --  
21 elevating some ideas, you know, to spark some inspiration  
22 to all of you. Next slide?

23 And so with that, I just wanted to pause and open it  
24 up and hear from you if you all are already thinking  
25 about innovative ideas, you know, in terms of how you can

1 reimagine community engagement, and even think -- like,  
2 pulling back from, like, your own personal experience of  
3 working in a multitude of settings, groups,  
4 organizations. What has helped? What could be best  
5 practices that you've already been experiencing that you  
6 want to infuse here? So I wanted to pause and hear from  
7 you.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I will give you one of my  
9 experiences. I'm very involved with the local school  
10 district and with the schools. And we had the ELAC,  
11 which is the English Language Advisory Council. And so  
12 it's to try to get many of our Latino parents to come in  
13 to tell us what some of the issues may be with the school  
14 system or whatever the case may be. And initially we  
15 would be lucky to have one or two parents come. And we  
16 got innovative -- we thought we were, but you've already  
17 come up with that -- is we actually decided to do a  
18 potluck. And boy, did we not have a roomful of  
19 participants, and everyone was positive.

20 And we also had -- we also coordinated with the  
21 local high school because the high school students are  
22 required to perform a certain number of volunteer hours.  
23 So we got babysitters for the children, so the kids were  
24 happy because they could go outside and play, and the  
25 parents were just having a great time. The only problem,

1 it was hard to focus in terms of what we needed to  
2 accomplish. But yes, I definitely think food does  
3 definitely bring people together. So thank you for that.  
4 Commissioner Ahmad?

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank  
6 you so much for everything you've been speaking about so  
7 far. I'd just like to share that in my organizing days,  
8 we would implement the three F words: Fun, free, and  
9 food. And that always gets people in the room. Of  
10 course there's going to have to be some modifications,  
11 given COVID, but just a good thing to start with.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions before we move  
13 on from the Commissioners? Commissioner Sinay and then  
14 Akutagawa?

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Alejandra, I love this whole  
16 idea about stories. You know, kind of connect our  
17 stories, connect their stories. I mean, as  
18 Commissioners, we're just starting to learn each other's  
19 stories. We took time yesterday for the first time to  
20 really kind of start knowing our stories. So I think in  
21 this day of COVID where it's -- yeah, we just need to  
22 think through creatively that story and that California  
23 is one story and you're a part of that story.

24 As you were talking, I was just getting  
25 goosebumps -- not because you used my name for the story.

1 And so I really wanted to thank you on just sparking kind  
2 of our innovation. I know one of the thoughts that I've  
3 had from the beginning -- we keep going to digital  
4 mapmaking, but I'm wondering if we do have that  
5 opportunity, I know that when we did workshops -- as a  
6 school board member, we did workshops -- we got the  
7 school board members off the dais and we sat at tables  
8 and parents came. One group -- we did speed-dating, kind  
9 of. But -- and I've also done this at other times where  
10 you have just maps, paper maps, big paper maps, and they  
11 draw it right there and we have conversations, versus  
12 digital.

13 I know it's a little harder, but just thinking more  
14 of that whole idea of doing things together in smaller  
15 groups, I was just wondering how that sounded. And if we  
16 work -- what keeps coming to mind is the need to train  
17 the trainer, you know, just how do we get groups -- you  
18 know, how do we get groups -- especially with like, the  
19 COI tool and whatever other tools we may have -- how do  
20 we get you all up to speed, and then how do you all get  
21 others up to speed? And so it's had -- I heard in  
22 Michigan I think they're calling them academies. And  
23 they're trying to figure out how to do it. So I was just  
24 curious on your thoughts on something like that.

25 MS. PONCE DE LEON: On training the trainers?

1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: Or what you're thinking about  
2 right now. How do you get the information from us to  
3 your network, to the network down even further on knowing  
4 how to use the tools that are created?

5           MS. PONCE DE LEON: Um-hum. I mean, I think  
6 definitely the train the trainer model is something that,  
7 for a lot of our partners, that's their go-to, right, in  
8 terms of all the other organizing that they do. And it's  
9 about building capacity, and like, it's leadership  
10 development, right? From the staff level down to, you  
11 know, the community volunteer, the leader that's coming  
12 in. Like, how are we enabling folks to be more  
13 knowledgeable and expanding their skillsets.

14           And so I think that it is an opportunity. It's  
15 something that already a lot of community groups do,  
16 because it's powerful, right? And at the end of the day,  
17 you know, I think it'd be great to no longer need the  
18 organizer, because the people are already doing what  
19 they've got to do, you know? So I think that that  
20 approach is something that's super helpful. And I think  
21 that the reality is that even within organizations, the  
22 grass tops, there's education that needs to happen there,  
23 right, in terms of what is redistricting and how does  
24 this connect to the mission of my organization, and why  
25 should we be investing time and so forth?

1           And so it is that chain, right, of like, being able  
2 to go through the large networks, the organizations --  
3 for them to then bring up all of the community leaders to  
4 also be at the same level of understanding. And so how  
5 do you provide the resources, the tools that they can  
6 then carry forward and share onto others? And I think  
7 that that's something that is helpful.

8           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Also one thing that struck me,  
9 though, on the storytelling is that when you all are  
10 meeting with Jamie and Karin, to really pay attention to  
11 the questions that we're asking. Because I think right  
12 now they're too academic jargon-y. But as you were  
13 talking, just asking for your story or what are your  
14 shared struggles or your shared visions, we'd get a lot  
15 more out of it than, how do you define your community? I  
16 don't know. So just looking at that when you all are  
17 looking -- if you could put that lens in, since it's a  
18 very innovative lens.

19           MS. PONCE DE LEON: And it could also be that there  
20 might be parallel approaches, right? You have the  
21 opportunity to do it with the tool of asking those  
22 specific questions. And I think what we've heard from  
23 Karin is also thinking like, what's going to be helpful  
24 to you as Commissioners, like, as folks are using that  
25 platform to provide you information. But I think maybe

1 there's another way of, like -- you know, you're  
2 connecting with multiple organizations and saying, this  
3 is how we're also collecting information. It's going to  
4 be through story. Have your -- have a conversation, hold  
5 a potluck in your organization. You're going to do a  
6 training on what is redistricting and then you're going  
7 to do some short, like, storytelling, and you're going to  
8 gather than information and send it back to us.

9       Maybe that's another format, another approach in  
10 collecting that information that is more accessible and  
11 it's different but it's getting you that information in a  
12 way that makes it easier for someone to rather tell a  
13 story and someone captures it for them, or they do  
14 something versus, like, I'm going to go to this tool and  
15 I'm going to learn how to use the map, and I'm going to  
16 do these boundaries. So it's just -- I think you want to  
17 provide maybe multiple avenues for folks to give you that  
18 information.

19       MR. STEIN: I know there are several Commissioners  
20 who have questions, so I'll just add one very quick note,  
21 which is that people don't care what you know until they  
22 know who you are. There's real power in small groups,  
23 right? People are going to share their story of their  
24 experience in California -- their family, their  
25 neighborhood, their community. If -- you're a human who

1 has a life, and a history, and a story to tell yourself.  
2 And so the tool is really useful. And there will be some  
3 people who jump to use it because they really want to get  
4 their views in front of you.

5 There are other folks for whom the tool, it's a  
6 mechanism, but first you have to put that upfront  
7 investment in so that they know that there's someone  
8 listening if they choose to tell their story.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa, Vasquez,  
10 and Sadhwani?

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: First off, I just want to  
12 say thank you to the both of you for the presentation.  
13 It's been really interesting and I've just been listening  
14 really with quite a bit of interest, even when I was off-  
15 camera for a little bit.

16 I do have some questions, but first off, Alejandra,  
17 I just want to say what you just said at the very end  
18 about these other alternative ways of collecting some of  
19 the inputs really resonated. Because one of the concerns  
20 that I have is words and the way questions can be worded  
21 can mean so many different things to different people  
22 that in the quest to try to draw out one group of people,  
23 we may end up completely also -- not disenfranchising but  
24 maybe excluding someone else because they read the  
25 question in such a different way that it may be at cross

1 purposes to what we want to do. So I really do like the  
2 idea that -- trying to think about it in multiple ways.

3 And I'll be honest. I mean, I think before I was on  
4 the Commission, I don't think I would've gone to the  
5 tool. I would've just preferred to just tell somebody  
6 else, this is what I think it is, and then let somebody  
7 else figure out how to get the input to the Commission.  
8 I'm just kind of, like, putting that hat on.

9 But I do have some questions and I'm just interested  
10 to hear your perspectives on it. I think, you know, what  
11 you said at the very beginning when you started this  
12 portion about COVID -- and I think we're all pretty much  
13 conscious about it. I know that you said something about  
14 breaking down the hierarchy and being on daises and other  
15 things like that. I'm also just trying to think about,  
16 are we really going to be on daises? Because with many  
17 of the communities that I think we want to draw, they're  
18 coming from vulnerable places.

19 Maybe this is then going back to -- maybe the idea  
20 that you were saying that we're working through  
21 organizations like yours. But then even identifying  
22 others that may not necessarily be directly affiliated  
23 with redistricting but may have those connections into  
24 the community might be ways to draw out their input  
25 without -- I don't know, I'm just kind of thinking about

1 how do we tear down these hierarchies if we're not going  
2 to meet in person? And if online isn't going to be the  
3 easiest way because either, A, they don't have that kind  
4 of capability, or it's just not the way they feel  
5 comfortable communicating. I think I'm just kind of  
6 struggling with that, and I would love to hear some other  
7 ideas from you around that.

8       The other thing that I was really curious about, and  
9 it just really intrigued me, because again, I'm also  
10 trying to think about it from kind of the angles of  
11 different communities -- you said, infuse culture, music,  
12 and art. And I'm thinking about, okay, as an Asian  
13 American, I'm just thinking I don't know -- I mean, when  
14 I think about Asian American kind of things, we don't  
15 always think about music, art, unless somebody else says  
16 it. But I don't -- it's kind of almost like we're just  
17 like, tell us what we need to know and then we'll just  
18 kind of work with that and then just, boom, we're done,  
19 right?

20       But all these other things, though, it's almost kind  
21 of like that has a place but this work doesn't seem to be  
22 a place where that would normally kind of converge. And  
23 I'm just kind of thinking about how Asian Americans would  
24 react to some of this. I mean, they'd be like, okay,  
25 this is good but I'm also thinking I don't know if they

1 think it's important, but I also realize too that for  
2 some communities even within the Asian American  
3 community, it would be seen as a positive thing.

4 And so I think I'm just kind of trying to wrap my  
5 head around that too, so. I'll stop there and I'd love  
6 to hear your thoughts on all that.

7 MS. PONCE DE LEON: My goodness. Yes. I mean, I  
8 think in terms of the hierarchies, I definitely hear you  
9 in terms of, like, if we're not in person, like, how do  
10 you break that, right? And I think maybe again, it's how  
11 do you use that virtual space that you're having hearings  
12 where you could -- there's a moment where you break up  
13 into smaller groups, and two Commissioners are  
14 facilitating a break group, you know, with other  
15 community members. That's one way that you're just like,  
16 coming closer. You're having a conversation, right?  
17 You're having a dialogue.

18 Something that I really want to uplift and kind of  
19 appreciate from Patricia -- and I'm calling her Patricia  
20 because she shared with us that she felt more comfortable  
21 being addressed as Patricia than Commissioner Sinay. And  
22 so even just breaking those titles as a way of like -- my  
23 name's Linda. I'm just Linda. You know, like -- and I  
24 want to recognize that not everybody might share that  
25 same sentiment. But that can be an example of just like,

1 it's very simple, just call me by my first name, you  
2 know, and that just breaks that like -- oh. Because  
3 usually if you go to a city council meeting, you know,  
4 the mayor, you know Councilmember Blah, and it's like  
5 this level of like -- I can't -- there needs to be this  
6 distance, this respect because you're here. But talking,  
7 you know, in first name, that can be something that can  
8 help.

9 I think there might be other ideas. I feel like  
10 one -- I'm sure like, all of you have some ideas, but I  
11 think I wanted to invite even the larger public -- you  
12 know, communities, you know, like, what are other ways  
13 that they could suggest ideas of how they can break that?

14 In terms of the arts and the culture, you know, I  
15 think that's going to be something that -- I definitely  
16 hear you in terms of like, is this the place for it, you  
17 know, and how would that look like? And maybe this is  
18 the opportunity to say like, paradigm shift, like, yeah.  
19 Because as you're coming in to talk about your community,  
20 you're coming in with your culture, with your identity,  
21 with your music. Who you are is all of that, right? And  
22 it's like, welcoming that.

23 Some ideas that I was thinking of, like, wow, you  
24 know, imagine you have a public hearing and -- come in,  
25 the hearing's going to be at 5 p.m. but at 4:30 the local

1 Japanese drumline is going to be performing and the local  
2 Aztec dancers are going to come and they're going to  
3 have -- it's going to feel like a festivity, a party. So  
4 you come in into culture but you're staying for the  
5 conversation, right? And so that's another way of  
6 infusing it, you know. Even just visuals. You have the  
7 local artists. Like, do you want to come and exhibit  
8 your art that speaks to community, that speaks to  
9 identity, that speaks to, like, you know, we are  
10 California. So who is California? Show it to me  
11 visually, right? And displaying art.

12 Another way -- you can have the local youth that  
13 they do spoken word. They open up the session with a  
14 spoken word that reflects not only the culture of that  
15 community but also speaks to, like, the values and the  
16 goals within redistricting. So maybe those are some ways  
17 that you infuse it that it's not like, taking up space  
18 but rather, it's creating that space where someone feels  
19 like, wow, you brought in the mariachi? You know, or I  
20 don't know, you brought in these dancers from the local  
21 high school dance group to come in -- the youth.

22 When even thinking about young people  
23 participating -- you know, they're not able to, given the  
24 criteria, they're not able to apply to be on the  
25 redistricting commission, right? But youth should be

1 heard. They're going to be impacted by the lines, how  
2 they're going to be drawn for the next ten years because  
3 in ten years they're going to be the adults, right, that  
4 are going to be able to vote, right? So how do you even  
5 infuse the young people to come in, and they come in with  
6 a lot of ideas that's engaging and that's -- it just  
7 builds, it just builds this connection. Like, wow, our  
8 community consists of all of these people and all of  
9 these backgrounds. And the fact that there's a space,  
10 even if it's small, to uplift that, that's inviting. And  
11 I want to go because that sounds fun to attend, right?  
12 And so those are some ideas.

13 MR. STEIN: I'll just add one very brief note, very  
14 practical-minded, which is that one of the most  
15 intimidating things about speaking at a public hearing or  
16 a city council meeting or county board of supervisors  
17 meeting is you have to go walk up to the microphone by  
18 yourself, and you're sitting there isolated with five or  
19 nine people staring down on you usually from an elevated  
20 dais. It's very isolating.

21 And while we lose a lot of the community building  
22 aspects, we lose food, we lose music perhaps in a virtual  
23 setting, it does allow people to come together with  
24 family or with others to provide a sort of -- their  
25 testimony in a collaborative or a group fashion. So you

1 could have one Commissioner sitting with five people and  
2 they're sharing out together, instead of one person on a  
3 microphone in front of a whole room.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for that. We are at our  
5 90 minutes, and I do have Commissioners Vasquez and  
6 Sadhwani. Alejandra and Jonathan, are you able to stay  
7 with us after a 15-minute break?

8 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yeah.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so let's go ahead and  
10 take a quick break and we come back at 3:42. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Welcome back,  
13 everyone. We were in the middle of asking questions and  
14 we still have a couple more Commissioners. We have  
15 Commissioner Vasquez and Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Thank you both for your  
17 presentation. Alejandra, I recognize the nice green  
18 walls behind you. As a former Advancement Project  
19 employee, I was on staff while -- I was not part of the  
20 department that was working on Redraw California, but I  
21 remember the Healthy City team -- all of their work in  
22 the office doing a lot of the mapping, and I was always  
23 both very proud and very -- I think that experience sort  
24 of vicariously turned me on to the importance and power  
25 of just not redistricting but also community-based --

1 community-based mapping as a tool for advocacy for many  
2 issues.

3       And so to that end, my question for you both is to  
4 what extent have community organizations used mapping for  
5 other purposes beyond redistricting, sort of in the last  
6 maybe ten years? And are those -- how can we tap into  
7 that expertise to both bring them into redistricting, to  
8 help them support our work, but then also I'm thinking --  
9 so a two-part question.

10       And then to your point about breaking down barriers  
11 and power dynamics, and it's very, I agree -- very --  
12 potential for there still to be a power dynamic when  
13 we're inviting community to speak to us in a particular  
14 way. You know, do you have thoughts on hosting smaller  
15 sort of like labs, where community -- if we implement  
16 this sort of train the trainer model, we get some sort of  
17 toolkit out to the trainers about how to use either the  
18 mapping tool or to create their own mechanism for drawing  
19 maps and getting community input, what would be your  
20 thoughts on sort of either the Commission attending  
21 really an observation and in listening mode, or perhaps  
22 even one or two Commissioners attending those, again, in  
23 listen and learning mode to these sort of like, lab  
24 spaces that are much more about teaching the community  
25 the process and getting them sort of excited about

1 community-based mapping as a precursor to, again, pulling  
2 them into a more discrete project?

3 MS. PONCE DE LEON: So in terms of the first  
4 question -- so I know, like, the use of maps by community  
5 groups and other things outside of redistricting -- I  
6 feel like at least for Advancement Project, one major use  
7 of maps that has come up for us along with partners has  
8 been with census, right? And so we convene the We Count  
9 L.A. table. So it's basically like a regional table for  
10 L.A. County of a multitude of community organizations,  
11 nonprofits, different sectors from education, just all of  
12 these different groups that are working and coordinating  
13 together around census outreach.

14 And so they are really leading the efforts with  
15 partners in terms of getting the outreach. And thinking  
16 about, you know, how are we having coverage across the  
17 county? And so Advancement Project has been providing  
18 the mapping support -- data and mapping support in that  
19 space. And being able to update maps, to show where --  
20 what's been the response rate so far by -- down to, like,  
21 I think, the city level but down to blocks, I want to  
22 say. And it actually shows with colors, right, like,  
23 how -- where are the areas that you still have -- you  
24 still have a high percentage of the folks that have not  
25 responded to the census.

1           And so that has been something that we've been  
2 updating, like, every two weeks with data from the Census  
3 Bureau. And actually, that's been helping to inform a  
4 lot of the strategy and the organizing and the outreach  
5 activities that a lot of the partners are then carrying  
6 forward. So knowing just visually, like, oh, my gosh,  
7 South L.A., that's where we still have so many areas that  
8 have not been responding. And these are the  
9 percentages -- the percentages of folks that actually  
10 have responded.

11           And so having that visual has been super helpful and  
12 informing a lot of their organizing and their outreach.  
13 And it's been critical data that we've been able to help  
14 bring in for their work. I know that a lot of other --  
15 from a lot of other projects, so with, like, education,  
16 the use of public funds, I now that we tend to use -- we  
17 always fuse like, data and mapping together to  
18 demonstrate the need.

19           So even developing like, the equity index for our  
20 education -- where is the highest need when it comes to  
21 L.A., like the county, in terms of the student  
22 populations? Where would be -- where are they located  
23 geographically? And then being able to then tie that  
24 with the need for funding, right? And so in having that  
25 information, having that mapping capability has really

1 strengthened the advocacy efforts of partners to really  
2 point to a map and say, like, look, this is where we  
3 really need the resources. And so for Advancement  
4 Project that's been something that's been very vital and  
5 very helpful.

6 I think recognizing also that, you know, a lot of  
7 the community organizations -- you know, not all of them  
8 have that in-house capability of developing maps and  
9 bringing that data. But I think that that has been  
10 something that's very useful when it is accessible to  
11 partners and to have that that actually speaks to the  
12 work that they're doing and informs their work. I mean,  
13 that's something that is super critical to bring in.

14 In terms of the power dynamics, and like, the idea  
15 of hosting smaller labs, I think that is a great  
16 opportunity. And I think that not only just for a couple  
17 of Commissioners to attend and observe, but even if  
18 there's a moment for you to engage, right? Even just to  
19 say like, hi, you know, like, here I am, I'm listening to  
20 you, I'm engaging with you. Or I appreciate what you're  
21 saying. I didn't know about this, about your commute.  
22 So even being able to react, even if you're not able  
23 to -- given your responsibility and your role, that you  
24 can't make decisions or whatever the Brown law, the Brown  
25 Act has. But at least to participate at the level would

1 be awesome.

2       If you are going to be developing tools that you can  
3 share with partners, I think that having that partnership  
4 with you where you come in and even just uplift your  
5 story or uplift why it matters that your -- this  
6 community is engaging together to develop maps or think  
7 through even just initial maps of, like, as an activity.  
8 Like, how would we define our communities here? And  
9 like, they're engaging and you're just hearing the  
10 conversation. I think that's super rich, and I'm sure  
11 that maybe community groups might have additional ideas  
12 of like, how best to utilize those spaces, what roles you  
13 all could be playing in those spaces -- that could be  
14 helpful for them, and also for the community base that  
15 they're working with to engage and be comfortable in  
16 talking about those things. Jonathan, I don't know if  
17 you have other --

18       MR. STEIN: Yeah. Commission Vasquez, thank you for  
19 the question. I'll be very brief. Since the last  
20 redistricting cycle, dozens, and dozens, and dozens of  
21 California cities have undergone districting, which means  
22 that there are lots of communities across the state who  
23 are familiar at least somewhat with how census data is  
24 used in drawing maps, why districts matter, etc.

25       Be mindful, though, that a number of those -- while

1 some of those jurisdictions really were uplifted through  
2 that process because their cities took the time to  
3 educate, and engage, and hear from community, there are  
4 just as many, if not more jurisdictions where it left a  
5 bad taste in their mouth because their city council moved  
6 very quickly, did not do outreach, and moved through a  
7 set of maps that were advantageous to incumbents with  
8 very little community participation.

9       And so while there might be an awareness, there are  
10 also some hurdles to overcome when you approach them  
11 about this work. And saying that you're doing it from a  
12 different perspective, an independent, public-driven  
13 commission approach as opposed to a politician-led  
14 approach will help. But just be mindful that people have  
15 had different experiences with that process.

16       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

17       COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Most of my  
18 questions and comments have already been covered and  
19 addressed, but I just -- I actually -- I have to leave  
20 very soon. I have to jump off today a little early, but  
21 I wanted to just truly say thank you for coming and  
22 sharing with us all of these ideas. It's one of those  
23 funny moments when -- I study barriers to participation  
24 and inclusion, I have worked in communities of color that  
25 face all of these kinds of barriers, and yet I wasn't

1 really thinking about applying all of these kind of best  
2 practices to this process, right?

3 I mean, Alejandra, when you were talking about, you  
4 know, bringing in music, and art, and food, and I'm just  
5 thinking, well, of course, like, I do this even in my  
6 classrooms. And yet for some reason I just had never --  
7 I think we are so locked -- at least for myself -- so  
8 locked into kind of thinking about how it was done in  
9 2010, that I just so appreciate both of you being here  
10 today and the presentation that you gave because it's  
11 definitely gotten the juices flowing.

12 And also thinking about -- okay, well, if you were  
13 to do small groups, how do we systematize it, right?  
14 Because I think one of the things that I've heard from my  
15 colleagues here on the Commission is we really -- all of  
16 us, I think, share this desire to really hear from all of  
17 the people. So if we do the smaller groups, then how do  
18 we bring that back, right? How do we -- maybe it's using  
19 a focus group kind of methodology of systematizing what  
20 we're hearing and bringing that information back, or  
21 something like that. But I think this has been so  
22 incredibly helpful and I just wanted to thank you both  
23 for really being here today and sharing this. And with  
24 that, I'm going to actually jump out.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do we have any other

1 questions from the Commissioners before we continue on?

2 Actually, when I say we continue on, before Alejandra and  
3 Jonathan continue on with their presentation. Okay.

4 MR. STEIN: I am mindful of time and so I can move  
5 relatively quickly through our final slides today. Okay,  
6 we were asked to provide some high-level -- some  
7 recommendations around education, outreach and  
8 engagement, and in the process of Alejandra and I  
9 beginning to put together this presentation, we realized  
10 there's just dozens if not hundreds of recommendations  
11 that are super, super small and super specific, that are  
12 really, really important, and there was just no way we  
13 were going to be able to put them into this presentation.

14 And so what we have done instead is just provided  
15 some high-level thoughts acknowledging that you're going  
16 to hear more from a wide range of partners about how --  
17 what they think would be the best model for education and  
18 outreach.

19 First, you are blessed with more time than your  
20 predecessors and you have the opportunity to consult with  
21 experts on civic engagement, with experts on engaging the  
22 public on redistricting, with experts on civic design,  
23 with experts in language access and disability access.  
24 The good news is that in California you have lots of  
25 organizations, either community-rooted organizations or

1 ethnic media, for example, that have spent years, and  
2 years, and years talking with community and working with  
3 community on esoteric governmental systems like  
4 redistricting, but other things as well.

5       You know, you were talking about school funding  
6 formulas as one example, right? A really specific, very  
7 complicated governmental process that has huge  
8 implications in the lives of California's families, and  
9 there are organizations that have been translating those  
10 really difficult topics for families on the ground,  
11 right? So there's people you can learn from. So you  
12 have the opportunity to consult and consult broadly.

13       With respect to actual recommendations, I want to  
14 provide just the broadest of thoughts here. With respect  
15 to all of your education, all of your outreach, and all  
16 of your hearings, please, we urge you to use easy to  
17 access systems and language and prioritize plain language  
18 wherever possible. Prioritize also language access and  
19 disability access.

20       And I just want to flag something that's probably  
21 already obvious, but if you can get plain language right,  
22 you're solving a lot of other problems at the same time.  
23 So a lot of voting information -- like, for example, your  
24 voter pamphlet that you've probably just received in the  
25 mail in the last few days, feels sometimes like it's

1 written at a high school graduate level or a college  
2 graduate level. Other governmental information is often  
3 written at the same level. The best practice around  
4 plain language is you're supposed to be writing at a  
5 much, much more basic level than that.

6       And if you can accomplish that, you're ensuring  
7 access for everybody, because that plain language is  
8 easier to translate into other languages and it's easier  
9 to make accessible to people with disabilities. And so  
10 if you can achieve plain language, it's a win -- an  
11 access win for everybody across the board.

12       And also, we urge you to provide a range of formats  
13 for people to engage in. And there's been a really  
14 robust conversation about this today already, and so I  
15 don't need to go into it in great depth. But some folks  
16 will want a low-tech solution, some folks will want a  
17 high-tech solution. Some people will not need much  
18 outreach and a low-touch approach is fine. There are  
19 others where that high-touch approach is necessary.

20       I'm thinking of the Afghan community members where  
21 we sat and had tea with a handwritten map. It was  
22 through building bonds, through building community, as  
23 Alejandra mentioned, that we were able to draw out that  
24 really important community of interest testimony. Some  
25 folks will need assistance and some folks won't. I'm

1 thinking of language assistance and disability  
2 assistance. And then some folks will want to provide  
3 input solo and some will come forward in groups or with a  
4 community-based organization. And hopefully, you can  
5 create systems that are flexible enough to fit all of  
6 these different formats.

7       And then, lastly, I'll just note one thing I said  
8 again, which is that you will get detailed  
9 recommendations I think quite soon from a wide range of  
10 community organizations and partners that we work with  
11 who want to bring a more granular and more detailed set  
12 of recommendations to you.

13       Last thought. The virtues of moving slowly.  
14 Because of certain practical realities, one, that you're  
15 seated earlier than your predecessors, so you have more  
16 time available to you. And two, COVID places us in this  
17 period of flux where we don't know when census data will  
18 be available and we don't know how the community will be  
19 able to participate in your process. There's a lot left  
20 to be figured out, right? And so you're sort of -- you  
21 have the opportunity to slow down and in some ways you're  
22 forced to slow down. And that presents you with this  
23 beautiful opportunity to listen to California.

24       I am so jealous of the work you get to do. You get  
25 to go to every corner of this state and listen to people

1 talk about their families, their neighborhoods, their  
2 communities, and what they hope their community means to  
3 the broader California story. I don't know if you've  
4 ever had the opportunity to sit in a districting hearing  
5 or sit in a redistricting hearing and listen to people  
6 give community of interest testimony.

7       Some people are just saying, my community is bound  
8 by Lawrence Expressway to the east and Homestead Avenue  
9 on the south, or whatever. But other people are truly  
10 opening their hearts and sharing their story of struggle,  
11 and presence, and participation. And you have the  
12 opportunity, you have the privilege of doing that across  
13 the state, up and down, for people of all kinds. And so  
14 I hope that you will be able to take the time to build  
15 the most effective, most accessible, most inclusive  
16 processes you can so that that California story can be  
17 told.

18       And that's it. That's all Alejandra and I have for  
19 you. We have deeply appreciated the opportunity to join  
20 you today and to share our thoughts, and to engage in  
21 this conversation, knowing that it's the first of many.  
22 So we want to say thank you and we also want to make  
23 ourselves available right now for further questions but  
24 also in the future for further communication by letter,  
25 at one of your meetings, or in any other format.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much. I got a little  
2 chuckle when you said that's it, that's all we've got.  
3 And I'm like, well, you actually gave us quite a bit. So  
4 thank you so much. I'm going to open it up for questions  
5 from the Commissioners, and then after that we'll be  
6 going to public comment. So if Alejandra and Jonathan  
7 can stay for that too because if there are public comment  
8 it would be associated with this agenda item, so that'd  
9 be very beneficial to us.

10 So let's see, I've got Commissioner Akutagawa,  
11 Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Fornaciari. Okay,  
12 here we go.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do you have me?

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And Sinay. There you are. Thank  
15 you.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry, I didn't realize I  
17 was --

18 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Jonathan, thank you very  
19 much for that wonderful recap. That was actually -- wow,  
20 that was really a nice way to encapsulate everything that  
21 you both just talked about. I will say that I feel the  
22 privilege too of being able to know that we'll be able to  
23 talk to so many other people from across California,  
24 although I will also confess to feeling a little  
25 frustrated and constrained because of COVID in that we

1 can't just go out and do it the way we would normally  
2 would've thought we would've been able to do it. And I  
3 think -- but I hear what you're saying about slow it down  
4 and to really think about how we can both hear and invite  
5 all of those stories from across every corner of  
6 California. And I know that that's something of great  
7 interest to me.

8 I have what maybe a somewhat detailed question, I  
9 guess, and part of it is what you were just saying about  
10 easy access to language and utilizing plain basic  
11 language. You know, I'm going to probably say whether --  
12 I don't know, Marian, if I start to stray into places  
13 where I should not be straying, can you just cut me off  
14 then?

15 MS. JOHNSTON: I'm sure you'll do fine.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, I'm thinking -- I'm  
17 figuring, okay, I want to take advantage of both Jonathan  
18 and Alejandra because I'm just thinking about this COI  
19 tool that we've been having this discussion about, and  
20 about, you know, language access and -- for me, I'm just  
21 kind of like what's been on my mind is like, what's that  
22 sweet spot? Besides beyond what is state-mandated, you  
23 know, what is that kind of right number of languages can  
24 we -- should we be looking at to ensure that we're going  
25 to offer the broadest, most balanced prospect of language

1 access without breaking the bank, too? Because I think  
2 that's what we're -- that's what I understand. It's,  
3 unfortunately, not that extensive in terms of how much we  
4 could spend.

5       And then the other question I have around that too  
6 is, you know, we've also talked about keeping into --  
7 taking into account not just the questions but also in  
8 terms of providing access through the COI tool or the  
9 communities of interest tool for people where they may  
10 have more of an oral or verbal kind of language, or even  
11 like, their preferences to understand and to process is  
12 more verbal versus written. I'd be interested to hear  
13 what your thoughts would be on both the suggestions on,  
14 you know, how many languages, what languages should we be  
15 looking at? And then also video and how do we make it in  
16 such a way that is also going to be the most accessible  
17 to the broadest people?

18       MR. STEIN: Thank you for the question. I'll say a  
19 handful of things. First, there are -- we have --  
20 Alejandra and I have partner organizations that have  
21 worked on language access for years and decades, and we  
22 should allow them to come forward and give their thoughts  
23 on that question. And so I won't attempt to speak for  
24 them.

25       I'll just say that if you can -- there are certain

1 very large language communities in California where I  
2 think that the translation is a no-brainer. And then  
3 where you determine that you don't have the finances to  
4 translate into additional languages, really intentional  
5 outreach to community organizations in those communities  
6 may pay dividends. That is to say, they may do outreach  
7 in their own language or outreach to local media. They  
8 may do publicity for you free of cost in language because  
9 you've just made the investment of time and staff  
10 capacity, right? Instead of an investment of money.

11 With respect to people who have an oral tradition  
12 and are less comfortable with the COI tool, I hope what  
13 you're hearing us say is that you need a broad diversity  
14 of formats for people to engage with you. And the COI  
15 tool is a really valuable asset, and it will work for a  
16 large portion of Californians. It will also not be ideal  
17 for a large portion of Californians. And so you just  
18 have to ensure that you have formats for people to come  
19 forward to you that work for everybody.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Jonathan, I know  
22 Common Cause is a member of the Future of California  
23 Elections Collective. I've participated in a number of  
24 their events. So I guess I've been surprised that, to  
25 date, they haven't mentioned redistricting or the

1 Commission. So I wanted to get your thoughts on how we  
2 could engage with the Collective and maybe, you know, tap  
3 into them and their networks to help us.

4 MR. STEIN: Well, I would be happy to be a liaison,  
5 if it would be useful, and to connect to you. I think  
6 the reality is that it is an all hands on deck situation  
7 with respect to the election. And so you may get more  
8 engagement from that network after November 3rd, assuming  
9 that things are resolved on November 3rd, and I may mean  
10 after January something. So there just may be a capacity  
11 issue at the current moment, Commissioner Kennedy, but I  
12 know a number of the groups that are very focused on the  
13 election will be able to turn more attention to the  
14 redistricting soon.

15 And specifically with respect to that group, we work  
16 together all the time and I would be happy to sort of  
17 forward your message verbally that you hope that they  
18 will engage -- that the Commission is ready to engage  
19 with them.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner  
21 Fornaciari?

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I just want to say  
23 thanks for your energetic, thoughtful, really creative  
24 presentation and ideas. It's given me an awful lot to  
25 think about. And to echo Commissioner Sadhwani, you

1 know, I was kind of stuck in this mindset of what they  
2 did last time and now I'm envisioning all these great  
3 ideas that you have, how we might implement those great  
4 ideas to be more effective in getting the participation  
5 we want. So thank you very much.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias. Thank you. You guys,  
8 I think you hit it out of the ballpark. So thank you. I  
9 know it took a lot of time and effort to put this all  
10 together, but that time and effort really, I think, has  
11 moved all of us on the Commission way forward in our  
12 thinking. We were looking for an opportunity to start --  
13 get away from administration and think of the other  
14 stuff. So thank you very much for giving us that.

15 I would like to actually not receive a plan, if it's  
16 all right with all the other Commissioners. We do -- it  
17 would be better if the partners actually presented it to  
18 us and we could make time on the agenda. We have space.  
19 And I have it on -- kind of in our thought -- yeah, in  
20 our thoughts in planning it out.

21 So Jonathan, if you could have whoever is --  
22 Jonathan and Alejandra, I'm sorry -- just connect with  
23 me. Agendas get made way in advance, so the sooner they  
24 can connect with me so I can make sure we put them in an  
25 agenda. But I think everybody here is very excited to

1 see your face, Alejandra, since we've heard your voice so  
2 many times. Jonathan, I think we've heard it a couple of  
3 times, but Alejandra -- she hasn't called in in the last  
4 two days and I've missed her.

5 But I know people also want to see some of the other  
6 faces that we've heard. And so we do want this to be  
7 something that we're doing together and we're learning  
8 together. None of us -- as you all said, you all don't  
9 have the answers and we don't have the answers put  
10 together. I believe in the wisdom of crowds, and we'll  
11 get there.

12 And so if -- you know, just have whoever or  
13 whatever -- let's -- you know, you guys have my email and  
14 we can figure out where to put it on the agenda if all  
15 the Commissioners agree.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah. Just for the public  
17 out there, we'll be going to public comment soon. And I  
18 just wanted to make a comment about -- I can't remember  
19 if it was Jonathan or Alejandra that said that you're  
20 lucky you have so much more time. And honestly, I don't  
21 feel like I have so much more time. I just feel like  
22 this pressure that -- you know, I'm getting ready to run  
23 the race and they don't -- they're not letting me go.  
24 Because I really want to be out there. I mean, that's  
25 what I believe is going to be -- where my passion's going

1 to be is being out there with the people. And so right  
2 here, having to do it virtually is, to me, like, very  
3 restricting. And I feel that for -- some of the public  
4 may love it. I have a nephew that absolutely loves  
5 social distancing. But many of them do need that  
6 interaction.

7 But I also want to echo what Commission Sinay said  
8 and thank you very much for taking the time, on short  
9 notice, to come today and speak with us and to be one of  
10 our partners. So thank you so much. If there aren't any  
11 more questions, I'm going to go -- oh, Commissioner  
12 Andersen?

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. One quick thing.  
14 Well, two. One, I was so pleased to hear Commissioner  
15 Sadhwani, then Commissioner Fornaciari say they hadn't --  
16 this is sort of a break in that they're looking at -- the  
17 way it was done is not the way we should do it. Because  
18 I actually brought that up when I was interviewed. I  
19 think that might be one of the reasons why I stayed in  
20 the group. To me, I've immediately gone -- we need to  
21 work in small groups, and we need to get people working  
22 with the map because ultimately that's where we need to  
23 go. And I really appreciate the input and the different  
24 ways of doing that. Because that's what I was not able  
25 to actually -- to really put into words. And I really

1 appreciate that you're helping on that.

2 But then I have a very specific question and it goes  
3 more to the how do we get out there? And this goes for  
4 Common Cause. Since you actually were part of the actual  
5 supporters and architects of the propositions which  
6 created us, could you help us please research the intent  
7 behind -- it's a very specific question -- our posting.  
8 The Bagley-Keene is usually a ten-day notification. But  
9 then it says 14 days for public meetings. And what we  
10 want -- we've just been doing 14 days for everything.  
11 And the 10-day window could help us just a little teeny  
12 bit, but we're concerned that if we go to 10 day then we  
13 can't actually take the public input about redistricting  
14 because it wasn't given 14 days.

15 So if you could sort of help us research the intent  
16 there, because we don't want to do anything that's  
17 inconsistent, we just want a little bit more information,  
18 so.

19 MR. STEIN: Commissioner Andersen, thank you for the  
20 question. I anticipated that might come up. And we can  
21 do our homework on our end and come back to you either in  
22 a written format or in some other way.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair, I have a  
25 question. Are we going to have an opportunity to discuss

1 amongst ourselves in this meeting the presentations that  
2 we've heard today? Or like, what's happening after  
3 public comment?

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So after public comment, this is  
5 the last thing that we have on our agenda. If you'd like  
6 to discuss it further as a commission, is that what  
7 you're asking?

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, because I don't have  
9 questions for our presenters. Thank you, by the way, for  
10 your presentations. I don't have so much questions for  
11 them --

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: But I have several comments  
14 that I'd like to make with regard to us as a Commission  
15 around this particular issue.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So we'll go to public  
17 comments now and then we can still discuss after. Okay?  
18 I don't think there are any other questions, so Raul, can  
19 you please read the instructions for public comment? And  
20 this is for agenda item number 12.

21 MR. VILLANUEVA: Number 12, yes.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

23 MR. VILLANUEVA: To the public: The Commission will  
24 advise the viewing audience when it's time to submit  
25 public comment. At this time, we are soliciting public

1 comment for agenda item number 12. The Commissioners  
2 will allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in.  
3 To do so, first, on your phone dial the telephone number  
4 provided on the live stream feed. Second, when prompted,  
5 enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream  
6 feed using your dial pad. Third, when prompted to enter  
7 a participant ID, simply press the pound sign.

8       Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
9 queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers  
10 to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic  
11 message to press star 9 to raise your hand which  
12 indicates that you wish to comment. When it is your turn  
13 to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear  
14 an automatic message, "the host would like you to talk"  
15 and to press star 6 to speak. You will then be provided  
16 time to make your comments.

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

22 Commissioners will take comment for every action item on  
23 the agenda. At this time we are soliciting comment for  
24 agenda item number 12. The process for making a comment  
25 will be the same each time. Begin by dialing the

1 telephone number provided on the live stream feed, and  
2 then follow the instructions. As I have stated, these  
3 instructions are also on the website. Madam Chair?

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Raul. Katy, do we have  
5 anyone?

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anyone in  
7 the queue at this time.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess we'll just wait  
9 another minute. Although I appreciate your instructions,  
10 Raul, because that gives about a one-minute warning  
11 too -- so that helps.

12 MR. VILLANUEVA: If I read them slowly, yes.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, right.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You also mentioned it, I  
15 would say, about 60 seconds before you read them, so.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's true. So maybe at this  
17 time we probably don't need to wait. We did give them  
18 plenty of advance notice. See, I'm stalling and it's  
19 working. I've got ten more seconds. No. I'm kidding.  
20 It doesn't look like we have anyone, correct, Katy?

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so then with that, I  
23 want to thank Alejandra and Jonathan once again for their  
24 presentation, and getting us to start thinking about some  
25 other ways and creative ways to, as we move forward into

1 our public input meetings, when we eventually have them.

2 So thank you so much.

3 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Thank you, all. Appreciate your  
4 time and sharing this space with us too. Thank you.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

6 MR. STEIN: Thank you for the opportunity. It's  
7 been a pleasure.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Of course. Us, too. Thank you.  
9 Okay, so this is our last agenda item but I'm going to  
10 open it up to Commissioner Le Mons.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So that was a great light  
12 agenda today in terms of we didn't try to, you know,  
13 stuff everything in here and we were able to really take  
14 in the information. So I want to thank the individuals  
15 that put this meeting's agenda together. It felt like  
16 there were breathing moments, et cetera, so I appreciate  
17 that. I think we're getting our rhythm on that part.

18 What I found interesting -- so I think -- let me  
19 preface by saying I'm glad to hear that fellow  
20 Commissioners' sort of thinking around this issue has  
21 been cracked open, and I think it may be setting us up to  
22 be prepared to have some poignant discussions about how  
23 we want to move forward.

24 I know we have a subcommittee that's focused on  
25 this, but I think that this is one of the most important

1 aspects of the work, probably next to drawing the maps  
2 themselves, that we're going to be doing. And I'm trying  
3 to -- I don't see where we had built in today any  
4 opportunity to really synthesize the information that we  
5 received today and how it really informs where we want to  
6 go as a Commission.

7       So that's not a criticism; it's just sort of to me,  
8 a logical next step. And I don't know if we've agendized  
9 it. I don't think we have for our next meeting, so I'm  
10 kind of concerned about the amount of time and space that  
11 will happen between now and whenever it is going to be  
12 agendized. And I think some probably pretty significant  
13 time needs to be made available for us to begin to figure  
14 out what our plan is.

15       I mean, I took a lot of notes just on, like, who is  
16 our audience? I mean, who really are -- who is the  
17 Commission talking to? And I'm not asking to answer that  
18 today, but I think we need to define that. Who are we  
19 talking to? Things like partnering versus facilitating,  
20 organizing versus outreach. I mean, I think we really  
21 have to define our strategy and what our goals and  
22 objectives are because -- is it advocacy? I mean,  
23 there's all these questions that I think as a Commission,  
24 we have to decide. Because that's going to influence our  
25 strategy and approach.

1           And I won't get any further in the weeds on this  
2 than that. I thought the presentations were great. I've  
3 done a lot of community organizing and working with  
4 community in the last 20, 25 years, so I felt like -- I  
5 wasn't as bowled over as maybe some of my fellow  
6 Commissioners with the content, to be honest with you,  
7 but I think it's right on point. So it's just how are we  
8 going to operationalize this? We have millions of people  
9 that we have to represent in this. And I think the  
10 operationalizing of it is our real hurdle, not just with  
11 COVID but in general.

12           And then one other point I'll make, if I understood  
13 this correctly -- this came from our morning  
14 presentation -- is when it comes to resources. It seems  
15 like the Irvine Foundation took a significant role in the  
16 outreach and funded that process, and that dictated how  
17 that kind of played out. This particular time around, we  
18 actually have resources ourselves, but then there's also  
19 1.7 million dollars out there right now that's being  
20 utilized in service of our work as well. So I think  
21 we're different in that we have two pots -- we have our  
22 own money that we have to figure out how to use and we  
23 want to make sure we're not duplicating efforts, what's  
24 being done by the 1.7 million that they're hoping to grow  
25 another 800,000 to make it 2.5 million that'll be out in

1 the state in service of our work.

2 So I think these are all the kinds of strategic  
3 things that we as a Commission have got to explore in  
4 terms of the best use of our resources, how we partner  
5 with these other organizations, et cetera, et cetera, et  
6 cetera. So I think I got my point across.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think you did. I think that  
8 sounds like a future working meeting where we talk about  
9 our vision, our strategies, our mission, all of that good  
10 stuff. And I'm going to pass -- and I do know that  
11 Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez, they have put together a  
12 listing of in the future, which topics in the outreach  
13 area we'll be discussing. But I'm going to turn it over  
14 to Commissioner Sinay right now.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. A couple things.  
16 First, on the 1.7 million, we need to be careful. A lot  
17 of that money has already been spent on the -- on the  
18 recruitment of the Commissioners. So I don't remember --  
19 I have the number somewhere but I think they only have  
20 about 400 right now. So they had already -- they see it  
21 as a two-part phase, and the first phase is making sure  
22 that we have the most diverse Commissioners that applied  
23 and were seated.

24 So if you attended any of the webinars that were  
25 presented by the different groups to how do you apply,

1 what is the Commission -- if you got any coaching at any  
2 point or practicing questions, or just handouts and  
3 mailings, all of that was funded by this money. So I  
4 think that that part is really important to understand.  
5 That they really have a limited pool.

6 But you're right, Commissioner Le Mons, that last  
7 time it was kind of done separately. Now, this time  
8 we've got the funding but there are some major barriers,  
9 if you remember the conversation we had yesterday. The  
10 hardest thing about the agenda is how fast it comes up.  
11 The other hardest thing is being able to present  
12 information on the agenda but also what needs to be  
13 approved, what can -- it's scary to kind of bring things  
14 forward because it can't be vetted by too many people  
15 ahead of time, but it's also a public document.

16 And just like you said, Commissioner Le Mons, a lot  
17 of us -- this wasn't news. A lot of us, we do it in  
18 other ways, but we haven't brought it over here. But  
19 we're not all at that same place, and we all are going to  
20 have to remember that we were brought together because we  
21 have different expertise. And so a lot of what  
22 Commissioner Vasquez and I have been saying is, what are  
23 all -- what are some of the themes? Because there's  
24 still -- the way we've broken it down is there's still  
25 the whole theme of the grassroots groups. So today we

1 heard a little bit from the grass tops. But what are  
2 some of the grassroots? And what are some of the  
3 language access? And so we've tried to break it down  
4 into smaller pieces.

5 But we all -- just like when it comes time to  
6 understand data, some of us were going to be more, like,  
7 trying to catch up. We all just have to be patient --  
8 you know, learn together. But we have thought through a  
9 way to roll all this out to December, and that's why I  
10 was asking a lot of the questions yesterday, Commissioner  
11 Le Mons, about when do we need to know about funding  
12 decisions? Like, if we were going to do this, what do  
13 we -- you know, to place some of those.

14 And we can -- I'm like, trying to -- I'm looking at  
15 Commissioner Le Mons who's going, okay, we're both  
16 totally swamped with the next few meetings. And that's  
17 something you all have to understand. We've been told  
18 bring us something we can start working around, and then  
19 we're also hearing, you know, come prepared -- bring us a  
20 strong person and let us work around that. And then  
21 other times we're told, we want to facilitate  
22 conversations; and other times --

23 So I guess we need a little bit more instruction  
24 because we do realize this is a big piece. But we also  
25 want to make sure, as Jonathan and Alejandra said, this

1 was just the top, but it does go deeper. Understanding  
2 the communities of interest, understanding power  
3 politics. You know, there are some pieces that go  
4 deeper, and how do we do outreach in certain places?  
5 How, if we're going to do public education, how do we get  
6 to high school students and community colleges? There's  
7 all those questions you've all thrown out -- we've  
8 actually played with and tried to figure out who could be  
9 speakers for all those topics.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons, and then  
11 Commissioner Turner.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Maybe -- so I guess I'll say  
13 that Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Vasquez, you  
14 guys have a clear understanding of the path you're on --  
15 or kind of. Okay, maybe Commissioner Sinay has more of a  
16 vision of what path she wants to go down. I don't know.  
17 But that sounded like it's kind of -- I don't mean it's  
18 all fleshed out. So that's not what I mean. I don't  
19 believe that I think you guys have some secret plan.  
20 That's not what I'm talking about at all.

21 But I think even at this high level of -- because  
22 when I think of the various speakers that may come in, if  
23 you have some sense of what is the intersection of that?  
24 Because, to me, when they're coming in and they're giving  
25 us information that, unfortunately, in these formats we

1 get to ask questions but they're usually clarifying  
2 questions, they're sparked by different Commissioners'  
3 curiosity. But very little of that information gets  
4 operationalized. And that's not just with this. That's  
5 almost with any of the groups that we have come in and  
6 talk to us. Because we haven't had the luxury of the  
7 actual concentrated time do that piece.

8       So when I hear that, okay, there's potentially  
9 speakers coming in over the next couple months just based  
10 on knowing how far out our agendas are, et cetera, et  
11 cetera, at what point do we get to work? And I don't  
12 mean get out in the community talking to people. Like,  
13 we don't even have a plan -- like, when do we get to work  
14 on the plan? That's kind of what I'm curious. I know  
15 we're about to wrap up for, like, next time, and I now  
16 next time is focused on employment things, by and large.  
17 So I'm just like, when does this come back up? How do we  
18 put any of what we learned today into service? It's more  
19 like that.

20       So I hope -- my attempt is not to put either of you  
21 on the defensive. I think you're doing awesome work, and  
22 I thought the presentations were awesome. I really do.  
23 And the fact that it cracked open listening on a whole  
24 other level is valuable beyond belief, in and of itself,  
25 with the Commission and a group of 14 people. So yeah.

1           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes, thank you. Yeah, I  
2 was looking at our future schedules and I'm thinking  
3 maybe, like, our meeting in November, the first week --  
4 the first one is the 4th through the 6th. That might be  
5 a good time to schedule, like, a working type meeting to  
6 try to bring all of this together. And then maybe at the  
7 next meeting, if Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez can kind  
8 of go through their lists in terms of how they've thought  
9 and they've scheduled out the different presentations by  
10 meeting, that would also be helpful. Commissioner  
11 Turner?

12           COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yep, thank you. That's  
13 exactly what I was going to say. And then also ask --  
14 and I really enjoyed the presentations. A lot of it was  
15 familiar, including the organizations. I'm wondering if  
16 there's a way, Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez, if you  
17 could post perhaps an email, the plans of who you  
18 think -- where you think you're going with all of the  
19 upcoming speakers and what have you. I'd like to know  
20 them in advance.

21           A lot of us also have kind of some input as far as  
22 who can speak on a particular topic. When we spoke  
23 earlier, even I think maybe it was the earlier speaker  
24 who was talking about Northern connections and what have  
25 you. Being a people federation, I also have close ties

1 with TrueNorth in that area that covers -- that whole  
2 Klamath-Trinity River Basin area. You know, and so with  
3 that, I think just -- not to change the plan but to be  
4 able to say, oh, yes -- and as they're coming in, here's  
5 something else that we can think about or maybe couple  
6 with.

7       So yeah, so I wanted to state that. And to say that  
8 one of you just now spoke about the varied experiences  
9 that we come in with. And so you're in an area now that  
10 I'm very comfortable with and excited about, and I'm  
11 beginning to see the connections and the tie-in. But  
12 it's almost -- I'm feeling like I'm having to do the  
13 connections, as opposed to knowing the whole path as far  
14 as how we're tying in VRA, tying in with this other  
15 piece, tying with --

16       You know, so with a charted path, I think it would  
17 help me begin to connect the pieces sooner and know where  
18 I'm going to have a level of comfort and where will be my  
19 stretch zone that I'll need someone to walk me through,  
20 to make sure -- one of our speakers today talked about  
21 the importance of having -- lifting everyone's knowledge  
22 and making sure we're all being able to input at an equal  
23 level. Thank you.

24       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I have Commissioners Yee,  
25 Akutagawa, and Vasquez?

1           COMMISSIONER Yee: Thank you. Commissioner  
2 Akutagawa was first?

3           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I saw both of you, so I'm not  
4 sure.

5           COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner  
6 Yee. I wanted to share that -- and I believe the agenda  
7 for the 20th and 21st has already been posted now. But  
8 as Commissioner Fornaciari and I discussed the agenda for  
9 the 20th and 21st with Raul and with Marian, I think some  
10 of what is coming up now I'll say was shared by us. And  
11 our intent for that 20th and 21st meeting is to start a  
12 conversation around milestones.

13           And it's built off of the GANTT chart, but I think  
14 it's taking it a little bit away from the GANTT chart and  
15 just identify what are the major milestones that we need  
16 to be focusing on between now and essentially March, for  
17 the next six months, so that then we can see those  
18 intersections that I think Commissioner Le Mons was  
19 talking about. Because I'm feeling the same way that you  
20 were. It's like, we have all these things that we can  
21 do, but I think we just need to at least put it out in a  
22 high level even milestone way where we know we need to be  
23 focusing on this. If we don't do this now, then we're  
24 going to be really behind three months from now,  
25 especially because of the requirements around the agenda.

1           So we wanted to at least start that conversation.  
2 If we could finish it, that'd be awesome. But I think we  
3 wanted to at least start that conversation for the 20th  
4 and 21st. We still have a few more days. I think that  
5 we have time to then build out the 28th and 29th agenda,  
6 so that if we need to roll over, some of the 20th and  
7 21st, it can go over to the next one.

8           I will say that also Commissioner Sinay has also --  
9 I think it was in the documents that were shared  
10 yesterday, the list of all of the suggested speakers that  
11 her and Commissioner Vasquez has put together between now  
12 and at least through December, and she had some suggested  
13 speakers.

14           When we created the agenda for the 20th and 21st, we  
15 did take that into account. But to make space for this  
16 milestone discussion, I will say, Commission Sinay, that  
17 we're going to move it to the 28th and 29th. So your  
18 time line may go down -- is being moved a week, just so  
19 that we can have this. And then all of these other ideas  
20 from the other subcommittees can also be brought in, and  
21 then put into place in a way that makes sense for at  
22 least the next six months.

23           And Commissioner Fornaciari, if I can -- Chair  
24 Fernandez, if I can invite Commissioner Fornaciari to  
25 also say something and maybe chime in on this discussion?

1           COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, I think you covered  
2 it really well. The intent is to ask -- is to -- we'll  
3 just flesh out the details in more detail, I guess,  
4 underneath the categories in the GANTT chart so we can  
5 get more detail of the activities that need to be done  
6 and some idea of what the milestones are. So we can at  
7 least have a broader, more detailed view of all the work  
8 ahead of us and kind of figure out how it's going to  
9 flow. At least have those initial discussions because  
10 that continues to keep coming up.

11           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And just a little clarification.  
12 If that is discussed on the 20th and 21st and we do have  
13 to move it, we couldn't discuss it the following week  
14 because you've got that 14-day requirement, so that'd  
15 have to be pushed to November. So just keep focused on  
16 that.

17           MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the alternative would be to put  
18 it on the agenda. And then if you complete everything on  
19 the 20th and 21st, you don't have -- you can remove it  
20 from the agenda. It's much easier to remove it than to  
21 add it.

22           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, Commissioners Yee, Vasquez  
23 and Turner?

24           COMMISSIONER YEE: About public input, if anyone  
25 hasn't read Mr. Claypool's memo, his long memo that's in

1 public comment -- Chapter 11 is a long play-by-play about  
2 public input meetings and many stories of what they went  
3 through -- many gripping stories. It's really quite  
4 dramatic. So I recommend that to you.

5 On the other hand, of course, now we're in the time  
6 of COVID, and you know, I would love to have potlucks but  
7 I don't anticipate that happening for the foreseeable  
8 future. So I think we really need to emphasize, you  
9 know, virtual meetings as much as we would rather be in  
10 person with the public -- to really emphasize that and  
11 really get that figured out. Because, as far as I can  
12 tell, that's going to be our future for a long time. It  
13 could be the whole of the process, you know? We may  
14 never get out of this pandemic situation before the maps  
15 are due. So just to be ready for that.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez?

17 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah, I just -- I wanted to  
18 just be transparent with the rest of the Commission that  
19 I think some of this is also limited by the fact that  
20 I've been really sick the previous two or three weeks.  
21 So I've had trouble engaging on the Committee work  
22 outside of these meetings with Commissioner Sinay. So  
23 she's been carrying water for both of us over the last  
24 couple of weeks.

25 So I'm feeling better and now have the brain space

1 and the physical capacity to sort of go through a lot of  
2 the ideas that -- you know, that she and I have sort of  
3 talked about when we've checked in. But I've not  
4 honestly had brain space to really engage on until now.  
5 And so I'm hopeful in the next couple of meetings that we  
6 can present to you something more robust for discussion  
7 but also keeping in mind -- I think Commission Sinay was  
8 saying something that we're both struggling with is on  
9 the one hand, we do want to -- we want to do a lot of the  
10 pre-work, because that's sort of, in some ways, the  
11 purpose of a committee, right, is that we're diffusing  
12 the division of labor, right? That we do a lot of the  
13 pre-work and we have something somewhat half-baked for  
14 the Commission to finalize; and at the same time, not  
15 trying to get out too far in front of different folks.

16 So there's very much this feeling like we're stuck  
17 between a rock and a hard place of doing pre-work but  
18 also running out too far ahead from where folks feel we  
19 should be as a collective. So thank you for being  
20 patient and hopefully, through some of this  
21 overcorrecting, we will get to a middle.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, your health is definitely  
23 important, Commissioner Vasquez. Commissioner Turner?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you. I want to go  
25 back to how we're communicating. Thank you, I think it

1 was Commissioner Akutagawa who mentioned that there was a  
2 list that was sent out either the day before or what have  
3 you. A couple of meetings back, we discussed how emails  
4 were going to come out, information as far as itemizing  
5 them, putting some sort of note or what have you. And I  
6 don't know if I'm the only one missing them, but this  
7 seems to be about the second time that something has been  
8 sent out and I still didn't see it -- whether it was in  
9 public comment or whether it was sent a day before the  
10 meeting or what have you. But I am missing, and I do  
11 want us to figure out how are we getting notification.

12 I know part of what's going to help us with the new  
13 phones -- because then you can set up the notification  
14 like I do for everything else when things come through.  
15 I don't get an opportunity every day to go and check to  
16 see if an email came out about something we're getting  
17 ready to do the next day. It's a lot of reading and I  
18 want to be on top of it, but I just want to figure out  
19 how are we being notified about material that's going  
20 out?

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I don't think you're missing  
22 anything. I think it's a working document that  
23 Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez have right now. Oh,  
24 Commissioner Vasquez, do you want to respond quickly?

25 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah, I believe -- so I think

1 only Commissioners Akutagawa and Commissioner Fornaciari  
2 have. As we shared it with future chairs in order to  
3 build out the agenda, then because the conversation -- we  
4 either build agendas collectively via large committee, or  
5 you know, we have to be very, very focused in who we're  
6 sharing information. And I think that also is not always  
7 clear. It's not always easy to remember, oh, did I just  
8 send it to that person or is that for everyone? So I  
9 think also when we receive emails, it's also not clear,  
10 did everyone get this or was this just me? So you are  
11 not missing anything.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay, that's helpful. I was  
13 thinking, (indiscernible).

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that's what I was thinking --  
15 brought it up maybe at the next meeting is that  
16 Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez can share that information  
17 with everyone, instead of just the future chairs. That  
18 way we all have an idea of -- and plus, it's going to be  
19 a discussion item, as Commissioner Akutagawa mentioned.  
20 Commissioner Le Mons, you had something, and then  
21 Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a question. Is there  
23 a way -- and I don't know if this is a counsel question  
24 and it's probably too late for the next agenda, but is  
25 there, like, a, I don't know, a catch-all category like

1 miscellaneous, or -- I don't know. Because it seems like  
2 there are things that we need to, like, talk about --  
3 like come up, and we need to decide something about.

4 Yeah. I'm struggling --

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, miscellaneous wouldn't cut it.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So I guess -- so the other  
7 thing would be is there -- maybe we need some more  
8 guidance on our limits. No, maybe not. I think we just  
9 need -- I think we're just frustrated with our limits. I  
10 don't think we're not clear on our limits.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, I think if you have ideas that  
12 you might think we want to put up, put them on the  
13 agenda. If we don't have something in there, it's easy  
14 to skip over it. But if it's not on the agenda -- and  
15 the purpose of the agenda is not only to give you notice,  
16 to give notice to the public. So that's why a  
17 miscellaneous category wouldn't work.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We have to be specific, correct?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, hold on, I've got  
21 Commissioner Sinay, Akutagawa, and Vasquez.

22 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I just have a response.  
23 Sorry. But I do have a response on that particular  
24 thing, in that -- it's -- I think we need a better way to  
25 come up with these agenda items. Because, as an example,

1 we just found out we have a requirement to come up with  
2 mask policy, a face-covering policy for our business.  
3 And there was a whole conversation about, okay, who's the  
4 chair? What meeting would that come up in? Who's the  
5 chair? And then there wasn't really anyone assigned to  
6 write down, put this on the agenda item. So because it's  
7 important --

8 MS. JOHNSTON: I wrote it down.

9 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Well, I didn't know that.  
10 It's important to me, so I went through the process of  
11 coming up with that agenda item and then sending it to  
12 the chairs who I figured out were the chairs for a  
13 potential meeting. So yeah, we just need a way to do  
14 that outside of the discussion for future agenda items.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I believe Marian tracks  
16 those.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: I try.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that's why -- right?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: I try.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Because I try to make sure  
21 I say, okay, for future agenda item and hopefully that  
22 kind of flags it. We have Commissioner Sinay and then  
23 Commissioner Akutagawa, and Commissioner Andersen.

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Neal, did you want to say  
25 something too? Okay, I'd seen your hand up earlier so I

1 just wanted to make sure.

2       Sorry if I sound defensive. I'm not defensive. I'm  
3 actually feeling -- I'm frustrated because of the limits.  
4 Commissioner Le Mons -- you know, I think you said it  
5 well. But there are some limits to -- so we have the  
6 document that just Commissioner Vasquez and I are working  
7 on. I shared it but I couldn't include Commissioner  
8 Vasquez when I was sharing it with only one other  
9 Commissioner. So it's just two of us. They can't make  
10 any comments.

11       Any -- if more of us will get it, it has to become a  
12 public document. And what's happened to me, I'll be  
13 honest, is things get put on the agenda -- no one has  
14 touched back with me or Commissioner Vasquez. So UC  
15 Riverside got put on the agenda. I all of a sudden get  
16 an email from UC Riverside saying, hey, I saw that we  
17 were on the agenda. I'm like, yeah, I did too. And now,  
18 tomorrow I'm trying to figure out what we're going to do,  
19 and I think we've figured it out.

20       But we need -- the chairs also need to communicate  
21 back to the subcommittees and the speakers. Because  
22 today wasn't just a five-minute -- you know, this took  
23 work to prep everybody and prep ourselves. And then  
24 those conversations are really interesting because I  
25 can't tell them what my vision is; I have to say, well,

1 what would you -- you know, it's a lot of going around  
2 the bush, I mean, because we're not supposed to be  
3 sharing what we're thinking. We're just supposed to be  
4 getting what other people are --

5 So the limitation is tough and I hope it hasn't come  
6 off as me being defense or me trying to railroad. Okay,  
7 English is my second language, Alicia -- I mean,  
8 Commissioner Fernandez. I was so made you took that --  
9 because I say that every time. I was like, no, she took  
10 it from me. And people always look at me and go, what --

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I was first.

12 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I say it all the time when  
13 I'm facilitating. So I just need to figure out how to  
14 create this document without putting the names. Because  
15 when this document becomes public, then the names -- the  
16 potential speakers are out there and that gets  
17 complicated. So I just want you all to know that we're  
18 kind of the guinea pigs and you're all going to have to  
19 go through this at different times. But our goal for the  
20 next meeting will be to looking at the regional map and  
21 having that conversation about regional teams. Because  
22 I'm hoping that once we get regional teams, if we decide  
23 to go that way, we get to share this responsibility with  
24 all of you. So I did have a plan and I'll just put it  
25 out there.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So you're delegating now. I see.

2 I see how this is working.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Can I just respond to two points?

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, sure, Marian.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: One, if you have a topic for  
6 speakers, you don't need to have the names of the  
7 speakers in order to put it on the agenda. The names of  
8 the participants can be added later. So that is one  
9 possibility that Bagley-Keene does allow you.

10 Secondly, if the topic is on the agenda, it's  
11 perfectly fine for you to express your views as well as  
12 asking questions of the speaker, like Commissioner Le  
13 Mons did today. It's a topic that's there for you -- for  
14 your speakers, for you all to do whatever it is you want  
15 to do with that topic.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But she was referring more to  
17 her -- when she's talking with the --

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Her draft.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- presenters, it's not  
20 necessarily, like, her point of view but it's more like  
21 from the Commission. I think that's what I came away  
22 with.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, when I'm prepping the  
24 speakers to speak, I can't share my opinion until it's in  
25 the public setting.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: You can share your opinion as long as  
2 you make it clear it's just your opinion.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, okay, that makes life a lot  
4 easier.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah. Just don't say this is the  
6 Commission's opinion if the Commission hasn't acted on  
7 it.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, that makes sense. I  
9 have Commissioners Akutagawa, Andersen, Kennedy, and  
10 Vasquez.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I feel like we got a little  
12 off talking in terms of what I wanted to mention but  
13 maybe it's still relevant. To the point about what  
14 Commissioner Le Mons was saying about a miscellaneous  
15 list or something like that, I guess I have two thoughts:  
16 One is perhaps -- the first thought was that we could  
17 create what's called a parking lot. So the parking lot  
18 is like all those future agenda items that we need to get  
19 to but maybe is not relevant immediately, but that list  
20 can be passed on from chair to chair.

21 I will say that we're trying to think in advance so  
22 that we can try to create more of this space so that  
23 we'll have this kind of time to think through all the  
24 details of the agendas. Commissioner Sinay, I meant to  
25 tell you, I was going to circle back to you after the

1 meetings finished this week to let you know that we were  
2 going to delay your suggested speaker to the 29th. But I  
3 figure we just bought you an extra week, so it's not  
4 moving it up a week but pushing it back a week. But I  
5 know that you have some plans.

6 But that was just my thought is that perhaps we  
7 could create a parking lot list. Perhaps once our  
8 executive director is onboard, that that would be  
9 something that he would also be responsible for keeping  
10 track of. So that then it could be passed on from chair  
11 to chair. So that then as it's relevant, it can be  
12 slotted in. Or at the very least, he can be looking at  
13 the parking lot items and saying, you know, this fits in  
14 with this meeting and already pre-slotting into specific  
15 meetings agenda items that should be in those places  
16 because it fits within the order of other things that  
17 will need to be done either first or afterwards or -- all  
18 that kind of stuff. So I just wanted to make that  
19 suggestion for consideration.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That's good. It's a good way to  
21 organize it all so it doesn't fall through the cracks.  
22 Commissioner Andersen?

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. First of all, I  
24 want to say I really appreciate everyone kind of  
25 summarizing things and putting them in very nice, easy to

1 understand, and very well-spoken. I really appreciate  
2 that on many fronts.

3 So I have a couple quick things. I did expect to  
4 see Commissioner -- the outreach subcommittee -- an  
5 outline is, I think, all we're really looking for. The  
6 names, that's up to you. And yes, you don't want that  
7 going public yet or anything like that. I think that was  
8 just an outline.

9 Then in terms of the handouts, because I have also  
10 had an issue -- oops, oh, no, I don't have that document.  
11 And twice now I've had to go into -- where do I find it  
12 on the website, as the presenters are presenting  
13 something. I think if we could possibly have the  
14 documents go directly to us as well as just being posted  
15 on the website, or an email saying -- just to the whole  
16 group, saying, a new document has been posted under  
17 meeting notes. So that way we would have an idea rather  
18 than having, before every single meeting and sometimes  
19 during the meeting, have to go in and check on the  
20 website -- oh, here are the additional -- you know, the  
21 slides. I think that would be really helpful.

22 Because I don't know if you realize, Raul and  
23 Marian, that we don't know that anything got posted  
24 unless we go to the We Draw the Lines. We have no idea.  
25 Like, in terms of the agendas, we don't know that.

1 There's no notification that goes to us -- by the way,  
2 Commissioners, a new document has been added. So I think  
3 that would be very helpful.

4 And then the COVID policy, I know a place to put  
5 that. Troubleshooting. So we can do that. And I was  
6 going to present all the ASHRAE and the work I had  
7 already done -- I was going to actually pull that  
8 together and send that to everybody. If I want to  
9 just -- if we want to -- you know, I can -- that could be  
10 public record or not. I don't know how we want to do  
11 that. If you want to send comments to the subcommittee,  
12 i.e., through the staff and then come to the  
13 subcommittee. Then we can bring that up at the very next  
14 meeting. That was my thought on addressing that policy,  
15 you know, now.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Just a quick question to  
17 Marian on that. If the troubleshooting subcommittee  
18 comes up with a draft policy on COVID and we want to  
19 discuss it, can we discuss it during the subcommittee or  
20 does it have to be a separate action item?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: If it's something you want to adopt,  
22 it should be an action item.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: But just another layer on all this:  
25 the State has its own rules for State employees and State

1 buildings.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: And probably that's what we ought to  
4 be looking at, rather than which county we're in or --

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

6 MR. VILLANUEVA: I have a draft policy that we use  
7 here in the office. I mean, I can provide that to the  
8 troubleshooting subcommittee.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, that would be great if you  
10 could provide it to the troubleshooting. And then at the  
11 point in time when the troubleshooting subcommittee is  
12 ready, to let us know so that we can agendize it as an  
13 action item.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: And the soonest that would be would  
15 be for the October 28th -- 29th, whenever it is.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, right. Well, yeah, and  
17 that'd have to be pretty soon.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That 28th -- just to --  
19 that'll be our date? We can go ahead and put it on the  
20 agenda?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, up to you.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Again, that's only a two-day  
23 meeting so I'm not sure if Commissioner Akutagawa already  
24 has a full agenda for that meeting.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: We don't have an agenda for the 28th

1 and 29th yet.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I know, but I think she's already  
3 thinking about what she's going to put on that agenda.  
4 So I'm just saying if there's time --

5 MR. VILLANUEVA: We had that discussion on Monday.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

7 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. She's shaking her head yes.  
8 We'll just follow through, Commissioner, whatever you  
9 need, let Marian and I know. We'll get together.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I have Commissioner  
11 Kennedy, Vasquez, and Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just  
13 if counsel can go back over and clarify a little bit --  
14 when the subcommittees provide updates, how far can we go  
15 in discussing topics under the responsibility of a given  
16 subcommittee? I know that we can't necessarily take  
17 votes on anything, but how far can we go in discussing  
18 matters that have been referred to a subcommittee when  
19 that subcommittee's report comes up on any agenda?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: That's more a question for the Chair.  
21 And I suggest if it's a lengthy report, you work with the  
22 chair for that meeting ahead of time to see what else is  
23 on the agenda and how much time should be allotted for  
24 each report.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I believe -- as long as it's

1 within the topic of that subcommittee and you don't take  
2 action, you can discuss it.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But once it becomes an actionable  
5 item --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: It has to be in the agenda.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- then that has to be -- that has  
8 to be agendized.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: No, all I was talking about was the  
10 depth of the discussion should be a decision between the  
11 subcommittee and the chair, knowing what else is going to  
12 be discussed at a particular meeting.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did that answer your question,  
14 Commissioner Kennedy? Right. Okay. Commissioner  
15 Vasquez? You're on mute.

16 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Sorry. And with that -- I  
17 lost my original point. But the other thought I had.  
18 I've done a terrible job of it this time, but it seems if  
19 vice chair -- if vice chairs can take the responsibility  
20 of trying to track those future agenda items and sort of  
21 kicking them down that parking lot, maybe they have the  
22 parking lot and continue to add, and then you pass it off  
23 to your -- to whoever would be your vice chair who would  
24 be the chair of the working agenda -- yeah, of the  
25 working agenda, is how we could operationalize

1 immediately tracking of agenda items.

2       So again, in this case, because I want to discuss a  
3 COVID policy, I have asked my vice chair, Commissioner  
4 Akutagawa, who will be chairing the 28th-29th meeting, to  
5 put it on the agenda. And again, it's at her discretion,  
6 building her own agenda. There may or may not be time on  
7 the 28th-29th, given our varying priorities. But if it  
8 doesn't happen, I would hope that the -- you know,  
9 Commissioner Fornaciari takes up that mantle for the  
10 November meetings.

11       MR. VILLANUEVA: Good idea.

12       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. What I will do is -- what  
13 I'll do after this meeting is I will go back over my  
14 notes and all of those times that we said will be for the  
15 future. I will CC Marian on it because I'm hopeful that  
16 Marian will have a running total or a running list. And  
17 then I will also probably go to two meetings out, three  
18 meetings out and share it with them as well, so that we  
19 have it. And so now I have Commissioners Sinay, Ahmad,  
20 and Fornaciari. Commissioner Sinay?

21       COMMISSIONER SINAY: The whole getting approval of  
22 things is a little frustrating as well. Like, the  
23 template we shared two days ago -- yesterday, whatever.  
24 You know, kind of the outreach template. The idea was we  
25 use it as a tool kind of helping us to start putting our

1 ideas -- but a thought I had last night in the middle of  
2 the night was, wait, wouldn't it be cool if all our  
3 communication directors kind of use that to think through  
4 their ideas and present to us and see if they're  
5 creative. And the response I got back from counsel was,  
6 well, it wasn't approved, so therefore you can't do it.  
7 And I was like, we needed that approved?

8       Yeah, so the whole thing is just -- the limits are  
9 frustrating, (indiscernible). I wanted -- so I want to  
10 get approval before we move forward on -- I would rather  
11 not get a public comment with the recommendations from  
12 the community groups. You know, the big network is  
13 working really hard on a collaborative document to send  
14 to us.

15       I think it would make sense -- and we could limit  
16 the time to an hour or something for them to actually  
17 present it face-to-face -- face-to-face, as we are. But  
18 that way we can ask questions and we can actually hear  
19 it, versus it just gets sent to us and Commissioner  
20 Vasquez and I. So I just wanted to put it out there that  
21 if people think it's a good idea, can we move forward on  
22 that?

23       CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner -- I do have Ahmad,  
24 Fornaciari, and Le Mons.

25       COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just

1 really quickly. Next week's agenda item number 8 is  
2 Introduction of Executive Staff. I wanted to bring to  
3 then-Chair Commissioner Vasquez and Vice Chair  
4 Commissioner Akutagawa, if you all would like myself and  
5 Commissioner Fernandez, if she's willing to, to introduce  
6 our executive staff. And that -- within that agenda  
7 item, if it's permissible to allow each Commissioner one  
8 to two minutes to speak directly to the executive  
9 director about your vision of the role for the  
10 Commission. I just wanted to throw that out there for  
11 consideration for next week and for folks to think that  
12 through prior to agenda item 8 for next week, if that's  
13 something you are interested in.

14 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, I think that's  
15 appropriate and I appreciate you giving Commissioners --  
16 offering the Commissioners that space to share their  
17 views with our new executive director.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's great. Commissioner  
19 Fornaciari?

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't know if you  
21 noticed, but I changed my name to make it more accessible  
22 to you.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Bless your heart.

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Neal. Let's  
25 see. So I think the answer's probably no. But I guess

1 I'm going to ask Marian, can we create --

2 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't always say no.

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can we create a shared  
4 Google Doc to track agenda items, future agenda items?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, I think that --

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So we don't have to  
7 forward it around on email and transcribe or whatever --  
8 but if we have a shared Google Doc where we could put  
9 future agenda items, can we do that?

10 MS. JOHNSTON: I think that's what Commissioner  
11 Vasquez was suggesting. Make the vice chair responsible  
12 for maintaining that list and passing it along to the  
13 next vice chair, if I understood her correctly. That  
14 could be in a Google Doc, yes.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Oh, it could be in a  
16 Google Doc?

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. But I suggest instead of each  
18 Commissioner individually putting it on there, you convey  
19 your thoughts to the vice chair so that one person is  
20 responsible for maintaining the list.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay, so let me -- so my  
22 vision was a shared Google Doc where we all have access  
23 to the Google Doc --

24 MS. JOHNSTON: All have access but not all -- add to  
25 it.

1           COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right. But the vice chair  
2 is responsible for adding to it, and the chair would be  
3 responsible for subtracting from it as we do the action  
4 items.

5           MS. JOHNSTON: That's perfectly legal if that's what  
6 the Commission would like to do.

7           COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, I -- okay, so if we  
8 can do that, then I don't know the comfort level with all  
9 of my peers with working with a Google Doc, so I just  
10 would throw that out.

11          CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's a good idea. And she didn't  
12 say no. Right?

13          MS. JOHNSTON: What a reputation I'm getting.

14          COMMISSIONER SINAY: Neal, I already created it, so  
15 you all can -- you all can -- I'll share it with  
16 everybody.

17          COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It's shared? Okay,  
18 beautiful. Thank you.

19          COMMISSIONER SINAY: I will make it shareable, but I  
20 started doing that because Commissioner Akutagawa asked  
21 me to.

22          CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, if you can share it  
23 and then I can -- I'll just compare it to what we had for  
24 this week and I can add if I need to add. That'd be  
25 great. Thank you. Commissioner Le Mons?

1           COMMISSIONER LE MONS: In response to Commissioner  
2 Sinay's question, since they're planning to submit this  
3 document as public comment, I would recommend letting  
4 them go on and do that, and then that way we -- that's a  
5 mechanism by which we can all have an opportunity to  
6 review it. And then based on the content, we can decide  
7 how we might want them to focus their presentation,  
8 rather than coming and presenting a document to us.

9           So it might sort of manage for some of the concerns  
10 that some of us has raised in wanting to have information  
11 ahead of time. And then we can more tailor the  
12 presentations. Particularly as we're getting closer to a  
13 working plan that we're creating -- then we can zero the  
14 presenters in on the content that we're particularly  
15 interested in hearing as opposed to just more global.  
16 That would be my thought on that. And we'd have the  
17 benefit of their more detailed information as well vis-a-  
18 vis the document.

19           CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I mean, personally, I like  
20 to have something ahead of time because it triggers other  
21 questions then real time. Because tomorrow I'll think of  
22 a question and it's gone.

23           Any other comments? We'll proceed that way. Is  
24 there anything else? Commissioner Turner?

25           COMMISSIONER TURNER: I'd just like to share for the

1 good of all of the Commissioners, I know you appreciate  
2 seeing me straight on without moving or dropping camera.  
3 I received my package in the mail from Commissioner  
4 Fornaciari, and it works beautifully and it looks  
5 beautiful. So thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: You're welcome.

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: What color did you get?

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I should get mine next week.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: What color did you get?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: A beautiful golden just like  
11 my life.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That's why -- you know, I  
13 just thought what color should I pick for you, and that's  
14 the color that came to me. So I'm glad you like it.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Now I'm afraid what color I'm  
17 going to get if that's what you were going for. Marian,  
18 do we have to do public comments?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So if there is nothing  
21 else, we're going to go to public comments. And Raul,  
22 this one will be for items not on the agenda. If you  
23 could read those instructions, please.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: For general items, right?

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Okay, the Commission will

1 advise the viewing audience when it is time to submit  
2 public comment; at this time we are requesting anyone who  
3 wants to provide comments on items not on the agenda,  
4 general items, please do so. We are going to allow time  
5 for those who wish to comment to be able to dial in. To  
6 call in on your phone, dial the telephone number provided  
7 on the live stream feed.

8       Next, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number  
9 provided on the live stream feed using your dial pad.  
10 And finally, when prompted to enter a participant ID,  
11 simply press the pound sign. Once you have dialed in,  
12 you'll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will  
13 begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will  
14 also hear an automatic message to press star 9 to raise  
15 your hand indicating that you wish to comment. When it  
16 is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and  
17 you will hear an automatic message: "The host would like  
18 you to talk" and to press star 6 to speak and then you  
19 will have time to provide your comments.

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

25       Commissioners are taking comment, general items --

1 general comment for items not on the agenda. So that is  
2 the time to call in now. The process for making a  
3 comment will be -- is the same each time. Begin by  
4 dialing the telephone number provided on the live stream  
5 feed following the instructions that I have provided.  
6 These instructions are also located on the website.

7 Madam Chair?

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Raul. Katy? Do we  
9 have anyone on queue?

10 PUBLI COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anybody in  
11 queue at this time.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll just wait another  
13 minute since I didn't forewarn anyone. Just a reminder  
14 regarding interviews next week, or if any of the  
15 Commissioners plan to be present in the Sacramento  
16 office, please let Marian and Raul know. And then if you  
17 have any questions for the chief counsel interviews or  
18 the communications director, forward that to Marian as  
19 well by the end of tomorrow, I believe is what she asked.

20 That was only 30 seconds, so. I've got to talk  
21 slower.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll plan to be in Sacramento for  
23 the counsel interviews.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: For the two days or three days?

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Just the counsel, I guess.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Just for the counsel?

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: That's Tuesday.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I will as well.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What day was the counsel again?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Tuesday.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That was on --

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: 13th?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 13th, I thought it was.  
10 It's the 13th. So I will as well.

11 MR. VILLANUEVA: Okay, very good. Thank you,  
12 Commissioners, for letting us know.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I let Marian and Raul know,  
14 but for the rest of you, I'm out next week. So I'll see  
15 you in a couple.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Fun. All right, Katy?

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We still do not have  
18 anyone in the queue.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you so much. And  
20 with that, since there is nothing else, I will close the  
21 meeting. It is 5:08, and I wish everyone a great rest of  
22 the week and we'll see you on Monday -- except for  
23 Commissioner Turner.

24 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting adjourned at  
25 5:08 p.m.)

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER**

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

*Traci Fine*

5/20/2022

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TRACI FINE, CDLT

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