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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:
CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:
eScribers, LLC



1 APPEARANCES

2 COMMISSIONERS

3 Linda Akutagawa, Chair
4 Isra Ahmad, Vice-Chair
5 Derric Taylor, Commissioner
6 Trena Turner, Commissioner
7 Jane Andersen, Commissioner
8 Alicia Fernandez, Commissioner
9 Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
10 J. Kennedy, Commissioner
11 Antonio Le Mons, Commissioner
12 Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner
13 Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
14 Pedro Toledo, Commissioner
15 Angela Vázquez, Commissioner
16 Russell Yee, Commissioner

17 STAFF

18 Alvaro Hernandez, Executive Director
19 Marian Johnston, Interim Counsel
20 Fredy Ceja, Communications Director
21 Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach
22 Sulma Hernandez, Outreach Coordinator
23 Kimberly Briggs, Field Lead - Southern California, L.A.
24 Ashleigh Howick, Field Lead - Northern California
25 Jose Eduardo Chavez, Field Lead - Central California

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

LINE DRAWING TEAM

Jaime Clark, Q2 Data & Research, LLC

STATE LEGISLATURE

Michael Wagaman, Redistricting Consultant

Also Present

Public Comment

Julia Marks

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Call to Order and Roll Call

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 October 21, 2022

9:30 a.m.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Everyone, welcome back to day two
4 of our California Redistricting Commission meetings for
5 the week of October 20th and 21st. Thank you for
6 rejoining us and thank you to the Commissioners for being
7 back again. I want to ask Marian to take roll call
8 first. I'm not --

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- going to forget this time.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Here.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Formicary.

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: (No audible response.)

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I thought I saw his --

1 Commissioner --

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Le Mons --

3 MS. JOHNSTON: I'm sorry?

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- is here. He's off camera.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: (No audible response.)

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

12 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: (No audible response.)

13 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: He's saying yes, thumbs up.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner Vasquez.

17 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: (No audible response.)

18 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner Yee.

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Commissioner Le Mons? I --

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here. Sorry.

24 MS. JOHNSON: And Commissioner Taylor.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: (No audible response.)

1 MS. JOHNSON: All here except Commissioner Taylor.

2 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Looks like he has just
3 rejoined.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here he is.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: He has just joined us.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Good. Everyone's here.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

8 Thank you, everyone. Welcome back. All right. I
9 would -- I think I -- just for the sake of everybody's
10 participation, I'm going to call for public comments
11 first up, and then before we actually take the public
12 comments, I'll also -- I'll also give people time to get
13 onto the phones. I will also just outline what our
14 agenda for this morning is going to be.

15 What we're going to do is we are on agenda Item
16 Number 9. And what we're going to do, is we're going to
17 skip to 9J, the Communities of Interest Subcommittee.
18 And then we're combining that with agenda Item Number 12,
19 which is the communities of interest discussion and
20 possible actions on items related to communities of
21 interest, the tool.

22 We will have a presentation today from the Statewide
23 Database team. And then at which time after that
24 presentation, we will return to agenda Item Number 9H,
25 which is the VRA compliance. And we will complete the

1 rest of the subcommittee updates. That will then be
2 followed by the key milestones and the action steps,
3 October through March, and the remainder of the agenda,
4 which is agenda Item Number -- so Key Milestones and
5 Action Steps is agenda Item Number 6, followed by agenda
6 Item Number 10, agenda Item Number 11, and then agenda
7 items number 13 and 14. Is that correct?

8 (No audible response.)

9 Okay. All right.

10 So let's see, Katy, would you please read the
11 instructions, and let us know if you have any
12 (unintelligible).

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes chair?

14 In order to maximize transparency and public
15 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
16 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.
17 There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners
18 regarding the items on the agenda. There will also be
19 opportunities for the public to submit general comments
20 about items not on the agenda.

21 Please note that the Commission is not able to
22 comment or discuss items not on the agenda. The
23 Commission will advise the viewing audience when it is
24 time to submit public comment. The Commissioners will
25 then allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in.

1 To call in on your phone, dial the telephone number
2 provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter in
3 the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed
4 using your dial pad. When prompted to enter a meeting
5 ID, simply press pound.

6 Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue
7 from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to
8 submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic
9 message to press star nine to raise your hand, indicating
10 that you wish to make a comment. When it is your turn to
11 speak, the moderator will unmute you, and you will hear
12 an automatic message, the host would like you to talk and
13 to press star six to speak. You will have two minutes to
14 provide your comments. Please make sure to mute your
15 computer or live stream audio to prevent any feedback or
16 distortion during your call.

17 Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when
18 it is your turn to speak, and please turn down the
19 livestream volume. The Commissioners will take comment
20 for every action item on the agenda. As you listen to
21 the online video stream, the Chair will call for public
22 comments. This is your time to call in. The process for
23 making a comment will be the same each time, beginning by
24 the telephone number provided on the livestream feed and
25 following the steps stated above.

1 And, Chair, at this time, we do not have anyone in
2 the queue.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'll hold for a minute to
4 let the live stream catch up.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I learned a trick. If you all
6 want to see each other bigger, then hide yourself self --
7 your self-view, and then everybody else is bigger, and
8 you don't have to see yourself.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: How do you hide yourself?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Go to your box. There'll be
11 three dots, and then at the bottom it says, "Hide Self
12 View".

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I don't have that as an option
14 or -- oh, I see it. Okay. Wrong box.

15 Okay, Katy. I think if I'm looking at the
16 participants list correctly, I'm not seeing anybody has
17 called in.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is correct.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

20 All right. Well, let's go ahead, and let's -- let's
21 move on. We have a lot to cover today. I would like to
22 welcome back Michael Wagaman and Jaime Clark. Michael
23 from the legislature and Jaime from the Statewide
24 Database. And thank you for joining us this morning.
25 And we are on agenda Item Number J, and we're combining

1 it with agenda Item Number 12.

2 Before I have them start, Commissioner Kennedy,
3 would you like to say anything on the COI tool before we
4 have them begin their presentation? You're on mute.

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No. At this point, just to
6 welcome them and thank them for joining us today. This
7 is, as Commissioner Akutagawa said, essentially, the
8 report of our subcommittee when we met with the Statewide
9 Database team last week and are looking forward to this
10 discussion. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you.

12 Jaime, are you going to show your slides, or -- or
13 is Kristian going to show the slides?

14 MS. CLARK: I am happy to show the slides, and I
15 believe that Mr. Wagaman might have an intro as well.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Great.

17 MR. WAGAMAN: Thank you. And I'll keep the intro
18 brief. I just wanted to note that normally as a policy,
19 we would have somebody from both the Democratic and
20 Republican side here, whenever the legislature's before
21 you. My Republican colleagues, unfortunately, had a
22 conflict this morning and asked me to stand in their
23 place for the entire institution. But I just didn't want
24 the Commission to believe that there was anything going
25 on. It was just a scheduling conflict issue.

1 Also, I just wanted to really briefly clarify a few
2 points that came up yesterday during your conversation
3 about the organizational chart, as it relates to the
4 Statewide Database. So the mandate to provide public
5 access to data and redistricting software by statute
6 falls on the legislature, which is funded -- which has
7 been funded through the UC system. So management of the
8 Statewide Database and its projects is really not part of
9 the Commission's mandate, which is probably a good thing
10 for you. Because the database is not only used for the
11 state redistricting, it's literally used for hundreds of
12 local redistricting, so not probably a headache you want.
13 And of course, you don't have to pay for all this work
14 that's been done. And I think you've identified your
15 limitations of your budget.

16 But what 8253 of the Government Code does state,
17 which is the governing provision, is that, "Upon the
18 Commission's formation and until its dissolution, the
19 Legislature shall coordinate these efforts with the
20 Commission." As I noted when we first presented the
21 tool, waiting for the Commission to actually form to
22 start this work would have endangered the timely delivery
23 of this project. And it's something that a Statewide
24 Database accurately anticipated would be something
25 potentially beneficial to your work.

1 But I wanted to also be clear that as soon as your
2 transition staff was identified, even before the first
3 eight were selected, we'd reached out to -- to your
4 transition staff to let them know that your feedback was
5 going to be important and required, we believed, under
6 the mandate to -- to coordinate. So I just wanted to
7 make sure that that coordination mandate is something we
8 take very, very seriously.

9 Finally, just also clarified that it is not the
10 belief that this tool meets that -- that mandate to
11 provide public access to redistricting software. The
12 Database is continuing to look at options to provide
13 software that will not only allow the public to draw
14 their individual community but for members of the public
15 who want to draw full redistricting plans. So we believe
16 that access is required under Proposition 11 and is
17 something that's still being worked on. So this is just
18 one tool to generate data. The Database is working on
19 other tools, and, obviously, you're going to be working
20 on your own tools to generate testimony and data.

21 So as far as your organizational chart go, and
22 the -- goes, and the Statewide Database, the real key is
23 to identify how you want to intake that data coming in
24 from the database, whether it's prison adjustment data,
25 CVAP data, community of interest maps, or full

1 redistricting plans, and how you want to intake that and
2 then process and utilize that data. So with that, I'm
3 looking very forward to shutting up and just smiling
4 while Jaime and the subcommittee guide you through the
5 questions and timeline that are needed for feedback as it
6 relates to this specific tool. Thank you.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Mr. Wagaman.

8 Ms. Clark?

9 MS. CLARK: Yes.

10 Thank you all. I'm happy to be here again today.
11 And over the past couple weeks -- or rather just before I
12 start my presentation, to back up a bit, over the past
13 couple weeks, the Statewide Database has had the
14 opportunity to use your test, the Community of Interest
15 tool, or COI tool, as I'll probably be referring to it.
16 I know some people have also been calling it the COI toy,
17 so we might hear that as well during this meeting. But
18 we've had the opportunity to use or test the tool with
19 the Commission.

20 Through the user tests, we gained really valuable
21 and insightful feedback from each Commissioner. And
22 implementation and of the Commission feedback is already
23 in motion. Last week we updated the Subcommittee on the
24 progress of the tools development and discussed next
25 steps to ensure the tool can be ready for public release

1 in a timely manner. As you know, we've set the goal of
2 having the tool be ready by early January, so it can be
3 made available to the public whenever the CRC begins
4 actively soliciting community of interest input.

5 And today, we are requesting feedback from you on a
6 series of discussion points that relate to the tool.
7 Today's discussion points really revolve around aspects
8 of the tool that the user will be interacting with. And
9 these are time-sensitive because we need to finalize all
10 the text that's associated with the tool that the user
11 sees, and then fold all of that information into our user
12 guides and our tutorials so we can begin the process of
13 having all of those materials translated. Some of these
14 points require your feedback today and others require
15 feedback later this month and next.

16 So again, I have a brief presentation for today's
17 meeting. In the presentation, I'll start by introducing
18 each discussion point and where it fits into the COI
19 tool's timeline. The timeline starts today with our
20 meeting today and ends in early January, which, again, is
21 our goal for having it be publicly, or excuse me, ready
22 for public deployment, should the Commission begin to
23 solicit public feedback at that time.

24 The presentation will outline the feedback that's
25 requested today and then also we'll preview the feedback

1 necessary for future dates. But we won't go into a
2 discussion today about the future or the feedback that we
3 need for future dates.

4 And then after we preview the feedback for the
5 future, then I will rewind to discussion points for
6 today's meeting, and then we'll be able to turn to a full
7 discussion -- a full Commission discussion on the
8 feedback for today.

9 And with that, I'm going to pull up the slides and
10 begin sharing my screen. I won't be able to see you. I
11 won't be able to see you very well, I don't think. I
12 see, like, a couple people on the side here, so please
13 help me out if someone is raising their hand or wants to
14 say something.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Jaime?

16 MS. CLARK: And can everyone see the screen?

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Jaime, it's Commissioner Sinay.
18 If you want, you can grab the double -- the two double
19 lines and move them so you can see more of us. There's
20 two little double lines that separate the video feeds and
21 your PowerPoint slide. If you hover your -- your cursor,
22 like, over the middle, and you should see, like, two
23 double lines that you can move left right. I don't know
24 if it'll show up on yours.

25 MS. CLARK: Yeah, I -- I'm not sure that I see that.

1 Maybe it's because I'm presenting. But anyway, we can
2 dive in and -- yeah, and I know that you'll all help me
3 if someone's trying to say something.

4 So again, here are our discussion points for
5 feedback on the Community of Interest Tool. The feedback
6 points are finding a name for the tool, receiving
7 feedback on questions for the users to explain their
8 communities of interest in the tool, information about
9 the user that the tool should request for the user to
10 provide about themselves, and desired language
11 translation options for all aspects of the tool.

12 These first four items, we have worked on with the
13 subcommittee to determine dates to receive CRC feedback
14 by. This last point, which is working on issues around
15 reporting and security; that will be an ongoing
16 discussion that we will engage with the Subcommittee on.
17 So these first four points are what we're requesting full
18 Commission feedback on at this time.

19 I'm having -- here we go. Oh, okay. I am using a
20 different view in the slides than I'm used to, so sorry
21 about that. So again, our feedback that we're requesting
22 and the timeline for that feedback. Today, we are
23 requesting feedback on the name of the tool and what
24 questions to ask the users to explain their communities
25 of interest in the tool.

1 On October 30th, we will request feedback on what
2 information to request from users about themselves.
3 November 18th will be the last date that the Statewide
4 Database can receive information concerning language
5 translation and not have it compromise our timeline in
6 terms of our early November release date.

7 Throughout the rest of the calendar year, the
8 Statewide Database and the Subcommittee will work
9 together on issues around reporting and security. And
10 then again, all of this is working towards our early
11 January 2021 goal of having the tool ready for public
12 deployment, subject, of course, to the CRC public input
13 timeline.

14 So again today we're going to talk about naming the
15 tool. We request your feedback on whether users should
16 go to the CRC website or to a standalone website to
17 access the tool. The Statewide Database has already
18 reserved some names of -- domain names that we can go
19 over. These are options. And if the Commission would
20 like to use a different name, we're happy to receive that
21 feedback today as well.

22 Also, today, we're going to talk about which
23 questions to ask users about their communities to get
24 users to describe your communities.

25 And then, looking ahead for future dates, on

1 October 30th, we will request your feedback around what
2 information to ask users to provide about themselves. So
3 currently in the tool, the user's name and their ZIP code
4 are these items that the tool requests. And also,
5 currently, the name is optional and ZIP code is required
6 for a user to be able to submit to the Commission. And
7 also, of course, email for authenticated or logged-in
8 users is something that we collect.

9 Just a note for the future is that we will be able
10 to capture the IP addresses of the actual computers that
11 users are submitting their COIs from. We'll ask again
12 what should be optional and what should be required in
13 terms of information that the tool asks users to provide
14 about themselves.

15 And in terms of languages, we are moving forward in
16 providing the tool in the languages that the Secretary of
17 State provides statewide election materials in as sort of
18 a baseline and as a preexisting standard. Those
19 languages are English, Spanish, simplified Chinese,
20 Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and
21 Vietnamese. And any information around additional
22 languages outside of this list that the Commission will
23 be providing all of your other outreach materials in
24 should be communicated to the Statewide Database by
25 November 18th.

1 And at that time, we'll be able to sort of assess
2 and -- be able to assess the extent to which we'll be
3 able to implement those languages in the COI tool as
4 well. So again, those are future discussions, just to
5 sort of plant the seed. And I'm going to rewind again to
6 the -- the slide about naming the tool.

7 So our -- the feedback that we're, again, requesting
8 from you today. Should users go to the Commission
9 website or to a standalone website to access the tool?

10 And the Statewide Database already reserved the following
11 domain names, which is WeShapeCA. That's the name we've
12 been sort of working with and is implemented in the tool
13 currently; WeShapeCalifornia, YouDrawCA, and we have
14 reserved the dot org, dot com, and dot net versions for
15 each of these names.

16 CRC Staff -- should the Commission choose, CRC staff
17 can request the ca.gov domain name from the Department of
18 Technology. And we, again, request today feedback on
19 whether one of these names -- if we like one of these
20 names, or if we want to reserve a different name, and
21 Statewide Database will be able to reserve dot org, dot
22 com, and dot net for any name that we receive feedback
23 about today.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Jaime, just for the
25 sake of perhaps making this question go along a little

1 faster, the Commission did discuss some of these. We
2 didn't come to a resolution on all, but -- Commissioners,
3 please remind me, but I believe, based on our last
4 discussion that we had when the COI tool subcommittee
5 reported out on this, we did -- I think, all believe or
6 feel that the CRC website would be the most appropriate
7 location for people to be able to access the COI tool,
8 only because it makes it a one-stop kind of location, and
9 it also gives it some trust in where people will be
10 accessing the tool. So I'll just address that part.

11 And Commissioners, if any comments, suggestions,
12 reactions to any of the names? We did present these
13 previously before during our previous meetings report.

14 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: There --

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, Commissioner Vasquez?

16 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. And apologies if I'm
17 misremembering. I agree that it should be on -- embedded
18 on the website. However, I wasn't clear where we stood
19 on sort of this idea of also a standalone website. Like,
20 I'm not sure, in terms of development, there's the
21 redistricting website, where you -- as a portal, so to
22 speak. Is there also -- will there also still be then a
23 standalone website, where I could type in one of these
24 names and just get the tool? Did we decide on that?

25 Well, I guess I wasn't clear when we were discussing

1 previously what it meant when we said we wanted it on the
2 website.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think we just expressed
4 some preferences. I think there were some questions as
5 to which -- I think what you're asking, my recollection
6 is that it would be preferable to have the CRC website be
7 the portal, and then there could be a separate page. But
8 I guess I do have a question as to if there is a separate
9 domain name, for example, WeShapeCA.ca.gov, will that
10 mean that it is its own standalone web page website?

11 Commissioner Sadhwani and then Commissioners Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'd like the idea of it
13 being its own separate website, that we would, of course,
14 integrate what -- into whatever website we ultimately
15 develop for ourselves, but that it can kind of be a
16 standalone piece, where people can come, kind of play
17 around.

18 And I -- and I'm imagining when this rolls out in
19 January -- early January, that this could be up and
20 running and ready to go, even if, in all honesty, if our
21 own website's not quite ready yet, right. And that's one
22 of my concerns. I wouldn't want to embed it onto the
23 current website for us, because, as we discussed
24 yesterday, it is old and need -- in need of repair, so I
25 kind of like the idea of it being on a separate website

1 that will be embedded into whatever we have in the
2 future, but that by doing so, it wouldn't impede us from
3 moving it forward in early January.

4 And then to -- just to speak to the piece around dot
5 org, dot com, et cetera, my preference would actually be
6 dot org. I think when we put that CA dot gov, yes, it
7 brings a level of gravitas, if you will, but at the same
8 time, I think for a lot of community members, they might
9 not want to share their information with a dot gov
10 address for a whole variety of reasons of how they've
11 come to the U.S., et cetera. So I kind of prefer the dot
12 org gets standalone. We're still going to receive that
13 information, but I think it might help just break down
14 some of -- some of those barriers of having it be more
15 accessible to folks.

16 And while I have my moment, I'll just add personally
17 I like YouDrawCA.org, but I could be convinced to
18 anything, so either way, it doesn't really matter.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay and then
20 Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Kennedy and
21 Commissioner Turner and then Commissioner Vazquez and
22 then Commissioner Yee.

23 Okay. I got to write this all down.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I kind of feel that this is one
25 of our biggest challenges right now is that we haven't

1 branded ourselves, because we don't have the
2 communications. I know that at different times we all
3 said the whole shape California thing -- website is
4 actually prettier, better logo, better colors than
5 WeDrawTheLine. And so -- and I had this conversation
6 when I was going through the Communities of Interest
7 tool, is that we need a certain amount of flexibility
8 because this tool isn't going to be a standalone. It's
9 going to be embedded in everything we do in our outreach,
10 our engagement, in the communities' outreach and
11 engagement.

12 So whatever we call it, we also need to think about
13 what we're calling ourselves. I don't think that we can
14 say, okay, YouDrawCalifornia -- maybe the tool's called
15 YouDrawCalifornia, and we, you know, WeDrawCalifornia is
16 the bigger website, you know, the Commission. But I
17 don't -- we can't be WeDrawtheLines and
18 YouDrawCalifornia -- I guess you could do that, too.

19 But I just want -- there is a branding issue here
20 that we need to resolve, and I think we can't resolve
21 till we have our communications person, or we tell them
22 what we want.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. In terms of whether
25 it should be on our website or standalone, I can see the

1 benefit of having it on our website only, because -- I
2 hate to use this -- but it kind of forces users to go to
3 our website, and then maybe they'll become more aware of
4 upcoming meetings, and maybe if we actually do -- are
5 able to get into communities, it kind of keeps them
6 informed as to where we are, in case they want to show up
7 to one of the meetings or provide a feedback at one of
8 our meetings.

9 So either way is fine with me. I do understand the
10 issues with our website and whether or not -- I mean,
11 there's issues with it, but --

12 Anyway, in terms of the name, I really like the
13 YouDrawCalifornia only because we're giving it back to
14 them, because it's going to be their piece of it. I
15 mean, it's going to be their COI or whatever they see
16 their Community of Interest. And I do like the dot org
17 because that is associated with education, like school
18 districts, and in community colleges, they're all dot
19 orgs. So I kind of like that side of it, instead of dot
20 com or dot net.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Just a
23 couple of things. I would propose another option,
24 drawing on these, which would be simply DrawCalifornia,
25 not we, not you, just DrawCalifornia.

1 As far as the "top-level" domain, we can keep in
2 mind that we can have multiples. We can have all of
3 these. It could be DrawCalifornia dot org, dot com, dot
4 net, and dot CA dot gov. We could have all four of those
5 options. They all, in the end, point to the same place.

6 The point that I had made previously about dot gov
7 addresses is that in the election community, at large,
8 the feeling is that .gov domain names give people greater
9 confidence that they are dealing with an official website
10 and not a spoof.

11 Of course, the advantage of reserving all of these
12 is that we then prevent anyone else from reserving
13 something. If we had only dot org, somebody could come
14 in and have dot com or dot net with the same first part
15 of the name and fool people into using their site, rather
16 than our site. So DrawCalifornia, neither we nor you,
17 just DrawCalifornia, and then I would say, let's go for
18 all four options, and maybe even .us. We could have five
19 options, all of which point to the same place. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
22 Commissioner Turner.

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 I appreciate -- I kind of shifted after listening to
25 Commissioner Kennedy. I was going to suggest that

1 JustMyCommunity.org. But I love DrawCalifornia the
2 suggestion of having all of the domains attached. Also,
3 I am in favor of having the standalone that points back
4 to our site, our site that refers to the standalone. But
5 I like the more options for people to interact. I want
6 to draw people towards our own website, once it's up and
7 running.

8 But sometimes they can be busy, and if people click
9 on too many things, I think there is a study that talks
10 about how much time people spends on any one site, and I
11 would want -- not want them to get so busy clicking into
12 other areas that they don't do the ultimate of what we
13 need them to do right now as far as drawing their
14 community.

15 So ultimately, I like reserving all of the domains,
16 and I think now I really am interested in the
17 DrawCalifornia. Thank you.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
19 Commissioner Vazquez.

20 And I'll add Commissioner Andersen after
21 Commissioner Yee, and then Commissioner Mr. Taylor and
22 Fornaciari. Sorry.

23 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: No, sorry. Apologies. Thank
24 you, Chair.

25 I like DrawCalifornia. Love the idea of reserving

1 everything and have it point to the same place. My
2 comment was going to be because we're currently
3 WeDrawtheLines, my concern with only using either
4 WeShapeCalifornia, either iteration of those, it could
5 potentially be confusing and frustrating in people's
6 brains.

7 If they're trying to get to our website, and they
8 keep getting the tool, that could be frustrating. And
9 vice versa, if you're trying to get to the tool, but keep
10 just getting our website, I think, could be frustrating.
11 But I like the idea of DrawCalifornia and have all of
12 these reserved to point to the right place.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Vasquez.
14 Commissioner Yee.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. I just want to echo
16 Commissioner Kennedy's thoughts. You know, every --
17 all -- we had all different people out there, right? So
18 that some people will be more wary of dot CA dot gov. I
19 myself would feel much -- more confident if I saw dot CA
20 dot gov and more inclined to give it time and attention,
21 if I felt it were official.

22 But we need to -- marketing. You need to reach all
23 kinds of different people, all kinds of different ways,
24 right? So different domains have it standalone and
25 embedded, just because people are going to find us all

1 different ways. In terms of language, the
2 ShapeCaliforniaFuture, that was the branding for the
3 auditor's selection website, which is still up. The
4 WeDrawtheLines, of course, is the one we inherited and
5 still have. So shape versus draw, I do like the
6 DrawCalifornia, just as simple as possible, and make it
7 as accessible as possible.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

9 Commissioner Andersen is next, and then I'll add
10 Commissioner Ahmad, too, after Commissioner Fornaciari.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair.

12 And I totally agree with the -- Commissioner
13 Kennedy. It's absolutely right. We have to reserve all
14 of them, so -- all the domain names, I mean all the dot
15 CA, all the gov to prevent people from corrupting and
16 trying to put somebody else in this place and taking the
17 information.

18 And in terms of which one we actually go with, I'm
19 also kind of agreeable. I also think there are too many
20 .gov, dot com, in terms of, is this the right one? I
21 think dot CA kind of tends -- ca.gov tends to be the
22 official one, but I understand the other issues.

23 In terms of it being a standalone, there is the
24 issue of being confused. But regardless, it -- we have
25 to have a link on ours that takes them to it and vice

1 versa. Now -- and I really understand and appreciate why
2 everyone's saying I like that WeDraw. WeDraw. WeDraw.

3 But the problem is, is they are not -- and that's
4 for participation. We want them to be participating, but
5 they're not drawing the district lines. They're drawing
6 their communities of interest. And I really think if you
7 say WeDraw, they're going to think, well, I'm drawing my
8 assembly lines, I'm drawing my Senate lines, I'm drawing.
9 And it's too confusing.

10 They're actually shaping the lines, the ultimate
11 lines. So for that reason, I mean, I -- it's going to
12 get too confusing, because we are actually drawing lines.
13 The public is not drawing the lines. We are drawing the
14 lines with their help, with their input, with their
15 shaping. They are shaping California.

16 So -- but I understand that there's confusion now,
17 like, Commissioner Sinay said. We need to pick a title.
18 We've had a couple of titles out there, and now we're
19 kind of introducing another title. So since shape is
20 already out there, in terms of participation, I'm leaning
21 towards -- I think it really should be they're shaping
22 California as the applicant pool is shaping. But the
23 WeDrawtheLines is the Assembly line, the Senate line,
24 the. Legislature line, and the Board of Equalization.

25 So I, I really think we need to make ShapeCalifornia

1 or WeShape as opposed to draw. So I hate to put the
2 kibosh on it, but I think it's, ultimately, it's going to
3 be confusing if they -- if they're drawing, but then
4 they're not drawing.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So Commissioner -- Commissioner
6 Andersen, for clarity, if I'm hearing you correctly, what
7 your feeling is, in terms of the name, it should be
8 either WeShapeShapeCA or WeShapeCalifornia.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Correct.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Absolutely correct.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I just want to make sure.
13 Thank you very much.

14 Commissioner Taylor.

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And good morning. I'm going
16 to hop on the Kennedy train. And he had some similar
17 thoughts as I did. From a security standpoint, we need
18 to have control over a number of the names to prevent
19 spoofing as well as just misguided. You don't want to
20 lose a misguided person that's trying to find the
21 website.

22 And I'll use the YouDraw as a good example. It
23 could be you or you or you multiple spellings of you. We
24 can't assume, although it's rudimentary, we can assume at
25 times that a person will correctly spell you. And that

1 being the case, I think it's common practice that some
2 companies would capture all of those domain -- domain
3 names so that it would generate where they'd want to go.

4 So if we use you, we have to be mindful that a
5 person might not correctly spell you, and we don't want
6 them to end up on the dark web somewhere, because they
7 put in the wrong you. But yes, from a security
8 standpoint, I think that we have to be mindful that we
9 might have to have a number of domains that points to the
10 same place. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
12 Commissioner Fornaciari.

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Let's see. I had to step
14 out for a minute, so I missed a little bit of the
15 conversation. I do like the idea of getting all the dot
16 extensions that are appropriate. I think -- I mean -- so
17 I just want to clarify something here. You know, if a
18 website is a URL, somebody can just type in that URL and
19 get there, right?

20 So this discussion about embedding versus
21 standalone -- embedding, I mean, it's just going to be a
22 link on our website that'll take somebody there. But
23 it's still going to be a standalone because if it's got a
24 URL, somebody can type it in. So just to kind of clarify
25 that discussion. And I kind of fall on the DrawCA. I

1 still kind of like that idea.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner
3 Fornaciari.

4 Commissioner Ahmad and then Jaime.

5 Jaime, do -- is this something that you want to
6 comment on? Okay.

7 MS. CLARK: No, it's --

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sorry. Commissioner Ahmad, then
9 let's have Jaime.

10 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you. So sorry to
11 interrupt. So some -- somebody at StateWideDatabase.
12 I'm communicating with them to look into the domain names
13 to make sure they're available. It sounds like
14 DrawCA.org net, com, and DrawCalifornia are both taken.
15 Draw-California is available. So yeah, I just wanted to
16 add that because I feel like that may change this
17 discussion.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. That is helpful.

19 Commissioner Ahmad, and then to -- back to
20 Commissioner Fornaciari and then Commissioner -- Turner
21 and then Commissioner Andersen. Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 Thank you for your presentation, Jaime and Michael.

24 I might suggest that, if not, given what

25 Commissioner Fornaciari just taught us about the URLs, if

1 this URL or website standalone tool is going to be
2 specifically and only about the tool, it might be worth
3 considering more descriptive URL, so that folks know that
4 they are going to an actual tool in which they would be
5 inputting their information about their COIs rather than
6 a broad-shaping California type URL just for
7 consideration.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad. Do
9 you have a suggestion in terms of what would be
10 descriptive?

11 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I would not want to use COI
12 tool, because people don't know what COI is, and spelling
13 COI might be problematic, but something tool --
14 inputtool.com or something more generically about what
15 you're going to be doing on that website, related to the
16 actual tool itself, rather than our overall objective as
17 a Commission, if that makes sense. I'll have to think
18 through a little bit more about what kinds of descriptive
19 URLs would be helpful.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.
21 Okay. I have Commissioner Fornaciari next, then
22 Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Andersen, and
23 Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I went. I'm done.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Okay.

1 All right. Commissioner Turner.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. Two things. With the
3 domain name of DrawCalifornia already being taken, I
4 would not want to do a Draw-, because I think that would
5 be the confusion and draw people to the wrong area, to
6 the previous website that's already taken.

7 And then, having it be more descriptive then, I
8 would perhaps go back to suggesting MyCommunity.org and
9 all of the various suffixes, or -- because it gets too
10 long to say MyCommunityofInterest or MyChosenCommunity.
11 But maybe MyCommunity or something along those lines, so
12 that people are clear that that is what they're going
13 there for -- MyCommunityTool, MyCommunity.

14 Yeah. My community, I guess, is what -- something
15 that says there is something that denotes their choice.
16 My -- MyCommunityShape -- I don't know. Okay.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
18 Turner.

19 Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm jumping right on the
21 Commissioner Turner's there. I actually have
22 CommunitiesShapeCalifornia or MyCommunityShapeCalifornia.
23 Because I totally agree. If Draw California is already
24 taken and we try to use any kind of Draw, like Draw-, we
25 risk the security -- security risk. So I would like

1 it -- and with -- and then, again, grabbing all the dot
2 CA, dot com, dot net, but maybe either -- I don't think
3 communities could be misspelled. MyCommunity -- is that
4 too long -- ShapeCalifornia.

5 I like community and -- but I also like the idea
6 that they're kind of -- the communities are shaping. You
7 know, MyCommunityShapesCalifornia kind of. You know,
8 MyCommunity -- anyway, that's my idea.

9 CommunitiesShapeCalifornnia or
10 MyCommunityShapeCalifornia. No CA -- dot CA -- no CA.
11 MYCommunnityCA, CommunitiesShapeCA.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So Commissioner Andersen, I
13 think what I'm hearing, the two keywords that you like
14 are community and shape. We'll build upon that.

15 Okay. We're going to go to Commissioner -- to
16 Kennedy and then to Commissioner Fernandez and then
17 Commissioner Yee.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Couple
19 things. One, I just looked up DrawCalifornia.org, dot
20 com, dot net. It looks like those are being held by a
21 domain name broker. It's not that they are active, it's
22 that we might have to pay a little bit more for them. So
23 it may still be worthwhile to check with the domain name
24 broker as to what they're willing to let it go for.

25 I would be happy with ShapeCalifornia rather than

1 DrawCalifornia, if we don't find -- if we're not able to
2 get the DrawCalifornia options. I think if we have a
3 something like WeShapeCA, once we have the CA, and then
4 you have to put dot CA dot gov, that's going to be
5 confusing. So I think we should avoid a -- anything
6 CA.ca.gov. Even though it would be easy with the others,
7 I just think that's a bad way to go on that. I'll stop
8 there. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
11 Commissioner Fernandez.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I liked Commissioner
13 Ahmad's suggestion. So my thing -- my suggested name
14 potentially could be DrawMyCACommunity, because then it's
15 pretty specific to community and I -- shape versus draw,
16 I think, for me, I guess, because English is my second
17 language, I think draw would be easier for me to
18 remember, and that's what I'm doing is drawing versus
19 shaping. So it's kind of just a -- I think it's just a
20 preference of either way.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.
22 Commissioner Yee.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: All right. Could she say
24 that again, please? I missed it, what it was? DrawMy --

25

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh. DrawMyCACommunity --
2 California, instead of draw -- spelling out California,
3 just DrawMyCACommunity. But it's just long. That's the
4 only unfortunate -- I still -- my preference would be
5 YouDrawCA is number one. But if you want to put
6 community in there, that's fine.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

8 Commissioner Yee.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll take that one step further.
10 How about just DrawMyCommunity.ca.gov? Community is --
11 we're talking about communities of interest, right. That
12 is our focus. That's the language that is embedded in
13 the task, so communities -- so DrawMyCommunity.ca.gov.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you.

15 Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I love that. I -- just
17 putting on my professor hat. Sadly, many people spell
18 community wrong. But just want to throw that out there.
19 The double m is just very confusing to people.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner and then
21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. And so with that, I like
23 DrawMyCACommunity instead of CommunityCA to get into --
24 to avoid that dot CA that Commissioner Kennedy was
25 talking about.

1 And I'm wondering if indeed we end up with
2 DrawMyCACommunity to Commissioner Sadhwani's point, can
3 we have both spellings, the correct and the incorrect
4 spelling of community with one m and still point to the
5 same website.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

7 Commissioner Fernandez.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, I like that. And I was
9 just going to respond to Commissioner Sadhwani. Yes, it
10 is misspelled many times. You're absolutely correct.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Ms. Clarke, I believe you
12 need an answer from us today on this question. Is this
13 one of the ones that you were hoping to get an answer
14 today?

15 MS. CLARK: Yeah. We need feedback about this today
16 so that we can, again, reserve all domain names and also
17 fold the name into all of the materials that we're
18 producing around this. We could also come away with a
19 list of names from the Commission, and then, you know,
20 next time we see you or report back to the subcommittee
21 around what names were available and what name is
22 integrated into the tool.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

24 I see that Mr. Wagaman is going to weigh -- wants to
25 weigh in on this. Okay.

1 MR. WAGAMAN: I just wanted to -- and to keep your
2 conversation moving along, it sounds like there's some
3 consensus potentially around some variant of
4 DrawMyCACommunity and DrawMyCommunity. You know, if
5 you're -- if you're if the Commission is comfortable
6 leaving us a little -- well, we can use that as
7 generalized direction, see what domains are available,
8 understanding the feedback about trying to reserve any
9 variance on community that people might misspell.
10 Statewide Database can staff on working -- on reserving
11 the multiple dot orgs, dot -- dot coms, etc. And then --
12 then and then they can work with your staff on working on
13 reserving that dot CA, dot gov.

14 And when we come back on the 30th, report on where
15 that finally landed. But that would give us the
16 direction of just generalized what the branding is and
17 knowing what your generalized feedback is. So if that is
18 a consensus, that's how I can implement this item.

19 MS. CLARK: And a quick follow up. I just got a
20 communication that I think that all of these are
21 available; MyCommunity, DrawMyCACommunity,
22 DrawMyCommunity, et cetera. So we can look into folding
23 all of those in for now, and as well, again, as
24 Mr. Wagaman stated, as well as the misspelling of
25 "community" and then report back to the subcommittee, in

1 terms of which name became integrated. Taking the
2 general direction of one of these names is requested or
3 is a point of feedback.

4 MR. WAGAMAN: Thank you.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

6 Okay, Commissioner Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Just can you also see if DMC
8 is available?

9 MS. CLARK: D-M-C?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

11 MS. CLARK: DrawMyCommunity.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: DMCC. So as we --

13 MS. CLARK: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- talked about this
15 morning --

16 MS. CLARK: Yeah.

17

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- we may be able to just tell
19 people DMCC.

20 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. I think I will
22 take this as some consensus that Mr. Wagaman, your
23 suggestion is acceptable to work out some variation of
24 the keywords that were attractive to all the
25 Commissioners.

1 Perhaps this is also a time to consider, Ms. Clarke,
2 maybe trying to reserve as many of the variations as
3 quickly as possible so that if somebody is listening and
4 does not have a positive intent, doesn't try to tie up
5 all these names and try to sell it back to us, so --

6 MS. CLARK: Yes.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Then we're back to square one.

8 MS. CLARK: Thank you. I just think -- I just made
9 that precise request to our staff member who's on standby
10 to reserve all of these. So, yeah. Fingers crossed. We
11 get all of them.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Excellent.

13 MS. CLARK: And they could all eventually redirect
14 to the same place.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, I think that that would be
16 ideal. I think that's what we were hearing, we -- and
17 perhaps if you could also ask your staff member to think
18 about other variations, in terms of -- besides the dot
19 com, the dot net, the dot org, are -- is there like --
20 I've seen dot us. So perhaps they could also look at all
21 of those so that it all feeds into the same place.

22 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So are you -- are -- so I
24 think we're okay on this. We can move on to the next
25 question that you need an answer from -- from us today.

1 Okay?

2 MS. CLARK: Yes, please. And the next point of
3 feedback is around what questions or prompts are in the
4 tool to get users thinking about and describing their
5 communities of interest. Currently, the -- currently,
6 these prompts for users are the name of the community,
7 what is the mutual interest, and why should it be kept
8 together? Based on current feedback, the name of the
9 community and what is the mutual interest are required
10 fields for submission and why should it be kept together
11 is optional.

12 Our -- we request feedback today from the Commission
13 around should the questions change, or should they remain
14 the same, and which questions should be required, and
15 which questions should be optional?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And I would say I'm happy
18 with the name of community and what is the mutual
19 interest being required? That does seem to be the
20 fundamental thing that we're going for.

21 I do believe that it would be useful for us to ask
22 our questions -- to further questions that can be useful
23 for us in either creating coalition districts or, if
24 necessary, depending on how large or how big someone goes
25 in defining their community of interest, if it has to be

1 split.

2 So I would propose that we also ask something along
3 the lines of, if your district -- if your community of
4 interest is not large enough to be its own district,
5 which of your neighboring communities of interest are you
6 most interested in being grouped with? Because some
7 people may be happy to be grouped with -- over here, but
8 not the people over there.

9 And secondly, if your community is larger than the
10 district size, are there considerations that you would
11 like us to have in mind when we split it?

12 MS. CLARK: I'm -- pardon me, quickly. One note for
13 the Commission to keep in mind when discussing this
14 suggestion is that users will not be able to see
15 submissions of communities of interest that have been
16 submitted by other users. So asking what other
17 communities of interest, with that specific phrasing,
18 would require or, I guess, would imply that users are
19 aware of which communities of interest have already been
20 submitted. And I guess a suggestion around that could
21 just be to change the phrasing to be something like what
22 other neighborhoods or what areas close to your community
23 of interest, but not necessarily use the phrase
24 communities of interest.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Commissioner Sinay

1 and then also Commissioner -- Mr. Wagaman and then
2 Commissioner Turner.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Hi. I just -- just for
4 clarification, I kind of see that there's two steps in
5 the -- in what we're doing. One is the input where we're
6 getting input from as many people as possible for
7 communities of interest. And then the second step is,
8 yeah, we -- obviously, we take that, we bring it
9 together, we draw the first set of maps.

10 And then there's a second step of getting that input
11 on the actual maps. I see this one as we need to keep it
12 as simple as possible and accessible as possible to
13 individuals. And the more questions we ask, the more
14 likely people are just going to throw up their arms and
15 say, forget it.

16 I also think that the second question, no one
17 understands except for academics. I mean, we need --
18 anything and everything we create, we need to do a
19 language check to make sure it's not higher than eighth-
20 grade level, if not even more simplified. My
21 recommendation is name of your community, what brings you
22 together, and that allows that -- it builds on that idea
23 of community, what brings you together, and why should
24 it -- why should you be kept together, how should you be
25 kept together?

1 And I don't know -- and that might explain more of
2 the geographic, who are the neighbors, what other
3 communities. I'm not sure. But mutual interest is
4 something I would take out. And I do think that the
5 third question should be optional, because some people
6 may be like, I already told you what brings us together,
7 what do you -- what's the difference? So is the only
8 thing I can think of.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Mr. Wagaman.

10 MR. WAGAMAN: Very happy not to be a commissioner.
11 So one thing just to clarify, we're not going to be
12 looking for exact language out of feedback for today, as
13 I think Commissioner Sinay just pointed out. What makes
14 sense to 14 highly-educated people on this call, may not
15 make sense when we go back and do usability testing. If
16 there's generalized feedback of like language or words to
17 look at like those just provided, that is helpful
18 feedback. So on that piece, we should note that not less
19 to hear what there is going to be a generalized note
20 field for when they actually submit. So that is an
21 option if people want to submit additional information
22 that is not a specific prompted question.

23 And then so really the key thing is in this
24 discussion that you are having is, is there a question
25 you want to ask? Is there a question you don't want to

1 ask? Is that something helpful or is there something
2 that's a hindrance? And that is where we are looking for
3 feedback.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you. That was
5 helpful.

6 Commissioner -- looks like Commissioner Turner's
7 next, followed by Taylor and then Commissioner Kennedy.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. And that is
9 helpful. The suggestion that I have for this, to bring
10 clarity, would be the first one, name of more desired
11 community followed with what is your shared interest,
12 followed with why should this community be kept together.
13 I think would be clear for anyone to understand and get
14 what we need.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
16 Turner.

17 Commissioner Taylor.

18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Commissioner Turner was
19 clairvoyant. What is your interest as mutual -- I think
20 mutual can be exclusive. And yes, Commissioner Turner
21 said it just as I would have put it. Thank you.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
23 Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I kind of
25 agree with Commissioner Sinay. Once we know what the

1 mutual interest is, I think we have a clue, a good clue,
2 of why the user would want it to be kept together. And
3 on the two additional questions that I had proposed, I
4 believe that if we organize the input screen properly,
5 the two are mandatory questions being, you know, front
6 and center, highlighted, et cetera, and any other
7 questions being lower, much less prominent on the screen,
8 I don't think we're going to have a problem with drop
9 off. I mean that may just be me, but that's my thinking
10 on that.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
12 Kennedy.

13 Commissioner Andersen, followed by Commissioner
14 Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So sorry. So I'm next?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you.

18 Yeah, I do like your name of community, and then I
19 actually would not put "Why should you be kept
20 together?", something like that, because that immediately
21 goes, wait, you're trying to break me up? You're --
22 that's like a little kid. Don't put beans in your nose.
23 Oh, I can put beans in my nose. You know, these are
24 basic things you just don't say, which you don't do.

25 And it immediately implies to me -- when I read

1 that, I thought, uh-oh, we're going to -- we're trying to
2 cut the communities apart, and we're not. We want to --
3 so I would actually go with three different things; one
4 is "Name the community" and then on your -- the -- about
5 the mutual interest, I like the "What's your shared
6 interest?"

7 I would also, though, put a couple of short
8 questions there, not just one, because then they -- to
9 give them a little bit more information, I would say,
10 "What is your shared interest?" "What does your group
11 do?" or "What brings you together?" Those three -- and
12 then -- because then they're typing in what they do.

13 But then I would put, and it could be named, and
14 then this, a drop-down. And that would be "Pick your
15 type of community", with the categorizations being
16 social, business, landmark, advocates, other, and a line
17 that then they would say whatever it is.

18 And the reason I'm doing that is because I feel what
19 we're trying to get out of this is who are the
20 communities? We're trying to understand what the
21 communities are. Then we also have to sort the
22 communities. And so, I'd kind of like them to kind of
23 think what kind they are.

24 Also, drop-downs are really easy to do, and we're
25 already asking them to write quite a bit; the name sort

1 of a drop-down with the "other" there that they can write
2 in whatever they want. And then that general, "Who are
3 you?" Tell us about yourself almost. But short -- like
4 three short little questions, because I figure on the
5 different questions, how they translate to different
6 languages, you're going to get the idea across.

7 So just those kind of three things. And I think
8 then we're getting -- certainly getting enough
9 information.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

11 Commissioner Sadhwani is next.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was just going to offer
13 another alternative to "mutual", might be "common". But
14 I'd also like to share that I like Commissioner
15 Andersen's thoughts around the three questions for the
16 drop-down box. I could see how that could be helpful in
17 terms of sorting the comments as they come in or the
18 shape files and such as they come in. But I also think
19 that we would need to work on the draft on that.

20 I don't understand what an advocate community of
21 interest really would be. Like, maybe as a linguist.
22 You know, I think that that could work. I'd have to
23 think about that.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

25 Commissioner Sinay.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I remember thinking about doing
2 something like that with the drop-down when I was going
3 through the tool. My only concern is would others
4 interpret it as some types are more important than
5 others? So let's say they give their input, and we don't
6 listen to it later, and they say, oh yeah, they only
7 cared about economic interests. I know that I put
8 "advocacy" or whatever.

9 So I kind of see keeping things simple on this and
10 so that later people don't have -- they don't use
11 whatever we're asking them against us or make judgments
12 that we chose not to listen to them for x, y, z, reason.
13 That was kind of where I was coming from when it was
14 You -- yeah, YouDraw -- the tool is a you draw, and it
15 all comes together, and it's a we draw. It's a bigger
16 effort.

17 So a lot of the input I had also given to the tool
18 was this idea of when they -- when it gets inputted, they
19 go to a map on our site that shows all the dots. It
20 does -- they can't go in, but they can see the
21 communities and stuff where a lot of input has come in so
22 that they can see I'm one dot in all these other dots.
23 And we -- just that whole feeling of trying to push
24 democracy -- so people understand that democracy.

25 What I have learned from being on the school board

1 and being attacked, which is where we're heading at some
2 point, is that people, if you don't do what they say,
3 they will tell you they were not heard. And so, you need
4 to show people that they've been heard all -- every step
5 of the way. And that's why that dot, as much as it's
6 simple -- okay, I think it's simple.

7 I already saw Mr. Wagaman raise his hand. So maybe
8 it's not that simple. But that idea of, yes, you were
9 heard, but there's all these other people and now we've
10 got to make -- I kept calling it a puzzle, but now we
11 need to bring some clarity to all these pieces.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

13 I did see Mr. Wagaman, and then after that,
14 Commissioner Yee.

15 MR. WAGAMAN: Sure. And just three things. On the
16 dots, that is actually something that is not particularly
17 complicated to translate the polygons into dots, but
18 that's where, again, when we talked earlier about kind of
19 the part that's under the legislature's primary
20 responsibility versus yours, that decision of how you
21 want to synthesize this data is that's the part that
22 would fall under the Commission.

23 And so, if that's something you desire, would be
24 something to include with the discussions with your
25 staff. To Commissioner Andersen's question about the

1 dropbox, that's something that has come up previously
2 during development. What we found is that it becomes
3 challenging, because some communities wanted to find
4 themselves in multiple ways, or they wanted to define
5 themselves in a way that maybe you folks haven't thought
6 of, and it ends up becoming very difficult, much more
7 difficult than you might anticipate to kind of do it that
8 way, unfortunately, because communities are not clean
9 objects, like cities and counties and -- which is what
10 you're dealing with here.

11 And then on that question, just as feedback, these
12 three questions you're seeing here are actually pretty
13 commonly seen in a lot of local redistrictings, where
14 they're looking for these issues. And on the third kind
15 of variant of why is it being kept together, that is
16 something that sometimes decision-making bodies find
17 helpful because you are going to be weighing competing
18 communities of interest and looking at this is clearly
19 community interest, that's clearly a community of
20 interest, which one, if we can't keep them both whole.

21 I think it came up from Dr. Johnson when he was
22 doing your training, that talking about I think it was a
23 Latino-based community of interest. That's what defined
24 it. But what was really critical to them was a water
25 issue. So what made them a community wasn't necessarily

1 why they wanted to be kept together. That's a balance
2 for the Commission to decide and provide feedback if
3 that's worthwhile or not. But just so you have that
4 background for your debate and discussion.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Mr. Wagaman. We're
6 going to go to Commissioner Yee.

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, that's -- I thought on the
8 first question, "Name of community", I'm wondering if
9 there would be better "Name for your community". The way
10 it's phrased right now, "Name of community" sort of
11 implies that the name already exists, that it's a known
12 embassy, and we're actually more interested in
13 communities that aren't already named and known, right,
14 because we actually might even have other ways to get to
15 those.

16 We're interested in communities that people think
17 are out there that should be kept together that aren't as
18 obvious, right. So "Name for your community" makes it
19 more clear that they can't be a community that isn't
20 already widely known and named. And they could make one
21 up.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Okay. Not seeing anything
23 else, I'll just make a last comment.

24 Mr. Wagaman, I do appreciate what you said about
25 some of these questions being the same as what some of

1 the other local redistricting commissions have done. I
2 think you may have already realized this by now. We are
3 not necessarily following the same road as everybody
4 else. And we do want to challenge, sometimes perhaps be
5 a little bit more creative in how we want to do things.

6 And I would agree with, I think, what Commissioner
7 Sinay said about trying to keep the questions as simple
8 as possible. I find that so much can be left up to
9 multiple interpretations, and the more clearer and more
10 simply, something can be stated, I think then we'll be
11 able to ensure that we get better quality data. It's --
12 there is a saying, garbage in, garbage out.

13 And if we don't ask the questions in the right way,
14 we may not get the kind of data that we want to see. And
15 so, I think that that's something for all of us to keep
16 in mind. I also appreciate, Commissioner Yee, what your
17 suggestion about the name of the community, instead
18 calling it "name for your community". I think you are
19 right. I think there are communities where it's not
20 named and so best to allow people to think about what do
21 you want to name it, because what you name it may not be
22 what someone else may name.

23 On the drop-down menu item, I think you already
24 really touched on it. My first reaction is, well, what
25 if I'm not on there. And I'm oftentimes in a place where

1 I have felt that way. I'm not reflected in this menu of
2 choices. And so I just feel like, well, then you're just
3 not interested in hearing from me.

4 So I think anything that's going to prevent somebody
5 from feeling like they could be included in this process
6 is not going to be something that we would be interested
7 in seeing. We want to hear from everybody and as many
8 people in whatever ways they can be engaged, I think that
9 that's what we should and what we want to keep in mind.

10 Commissioner Kennedy, I see your hand up. I'll go
11 to you next.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

13 Two things. One, yes, I agree that we want to keep
14 questions simple. I don't know that I -- I still believe
15 that asking or offering users the opportunity to respond
16 to optional questions can significantly improve the
17 quality of the draft maps that we eventually present.
18 And the less controversy there can be over the first set
19 of draft maps, the better.

20 So I continue to believe that asking one or two more
21 optional questions, designing the screen so that it's
22 very clear that we have, you know, hopefully, two
23 mandatory questions and, hopefully, no more than two
24 optional questions, I think, in the long run, that's
25 going to pay dividends. And yes, I agree with

1 Commissioner Yee that giving more flexibility in
2 providing a name is a good thing. Thank you.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez and
4 then Mr. Wagaman and then Commissioner Andersen.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Actually, it was
6 just going to be a question for Jaime and Michael.

7 Will the individuals know if their community of
8 interest is large enough or not? So I mean, I understand
9 what Commissioner Kennedy is getting at, which is
10 important, because I may not want to be grouped with this
11 other group, but they may not know if their group is big
12 enough. Does that make sense?

13 MR. WAGAMAN: The short answer is they won't know,
14 because the tool is going to be released before the
15 census data is released, so we won't know.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner -- Mr. Wagaman, did
17 you have anything else you wanted to add?

18 MR. WAGAMAN: I just wanted to really compliment the
19 Commission on the feedback. The key thing I've taken
20 away from this is, and it's tremendous feedback, is the
21 emphasis on phrasing these questions about the user
22 themselves. What is my community? What is your
23 community? What is it that makes your community? What is
24 it that ties you where you work together?

25 That language, it goes back even to the discussion

1 on how to name and brand it. So that is clearly good
2 feedback that can be integrated into finalizing the
3 language on that. So I just wanted to compliment you on,
4 on that feedback.

5 And then to Commissioner Kennedy's feedback, because
6 we'd heard that previously during the work with the
7 subcommittee. I know the database has already been
8 talking about options of ways to potentially integrate
9 those potentially slightly higher, more complicated
10 questions and -- but make them optional, but still prompt
11 people that those are things that they might want to
12 provide additional feedback on without taking away from
13 the core. So that feedback has already been registered
14 and integrated into kind of that final development.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr.
16 Wagaman. Commissioner Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you for that.
18 And also, I realize how Commissioner Kennedy is now
19 looking at this, and I totally agree. And then I -- for
20 number one, I would actually say community name. That
21 way it's just easier, simple, rather "name for" "name of"
22 just a "community name" so they can name it whatever they
23 want or if it has a name, put it down, whatever. And
24 that's required.

25 Then I still sort of like a couple of sentences for

1 the number two, trying to get at the interest. What
2 keeps them together. I think you totally understand
3 where we're coming from. Tell us about your community.

4 Then I like -- I do like the idea of optional items,
5 and see though, they'll say they're optional, but it does
6 give people -- might want to give us more information.
7 And I understand exactly what you're saying about the
8 drop-down is too -- it needs to be your categories. But
9 we could say, "What type of community are you?" for
10 example, and just list them or say "such as", because
11 that's a better one to example.

12 And do a couple -- we could even do like a mix, you
13 know, social business, culture, cultural, a couple of
14 different ones just to give them. And if they don't put
15 anything down, that's no problem, or if they put a
16 combination, because we are expecting them to be
17 combinations. So I think that would give them an option.
18 And then "What binds your community?" in terms of what
19 keeps you together, as opposed -- because we don't --
20 again, I don't want to go, "What keeps you -- "Why should
21 you be kept together?

22 I want it -- I want them to tell us why they need to
23 be together. So it's -- "What binds your community
24 together?" or something like that, as opposed to the
25 difference being, don't approach it as something they

1 could immediately interpret as you're trying to cut us
2 apart.

3 But I like the idea of a couple of different
4 optional questions because that's really more the
5 information that we -- we're kind of going to need, or
6 all of it's what we need. But the more we get out of
7 them, the easier it will be for us to evaluate them. And
8 I think if we leave it more generically like that, they
9 won't be able to say, well, you just got rid of this,
10 because we didn't like that.

11 And as far as putting -- rather than putting dots,
12 could we have when they go in, can they -- on the tool,
13 could they -- if they -- say if they want to go say
14 reflect this area and all of the communities of interest
15 will pop up. Is that an option for them?

16 MR. WAGAMAN: Right now the --

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right.

18 MR. WAGAMAN: -- the development of the tool is not
19 intended to show multiple communities from other people's
20 submissions? It's really designed to just capture here's
21 yours. Now, again, that is the discussion point for this
22 Commission is how do you want to take all those, and do
23 you want to set up your own tool to then show all the
24 communities that have been submitted by all your fellow
25 citizens.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. So that that would be
2 something that we might have on our website. You know,
3 go here, you know, submit, and then we could go on our
4 website, the conglomeration to date. But that would not
5 be you, that would be us. Is that what I'm -- that's
6 my -- is that --

7 MR. WAGAMAN: Correct.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Got it. Thank you very
9 much.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. So that would be us just
12 building on that. And just to give part of what I'm --
13 the reason my brain went there right away, when I went
14 through the exercise, was that will help our partners in
15 our outreach to know what areas we still need to get --
16 we need to do more work in or -- and we can turn it into
17 a competition. There's a lot of things we can do, kind
18 of like the census did.

19 So we can talk about when we're talking about
20 visioning later and civic technology, civic design.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And my understanding,
22 I believe that Commissioner Kennedy and I had this
23 conversation with Jaime, in terms of being able to see
24 the other COIz around a certain area. And I believe the
25 understanding that I had from that was that that the tool

1 itself cannot do that, but it would have to be embedded
2 in with another software that would be able to show all
3 of that.

4 And Jaime, I know, Commissioner Turner, I think you
5 had your hand up.

6 Jaime, if you could answer that question, then we'll
7 go to Commissioner Turner.

8 MS. CLARK: That's correct. So again, this -- the
9 COI tool will be able to show users their own
10 submissions, their own drafts, or the COI that they're
11 working on in that moment. And then the Commission will
12 be sent files that could be pulled up using different
13 redistricting software.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

15 Commissioner Turner.

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to reiterate. I
17 think at the top where it could -- if we were to change
18 to just community name, I think that would be confusing
19 for a lot of people. I think they would be stumped at
20 that point trying to determine what their community is.
21 What is this area called? I think it would have to say
22 either, as Commissioner Yee suggested, "name for your
23 community", or as I suggested earlier, saying, "What is
24 the desired name for your community?"

25 But something that says you get to choose and make

1 it up right now on the spot, as opposed to having a
2 community member thinking there is already a name that
3 they need to figure out what is area called?

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
5 Commissioner Ahmad?

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll
7 make this quick. I know we're nearing our break.
8 Since -- I kept hearing the conversation around a drop-
9 down menu come up, and I just wanted to provide it from a
10 data perspective. When offering categorical choices, you
11 can no longer disaggregate the data. But if you have an
12 open textbox, so to speak, you can always aggregate back
13 up by whatever metric you decide.

14 And there are qualitative data analysis tools, like
15 Atlas TI to Duce that we can use to kind of pull out the
16 themes based off of variables, whether it be geographic
17 or census tract or whatever we want to look at that time.
18 But putting in a drop-down menu might prohibit us from
19 being able to go back and look deeper into what does it
20 even mean to have a social community or an economic
21 community. So I just offer that perspective.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you very much.
23 That's helpful to know.

24 Okay. All right, Jaime and Michael, do you -- okay.
25 I was going to say, do you have what you need from us?

1 Commissioner Kennedy.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just following up on
3 Commissioner Turner's suggestion. If we made it, "Give
4 your community a name", seems like that would achieve
5 what we're looking for. And on the on the types of
6 community, it seems to me that implicitly or explicitly,
7 we're going to be looking at that ourselves on the back
8 end. We can always code it on the back end however we
9 want to, with multiples or combinations or whatever.

10 So yeah, I like the generic idea, but it may just be
11 easier for us to look at that on the back end than having
12 that on the user interface. Thank you.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'll just also comment. In terms
14 of the names of the community, I do like what
15 Commissioner Kennedy just said, but I also do like
16 Commissioner Yee's. I think when you put in a desired
17 name, people will start thinking and thinking hard about
18 it. I -- that was just my reaction. I think if you just
19 say "Name for your community", it almost implies a
20 casualness. So it's whatever people just come up with at
21 that time that it may speed along and encourage greater
22 participation.

23 I do also wonder, in terms of the kind of the
24 categorizing that Commissioner Kennedy also just
25 mentioned, if that could be elicited from the names that

1 people choose or the words that people choose for the
2 names of their community as a way of both aggregating and
3 also disaggregating groupings of people based on what
4 they choose to call their communities.

5 Just trying to think about how not to overcomplicate
6 some things. And I'm sure the data tools are out there
7 that could make that available.

8 Okay, so Jaime and Michael, do you have what you
9 need on this and -- okay. Sounds good. Shall we move
10 on?

11 I know the other two items that you presented,
12 Jaime, were not things that you needed decisions from us
13 today. I am also conscious that we are around the time
14 that we should be taking our break. And the question I
15 have is, do you want us to engage in this conversation
16 today around the remaining two issues, or is this a
17 conversation that I can ask the Commissioners to be
18 thinking about and then come ready at a later point,
19 right before it's due or when it's due to then provide
20 some feedback to you all -- to the both of you.

21 MR. WAGAMAN: It was our --

22 MS. CLARK: Yes.

23 MR. WAGAMAN: Go ahead, Jaime.

24 MS. CLARK: Yes, the latter certainly is -- would be
25 quite welcomed.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. That sounds good. I also
2 know that I'm sure that there's probably quite a bit of
3 public comment that may be desired on the part of those
4 who want to make public comments about this. We do need
5 to take a break. Would the both of you be able to stay
6 on for a little bit, while we go through the break? And
7 then after we come back, we'll take public comment, if
8 there's any. And then right after that, we'll let you
9 go. All right. Thank you.

10 Let's go ahead. Let's take our 15-minute break and
11 it's 11:16.

12 All right. Thank you. Welcome back. We'd like to
13 take public comment now on the topic of the tool and the
14 questions that were posed to us by the Statewide Database
15 team and the legislature.

16 And Katy, shall we go to the instructions?

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

18 In order to maximize transparency and public
19 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
20 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.
21 There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners
22 regarding the items on the agenda. There will also be
23 opportunities for the public to comment, submit general
24 comments about items not on the agenda. Please note that
25 the Commission is not able to comment or discuss items

1 not on the agenda.

2 The Commission will advise the viewing audience when
3 it is time to submit public comment. The Commissioners
4 will then allow time for those who wish to submit to
5 public comment, to dial in.

6 To call in on your phone, dial the telephone number
7 provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter
8 the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed
9 using your dial pad. When prompted to enter a
10 participant ID, simply press pound. Once you have dialed
11 in, you will be placed in a queue from which a moderator
12 will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You
13 will also hear an automatic message to press star nine to
14 raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment.

15 When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will
16 unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message, the
17 host would like you to talk and to press star six to
18 speak. You will have two minutes to provide your
19 comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or live
20 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during
21 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert
22 for when it is your turn to speak, and please turn down
23 the livestream volume.

24 The Commissioners will take comment for every action
25 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video

1 stream, the Chair will call for public comment. That is
2 the time to call in. The process for making a comment
3 will be the same each time, beginning by the telephone
4 number provided on the livestream feed and following the
5 steps stated above. So the comment will -- the comments
6 are in relation to the COI toll, and we do have someone
7 in the queue. If they will press star nine to raise
8 their hand, which they don't have to, but I will --
9 and --

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Looks like we have one person.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, I've clicked on
12 their thing. If they'll --

13 If you'll hit star six to unmute yourself, you'll be
14 able to join the meeting. Please state and spell your
15 name for the court reporter.

16 MS. MARKS: Hello? Can you hear me?

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Please state and
18 spell your name --

19 MS. MARKS: -- Yeah.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- for the court
21 reporter.

22 MS. MARKS: Thank you. My name is Julia Marks, J-U-
23 L-I-A M-A-R-K-S, and I'm calling from Asian Americans
24 Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus. And I just want to
25 start off by saying thank you for all the thoughtfulness

1 in that previous discussion of the COI tool. The
2 questions in the tool will be very important in getting
3 full and robust community input, as you know. And I just
4 was very pleased with how deeply you're engaging with the
5 word choice and all of those matters.

6 I did want to say I particularly appreciated the
7 comments about the need to keep saying in general enough
8 that no specific communities are feeling excluded by the
9 tool. So having a specified drop-down, could make some
10 folks feel excluded, like their category of a community
11 doesn't count as a community of interest. And also some
12 of the concerns around asking for the name of a
13 community. I do think some folks don't see their
14 community named by outside forces, and I just want to be
15 sure that they feel like communities without a title
16 account to for redistricting purposes.

17 So I heard a lot of that in your discussion and just
18 wanted to kind of affirm that piece of what you were
19 talking about. And then secondly, I wanted to highlight
20 the language access issue. I know there will be
21 additional discussion in future meetings, but just a
22 preliminary note that the current plan covers languages
23 that are required by federal law for voting rights
24 purposes. But in California, we also have a large number
25 of languages covered by state law to ensure that more

1 language communities can fully participate in the
2 democratic process. And we would strongly urge you to
3 consider expanding the list to include all the languages
4 covered under state law.

5 And then further to seek additional input from
6 community-based organizations on other languages to
7 include. There are some serious gaps in the voting
8 coverage. For example, African languages are not
9 covered, and those folks should be equally included in
10 this process too. So we would just recommend including
11 more languages and soliciting additional input on
12 finalizing that list over the next couple of weeks.
13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the only
16 person we have in the queue at this time.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Okay. Looks like no one
18 else is waiting.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No one else is waiting in
20 the queue.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Okay. Well, then I am
22 going to thank Mr. Wagaman -- Michael, and Ms. Clark --
23 Jaime. Thank you very much for joining us and for this
24 discussion and for your work. I look forward to
25 revisiting with you again on the future questions. All

1 right.

2 MR. WAGAMAN: Thank you.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. So moving on to --
4 back on to our agenda. I would like to bring us back to
5 agenda Item Number 9, Subagenda H, VRA Compliance.
6 Commissioner Sadhwani and Yee.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And I hope you
8 don't hear a lot of background noise from those
9 lawnmowers outside. So thank you all. We --
10 Commissioner, you and I have been busy having
11 conversations about the VRA and about how to go about
12 training for -- additional training for Commissioners for
13 the VRA, as well as thinking about hiring VRA counsel, et
14 cetera. So we're excited to report back a few things and
15 just give you all an update of where we're at.

16 First of all, we had conversations with Angelo
17 Ancheta, the former Commissioner from 2010, who's also
18 submitted public comments, as you might recall, on the
19 VRA that was very helpful. Last night, we also had a
20 conversation with Rosalind Gold from NALEO, the education
21 fund, the National Association of Latino Elected
22 Officials. And you might recall the name because she's
23 called in numerous times and has been engaged as a
24 community advocate on the Commission since the 2010 time
25 period.

1 I had also had a conversation -- and I brought this
2 up yesterday for the Line Drawer Committee because it
3 happened in that committee was that in the conversation
4 with Karen McDonald, one of the things -- who was the
5 line drawer, just as a reminder, as under Q2, not under
6 the Statewide Database hat that she also wears, one of
7 her major concerns that she shared with us was about the
8 interaction between the line drawer and VRA council and
9 the Commission and managing that relationship and the
10 expectations of it.

11 So one of the things that we're learning is that
12 there's a lot of overlap between these two committees,
13 and I'm very thankful and glad to be able to sit on both
14 of them so that we can understand and see that overlap.

15 In particular, she had mentioned that the VRA
16 council that had been hired last time, Gibson Dunn, was
17 poorly trained, in fact, on the VRA, and that her team,
18 which included an attorney who had previously worked at
19 the Justice Department, was actually running trainings on
20 the VRA for some of the junior attorneys for Gibson Dunn.

21 Just to kind of verify this, we actually
22 identified -- Marian had helped us identify a letter from
23 2010 from NALEO from what was then the Asian Pacific
24 American Legal Center, now Advancing Justice Los Angeles,
25 as well as one other group. And I would have to just go

1 back and find that letter.

2 It is still, I believe, publicly available,
3 specifically suggesting that the outside counsel that the
4 Commission was seeking was inadequate. In addition,
5 Mr. Ancheta had kind of said about the same thing. So I
6 wanted to flag that for you all. I mentioned yesterday
7 when we were speaking about the line drawer, that there's
8 this overlap. And so I think this is a really important
9 piece for us to kind of know as we move forward that when
10 we're considering hiring VRA counsel, that we have a
11 range of options and that that we really need to
12 ensure -- we need to identify kind of the right questions
13 to be asking and the right kind of background and
14 experience that we're going to want to expect. Some of
15 the feedback that we've had -- and so, of course,
16 Commissioner Yee and I are attempting to do that and
17 compile that for the full Commission's consideration.

18 One of the reminders actually, that in both of our
19 conversations that we've had was that we do not need to
20 hire someone California-based necessarily, that the VRA
21 and compliance with the VRA. VRA is a national law, and
22 especially during COVID, where much of our work is not
23 in-person, certainly, counsel could come from outside of
24 the state and still be perfectly sufficient and perhaps
25 even better. And that such counsel for the redistricting

1 that we will do, the actual line drawing can be different
2 from if and when we ever have any litigation that we need
3 to consider.

4 So I wanted to put that out there, particularly in
5 light of our conversation around the org. chart and such
6 things, as we're starting to think about what our future
7 looks like. I just want to remember that there's
8 flexibility there, that it does not need to look exactly
9 as it did in 2010. It doesn't need to be outside counsel
10 necessarily. It could be someone that we hire as a staff
11 as well.

12 We also wanted to bring up the -- some of the pieces
13 that we've heard as well. HR4, the Voting Rights
14 Advancement Act of 2019, what -- was passed by the House
15 of Representatives in December 2019. This bill would
16 reauthorize the full Voting Rights Act, as well as expand
17 upon it. And we're working to identify a helpful fact
18 sheet on it. At present, it is not law. It was passed
19 by the House, and I don't believe any action was taken in
20 the Senate. I think what a lot of people are thinking
21 about is whether -- if, after the election, if Senate
22 changes, if the White House changes, would something like
23 this bill move forward?

24 So I don't think we need to do a ton of research on
25 it at this point, but certainly, I wanted to put it on

1 the radar of the Commission, because after the election,
2 of course, we'll have a better sense of what changes may
3 or may not occur. But as of right now, Section 5 is
4 dormant. That could change. And that could very well
5 change the process in which we take on our work. If say
6 the former counties become covered again by some sort of
7 new VRA, we would -- might need to do them first, right,
8 in order to have DOJ clearance. So -- pre-clearance. So
9 I'm just putting that out there to be on everyone's radar
10 and we'll continue to kind of monitor that over the next
11 several weeks and months.

12 Some other pieces, some issues that we might want to
13 face. Again, this is something we'll need to start
14 thinking about. It's been brought up in several
15 conversations is issues around coalition districts and
16 unity mappings on the coalition district, which
17 ultimately are very -- two sides of a very similar stone.
18 The idea of putting various communities who would be
19 protected under the VRA, potentially under Section 2,
20 putting them together in various formulations, unity
21 mapping, and have talked -- several people have talked
22 about this before in some of our trainings, when various
23 communities might come together and request to be kept
24 together.

25 So these are some of the things that we'll need to

1 be -- just kind of have on our radar for the future. In
2 terms of counsel, I think that, as I mentioned, we are
3 trying to compile a list of some of the kinds of
4 questions we should be asking. And certainly to Director
5 Claypool's call yesterday, we recognize the importance of
6 moving quickly on this. We feel like we should be
7 setting a timeline for the Commission of early January to
8 be actively recruiting more or already have VRA counsel
9 at least on retainer so that we would be ready to move
10 forward with public outreach.

11 So hopefully to have identified that person by early
12 January, which is a very similar timeframe as the rollout
13 of the COI tool that we just discussed. That means we'll
14 need to move very quickly. And so we are actively
15 considering what that process should look like.

16 Our hope, in terms of training, is to do additional
17 training for the Commission. We've had several
18 conversations about what that may or may not look like,
19 and we still welcome feedback from the Commissioners. I
20 had asked for feedback last time. We still haven't
21 received any, and that's okay.

22 One of the things that we're thinking about is some
23 sort of training regarding the VRA in action. So we've
24 had training on what is the VRA. But I think what our
25 sense is, is that we really want to think about, well,

1 what did -- what would a VRA litigation look like? What
2 has it looked like? What are some cases that we might
3 want to be aware of?

4 And then more specifically, taking a look at some
5 examples, right. So what are various kinds of -- what
6 will VRA compliance look like when we're actually in
7 communities trying to draw those lines? So we have not
8 yet reached out to Justin Levitt, who's provided other
9 trainings for us, but that is our next step -- our
10 anticipated next step.

11 We've also received input. We -- I received an
12 email this morning from Jonathan Mehta from the -- Common
13 Cause California. He's addressed us previously,
14 providing additional ideas about VRA training and
15 individuals. And he had suggested MALDEF and others as
16 possible organizations who are heavily involved in VRA
17 litigation who could come and provide additional
18 training.

19 Commissioner Yee, have I missed anything on our
20 list?

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: You have covered it very
22 thoroughly. Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 Concretely, you know, in terms of timing to get VRA
24 council in place by early 2021, the question will be,
25 okay, when do we start drafting RFPs -- and RFP for that?

1 And so I think we need a little bit of direction from the
2 Commission on that as well as eventually the related
3 question of recruiting RPV consultants -- consultant or
4 consultant.

5 So, yeah. Just commenting on the point about
6 coalition districts or unity mapping. Just to emphasize,
7 that's kind of the frontier. It's not something we're
8 required to do, but something that people are looking at
9 more carefully. And case law seems to be so far that
10 it's allowable but not required. So the VRA mostly has
11 concerned single-identified, mostly racial-ethnic groups.
12 But what if two groups vote similarly or, you know, how
13 would we consider it?

14 So that's kind of our frontier that we will be
15 exploring, and it's a philosophical and kind of a
16 demographic development for us to consider newly. I
17 think that's about it. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And I would just
19 add, I know that we're finalizing the agenda for
20 November 4th, 5th, 6th, I believe, so I might just
21 propose that we would have some time potentially for a
22 training, if we can coordinate it quickly enough, for the
23 meeting that follows that. And I don't have those dates
24 in front of me.

25 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I'm sorry,

1 Commissioner Sinay -- Sadhwani, you want something on the
2 4th through the 6th?

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think the following
4 meeting so that we don't --

5 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- disturb that -- the
7 wonderful agenda you've already put together and work on
8 it.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: All right. For -- sorry
10 for jumping in without raising my hand, but I'm just
11 about to push the button to send the change to Raul.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: No problem. No, that's why
13 I said the next one. The next one so that we have a
14 little bit more time. And we do not -- we have not
15 reached out to anyone yet to confirm such a training, so
16 it'll give us a little bit of extra time.

17 I don't know, Commissioner Yee, if you if you feel
18 like we would be prepared at that point to start putting
19 together some kind of RFP or other solicitation, given
20 the list that we were -- we received yesterday. But I
21 think by mid-November, we should -- we would probably
22 want to be able to have that out.

23 So my sense is that meeting after November 4th at
24 6:00, which -- and I don't have those dates in front of
25 me, I apologize, but that that would be a really kind of

1 crucial time to kind of move forward some of this VRA
2 work.

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: If we're not ready now, we need
4 to be. So yeah --

5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Exactly.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Maybe just emphasize also that --
7 as background, that the selection of VRA counsel for the
8 2010 Commission was controversial and did have pushback.
9 So the third party to the particular letter that
10 Commissioner Sadhwani mentioned, along with NALEO and the
11 Malaya Asian Pacific American Legal Center, as it was
12 then named, was the African American Redistricting
13 Collaborative. And it was a quite a strong and detailed
14 letter.

15 So there was controversy probably because the
16 Commission did not look -- the 2020 Commission did not
17 look outside of California. So did not have a wider
18 range of candidates. So just that's worth keeping in
19 mind, I think.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So just for clarification,
21 the meeting that you're talking about, Commission
22 Sadhwani, is the is the meeting November 16th. And I
23 believe Commissioner Kennedy is the chair of that
24 particular meeting.

25 Marian, I see that you have your --

1 MS. JOHNSTON: That's what I was going to say also.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. So just for
3 clarification, and then if there's any comments, we --
4 let's go ahead and take those. I just want to clarify.
5 I heard two things from you, and we'll also add this to
6 the milestones discussion that we'll also be having so
7 that we can have all of these different actions and/or
8 things like the creation of the selection or the RFP for
9 the VRA council. I think that's what I'm hearing is that
10 we will need to act on RFP and then, hopefully, having
11 hired the VRA council by January.

12 But that means that, in terms of our process, your
13 drafting of the RFP will begin in mid-November. So
14 that's what I heard. I also heard mention are the -- of
15 the racially polarized voting, the RPV, was the acronym
16 used earlier. Is your intent to also have an RFP out for
17 that role as well too, by mid-November?

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think the drafting will
19 begin immediately for the RFP for the chief counsel, just
20 recognizing the length of the --

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Time it takes, yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- the time it takes. And
23 certainly, we could bring that back for everyone to
24 review, as, hopefully, sooner rather than later, just
25 during our subcommittee reports. My sense is for

1 November 16th is that ideally, we will reserve some space
2 for training at that time.

3

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So training, but you -- are
5 you planning to do the RFP at that time too, and then are
6 you also including the racially-polarized voting
7 consultant as well, in that same vein?

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. We need to discuss
9 the racially-polarized voting. We haven't had a chance
10 to do that in-depth. I believe Matt Barreto, who did
11 provide a training for us previously from UCLA, had been
12 the individual who had done that last time. I think it's
13 worth having a follow-up conversation with him, as we
14 have been doing with others, just to kind of learn from
15 that process.

16 Having done this -- that analysis myself, I also
17 recognize it's actually a fairly small universe, kind of
18 like lie drawers, of individuals who conduct that
19 analysis. So I don't think we'll have a humongous array
20 of people to choose from for RPV consultants.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And one more clarification
22 question. Is your intent to write the RFP yourself, or
23 do you plan to delegate that to the staff to draft and
24 then come back to the Committee -- Subcommittee to
25 provide input on?

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. We haven't had that
2 conversation with staff yet, so my hope is to take
3 everything that we've kind of learned thus far and bring
4 that to staff so that staff can be delegated with that
5 with our close input.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you.

7 Other comments about their report -- their very
8 thorough report?

9 That was excellent. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: I should mention so you're not
11 wondering. The controversies in 2010 had to do with two
12 different things. One is the level of experience of VRA
13 counsel, was just actually statutory language that such
14 counsel must have extensive experience and expertise in
15 the implementation and enforcement of the VRA and whether
16 that standard was met or not by the candidates.

17 The other controversy had to do with politics. You
18 know, some firms are perceived as leaning left or leaning
19 right, and apparently, the 2010 Commission had quite
20 strong feelings among Commissioners about selection on
21 those grounds.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Sinay?

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Does it make sense for all of
25 us to read that letter, or you're building off of that

1 letter, and, therefore, it -- we don't. I mean you're
2 building a guide for us for the next one.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Either way. I mean, it -- I
4 believe it's publicly available now, so we can certainly
5 reshare that or repost it as a handout. And I'm
6 certainly open to whatever is easiest for the
7 Commissioners and is most transparent for the public,
8 whatever Commissioners' preference would be for that.
9 It's only like a two-page letter.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Marian?

11 MS. JOHNSTON: It did take a bit of digging to find
12 it on the 2010 website. So I would suggest if you want
13 it distributed, you can take the letter I sent you and
14 send it to everyone or ask that to be posted.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perfect. I'll do that.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: You should post it, yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'll post it.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Marian, can we post it on the
20 website? I think that that would be appropriate --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Sure.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- because even though it's
23 already on there, we should just repost it so it's easier
24 to find.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Absolutely.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you very much.

2 I don't see any other questions. Let's -- thank
3 you, Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee.

4 Let's move on to Subagenda Item I, Outreach and
5 Engagement Subcommittee.

6 Commissioners Vasquez and Sinay?

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Chair. Commissioner
8 Vasquez was going to give our report, but, unfortunately,
9 she's not here this morning. She'll be back. We did --
10 there is a handout that's been sent out to you all, as
11 well as it's posted. We are giving you homework. So
12 I -- let's everybody say, "awe". But anyway. We
13 wanted -- we created regional teams at the last meeting,
14 and the idea now is just to start digging a little bit
15 and knowing what's working and hearing from different
16 regional leads around the census in each of the regions.

17 So we've made it really simple. You can click on
18 the links, and it'll give the community administrative
19 leave, which -- lead, sorry, which is the census staffer,
20 and then -- wait. One is the nonprofit that's kind of
21 took over the grantmaking and all that and managed the
22 organizing effort. And the other one is the actual staff
23 from census. So there are two people kind of to talk to.
24 And then we gave some sample questions of what you might
25 want to ask, just to help think through the information

1 that we can share back with each other.

2 My partner is so good that she already sent out the
3 invitations -- Commissioner Ahmad. And we already have
4 our meetings set up. So thank you. And there are, as
5 I've said before, a lot of information comes through my
6 email, I guess. So as I see reports that might be
7 helpful or whatever, just to getting a feel of your
8 regions, I will forward them to you. I have no -- there
9 is no expectation that you're going to read them cover to
10 cover. But if you're a nerd, like me, you might. So I'm
11 just sharing.

12 And please feel free to contact Commissioner Vasquez
13 and I at any point if we can help. I know in some -- I
14 think both of us are just on one team, so I know that
15 some regions were -- this is really big. We have 17
16 counties. Just tap -- call us, let us know how we can
17 help. Both of us have done organizing and going into
18 communities that we don't know and building
19 relationships, and we can help out in that.

20 The final piece is that next meeting we will do a
21 visioning exercise. And it's not an exercise to set up
22 our plan. We are trying to do -- we're taking little
23 steps throughout so that that we inform the work that
24 we're doing. This is kind of if had the ideal outreach,
25 and we were able to reach as many or more people as last

1 time, what would we need to be able to do that?

2 And the reason we're doing the visioning is to start
3 thinking through where are the budget, where we need to
4 be spending money, how we may -- do we use an RFP, do we
5 use -- just starting to think of some of those pieces.

6 All of it is really, really difficult without the
7 communications director. It's feeling very -- for all of
8 us, because the tool is going to be -- the tool doesn't
9 do anything unless we've got the outreach material and
10 the partners and others to get it out into the larger
11 community. And so there's -- everything is kind of
12 intertwined and trying to think through what talent we
13 will have on staff versus what we'll need to hire.

14 But this is the place for us to hear from you all.
15 I know Commissioner Le Mons keeps saying that we've got
16 this great plan, but really I don't want to disappoint
17 anybody. But we have been working with you all to get
18 input, and maybe at the end, we'll share it.

19 Please don't forget that we did give you a handout a
20 couple of weeks ago, so as you're hearing things, fill
21 out the handout so that you can give us -- give it to
22 staff so they can compile it so that we can also have
23 those pieces of it to remind us or to let us know what
24 you're thinking at different points, and we can get that
25 out to you again.

1 And then the other great -- we're going to have a
2 great panel next week -- next -- it is next week, really,
3 our next meeting. And their actual grassroots leader.
4 So we've talked a lot to -- the first time, we talked to
5 Grasstops leaders, and now we will talk to Grassroots
6 leaders and leaders who aren't necessarily from civic
7 organizations. So we had a healthcare, healthcare youth,
8 faith-based, and parent education groups and how they got
9 involved in civic education.

10 And they come from different parts of California.
11 So it'll give you a feel of what are the organizations at
12 the local level at the very, very north part of
13 California -- all the way from the very north to the
14 border. So we're trying to cover a lot of different --
15 it was a -- it was a fun puzzle to put together. So we're
16 working on that panel.

17 And then the week following that, we will have a
18 conversation with the director of the census from
19 California. So she has -- she -- we're sending out the
20 invitation right now and we've spoken. So we're slowly
21 getting all the pieces. And that conversation's not just
22 about outreach, but it'll also be about data and data
23 quality so it's the bigger picture.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Great. That was a
25 great report. Thank you very much, and thank you for all

1 of your work. Is there any questions from any of the
2 commissioners? If not -- okay. Commissioner Yee?

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Thank you for that great
4 report and all the excellent efforts. I see in the
5 October 12th meeting handouts, of course, the region
6 teams and the links that you provide. The suggested
7 questions, I'm sorry, I lost track of where to find
8 those.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: There is a handout for today's
10 meeting that says community outreach report. And on that
11 one, it has the regional team homework and it has the
12 links and then sample questions.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I do also want to thank and
14 acknowledge that you did send us the reports in in time
15 for us to digest and read through early on, so I do
16 appreciate that. Okay. Let's go ahead. We'll move on
17 to sub agenda item number K, troubleshooting. Le Mons
18 and -- Commissioners Le Mons and Andersen. Is there
19 anything to report? And if there isn't, it's okay to say
20 we could just -- nothing to report.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, we should -- we should
22 give a quick report, and I'm going to speak for
23 Commissioner Le Mons. I believe he's also listening and
24 can participate as well. Very short. Basically, we
25 essentially have three topics, three categories of things

1 we're doing right now.

2 One is the website troubleshooting, which we were
3 just assigned. We're going to be working with Raul just
4 to get in contact to work that out. The COVID policy,
5 which we're actually going to present for action next
6 week. And again, we're also working with staff on that.
7 Raul has been facilitating. He just sent us more
8 information and we're kind of updating. We will be
9 sending that ahead so people can comment on that. We'll
10 get input so we will be able to address that and then
11 take action next week.

12 And the other item, which has actually gone on the
13 agenda for the November meeting is our back to the
14 computer procurement and the details of that, which
15 again, we're also working with staff trying to -- we've
16 already gone through all the details of the problems
17 involved in getting things, and now we're trying to pin
18 down sort of what so we can present that in the first
19 November meeting. And that's the quick summary.

20 Anything you want to add, Mr. -- Commissioner Le Mons?

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No. Thank you very much,
22 Commissioner Andersen. I think that (indiscernible) to
23 it.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So then --

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- any questions?

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Looks like -- thank
3 you very much for that report, and looks like no
4 questions. Excellent. Let's go ahead and let's move on
5 to our last subagenda item, L, lessons learned,
6 Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Do you want to go, or should I
9 go?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The only thing that I would
11 say is we are different in nature from the other
12 subcommittees. We are mostly a repository for things
13 that fellow commissioners want to share with us because
14 the lessons learned phase really is 2022. But we need to
15 be keeping these things -- keeping track of these things.
16 So as you come up with thoughts as to how can we make
17 life easier for the 2030 Commission, please channel those
18 through staff to us.

19 I guess one thing -- and I haven't had a chance to
20 discuss this with Commissioner Ahmad yet, one of the
21 lessons learned exercises that I've led in relation to an
22 election, I basically took a SWOT diagram, strengths to
23 weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and modified it
24 slightly.

25 So I had participants toss it -- or bring up their

1 ideas as far as strengths, weaknesses, innovations, and
2 recommendations. So those are -- those are kind of four
3 categories that I think are very useful in a lessons
4 learned exercise, but you know, our real work now is
5 serving as your repository and then we will be leading
6 the effort in actually carrying out a lessons learned
7 activity once we get past the map-drawing and the
8 litigation.

9 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: And just to add to that, we are
10 keeping a running list. We have a shared Google doc. So
11 things that come up, we have them documented, and so once
12 we see the other side, after the maps, we can sit down as
13 a group and figure out how to prioritize that list that
14 is growing each meeting.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Great. That's good to know
16 that that is all being collected and it's all going to be
17 centralized in one place. Excellent.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We have a -- sorry, Chair.
19 We have a place for it. We need all of you to keep this
20 in mind and to continually feed us raw materials. We're
21 not -- we're not, you know, intending to do this all on
22 our own. We count on all of you to be active
23 participants in this process. So think of us and scoot
24 things our way when you -- when you find something that
25 might make the 2030 commission's life easier.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

2 I see Commissioner Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just so do you want us to
4 forward -- like, if we have something, to forward it to
5 the subcommittee or to discuss it, like, at meetings?
6 And the only -- I mean, I have a lot of things, but I
7 think I've already talked to, Commissioner Kennedy, about
8 it. But I just want to make sure that we, at some point,
9 the lessons learned, a huge one that we're all going
10 through right now is what fully functional means in terms
11 of when the State Auditor hands everything off to us.

12 So I think that's something very important that we
13 define, and then potentially -- there could be some
14 potential legislation or something that defines it. So
15 that's -- I just want make sure that -- I know it's
16 captured, but I'm just going to reiterate that piece of
17 it.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So my feedback on that would
19 be things that require current attention are probably
20 more the purview of the troubleshooting subcommittee and
21 things that are for making the life of the 2030
22 commission easier are our purview.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I forgot one thing on my
25 report, a question to all of us. So if we can -- after

1 this report is done, if I can go back.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sounds good. Okay. Commissioner
3 Kennedy, Commissioner Ahmad, are you -- is your report
4 completed?

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The other document that
6 Commissioner Ahmad is doing a very good job of
7 maintaining is acronyms. So she's capturing things as
8 they come up, and eventually, we'll make that document
9 publicly accessible and easily accessible on the website
10 so that people can more easily follow our discussions.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think people would -- I'm sure
12 that both the public and all of us would appreciate that.
13 Thank you. Commissioner Andersen.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: On that, with the mention of
15 the troubleshooting, if that one needs to go on our
16 website at some point and we need to do it before we get
17 the communications person involved, I'm going to nominate
18 us to be happy to help out with connecting that to the
19 website so the public can find out what those are and so
20 we can actually find out what some of them are.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you. All right.
22 Commissioner Sinay, I'll come back to you to add to your
23 report.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: It was really a question. We
25 received public comments from individuals asking

1 questions about their region, you know, specific
2 questions. I didn't know how those were being addressed.
3 And one of the recommendations I had is, since we have
4 region teams, that staff could -- either staff could
5 answer them or they could be forwarded to the region
6 teams and they -- and they send a quick letter and say --
7 you know, a quick email just saying, we received it, we
8 hear you, the time -- we will -- we will -- we've
9 included you to receive information when we come -- you
10 know, just a general response on some of them, whatever
11 it might be. But I don't want to leave them just hanging
12 that they've asked us a question and we haven't
13 responded.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And that's a great
15 question. Commissioner Kennedy?

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Are you referring to the
17 public comments that came in in writing through Raul
18 recently? Some of these are not in our purview at all
19 and -- but I agree, people need to hear back from us.
20 And so even if we have a form letter or postcard or form
21 email or something, I do -- I do agree that we need to
22 get back to the people when they -- when they put these
23 questions to us. Thank you.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Can I direct this to either
25 Director Claypool or Marian, how have you dealt or

1 handled these kind of comments where there is a question
2 similar to what we received in this week's meeting
3 materials?

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Right. And I have to apologize.
5 Could you repeat the question?

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So we received public comment and
7 there were -- there was one particular one that I'm
8 thinking of that did have a question that was directed to
9 the commission about, I believe, her specific lines and
10 how it was drawn or how it was -- how it's going to be
11 created.

12 I think what's being asked is when we get public
13 comment that is not just a comment but is actually a
14 question that is being asked of the Commission, how have
15 you dealt with those questions? How have you responded?
16 Did you respond? Were they just ignored? I think we
17 want to be able to be responsive to those questions. And
18 so we're just trying to think about is it best -- or was
19 that taken care of by the staff? Is this something that
20 we need to have the region teams respond to via staff?

21 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So I haven't actually seen that
22 comment. I haven't gotten into what's coming in on our
23 email address, so that would be -- undoubtedly, Raul
24 would have picked up that comment. Any comment like that
25 should be addressed similarly to the way the State

1 Auditor addressed comments that came in about the
2 selection process.

3 And the way that worked was if it's a fairly generic
4 question, you know, when is your next -- you know, where
5 can I find your agenda or something like that, staff
6 should be handling that. But if it's something that's
7 addressing the maps, you know, in a specific way, then
8 that should get elevated. Once we have -- once we have
9 our deputy executive director in outreach would probably
10 fall under that slot, particularly to the media director
11 somewhere to be answering those types of questions.

12 I will look into whatever we've received as soon as
13 this meeting is over and then I can get back to you and
14 Commissioner Forniciari regarding, you know, what kind of
15 traffic we've had so far, and then we can start
16 addressing it. I just haven't had time to address it at
17 this point.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. Commissioner
19 Kennedy.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I go back to making what I
21 think is an important distinction in this, which is
22 comments that are relevant to our work and comments that
23 are not in our purview. The two that came in, one is
24 asking about community college districts. Well, we just
25 need to say, we're sorry, we don't have anything to do

1 with community college districts.

2 And the other one was asking if we had access to
3 certain files, and you know, those files may have been
4 used by the 2010 Commission, so you know, we need to see
5 if we can answer that one. But you know, a question
6 about community college districts we need to reply to but
7 we don't need to store for future use. A question about,
8 you know, congressional districts or State Assembly
9 districts or something, you know, we need to both
10 acknowledge and store.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I also see -- Commissioner
12 Sinay, I think you had your hand up again. No? Okay.
13 Okay. Director Claypool, if you can look into that, as
14 you had said, but we'll take into account what
15 Commissioner Kennedy also mentioned as well, too.

16 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Certainly, I will. By the way,
17 I just received these two emails from Commissioner
18 Fernandez. I believe the answer to Ms. Pellaton (ph.) is
19 that those block files and equivalencies would be -- that
20 sounds like something to be stored with the Statewide
21 Database, but I'll check into that and then we can run it
22 from there.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Let's
24 see. We are at 12:04. We will be going to lunch at
25 around 12:45. I -- we can -- I'm going to ask this of

1 the Commission. We can either start the conversation
2 around the milestones right now. We'll have about half
3 an hour, and then if it goes beyond the half hour, we can
4 continue it after lunch. Or if the preference is to try
5 to get through some of the other items. For example,
6 item -- agenda item number 10 and 11 in the time that we
7 have remaining, we could also do that.

8 I also -- I apologize. I had also meant to cover
9 yesterday. We did also have a discussion around, let's
10 see, it was materials, the deadline as to when materials
11 should be submitted. I need to come back to that
12 discussion. During the executive director's report, we
13 were having conversations about the ability for not only
14 the commissioners but also the public to be able to
15 digest and to review all of the materials that will be
16 discussed and used during the meetings and to give
17 adequate time for everybody to be able to at least read
18 through it, to be able to think through all of the
19 information that is on the documents.

20 And so we did talk about giving some advance notice.
21 I think the question that was raised and that we need to
22 discuss amongst all of us is what is considered adequate
23 time given that we have different dates for the meetings.
24 And so when the meetings are going to be towards the end
25 of the week, is the Friday before a reasonable time?

1 That means it could be almost up to five days. Or do we
2 just want to use a specific time frame?

3 So Marian or Director Claypool, in terms of our
4 agenda, where -- is it reopening the executive director
5 conversation discussion item?

6 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: That's fine. Yes, it can -- it
7 can be done.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So I am going to ask this
9 of the Commission. What is your preference? Would you
10 like to go into the milestones conversation now and then
11 finish up all of these other items later in the
12 afternoon? Commissioner Sinay, I know I saw your hand
13 earlier, too. No? Okay. Commissioner Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think if we can get
15 through, like, 10 or 11, that way, I don't want to say
16 we're done with it, but then when we get into the
17 milestones, we can just continue that conversation.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sounds good. All right. All
19 right. Let's go to agenda item number 10. We'll try to
20 get through agenda item number 11, and then perhaps we
21 could revisit that question about the -- when the
22 materials should be submitted. Okay. Raul or Director
23 Claypool?

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: We're going to bring in Raul.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. And I do apologize. I

1 think maybe this is a good time. I do need to step away
2 for a presentation. Commissioner Forniciari is going to
3 take over for me for the time being, so I think this may
4 be the best time for us to make this transition. So
5 Commissioner Forniciari, I am giving you the gavel, the
6 virtual gavel.

7 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. And when are you due
8 back?

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I will be back at 2 p.m.

10 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Oh, okay.

11 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay. Chair, with regards to
12 the budget update, the interim individual that we have
13 hired for that position says that there -- it's too early
14 to have any material that we can put together to actually
15 give you an update on the budget, that the -- that it
16 hasn't cleared through the Department of General Services
17 and so forth. So there is no budget update at this
18 point.

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Is there a -- okay.
20 Wait. I got the wrong agenda. Is there an update on
21 contracts in procurement?

22 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Only in that we -- the
23 discussion we had yesterday that -- Raul, contracts?

24 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: We can't hear you.

25 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Right. Go ahead.

1 RAUL: There really isn't an update. I know with
2 the videographer, we're looking at alternative ways of
3 contracting that, and that's for the webcasting. Part of
4 the issue there is not so much the funding, but the
5 maximum amount that can go on the contract, and so we're
6 currently working with DGS to see what our options are
7 with that.

8 And then I'm working with Dan now in looking at what
9 kind of a contracting structure can be developed as we
10 start approaching the public input, outreach, and
11 education. That as you work and develop those parts of
12 it, what kind of contracting structure can we use or
13 develop to encompass that and support it?

14 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Commissioner Sinay?

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. I guess I'm used to
16 when we discuss budget not just what's been spent and
17 what -- now that we have an executive director, I thought
18 we had said that we would actually -- a budget would be
19 presented to us that was a line item budget so we had a
20 better understanding of how we're seeing that funds are
21 going to be spent. And that's really something criti --
22 it's a piece that I feel we don't have, and it's critical
23 for us to manage everything that's up ahead.

24 And so I would ask that Director Claypool create --
25 I don't know -- I mean, in every organization I've been

1 in, that's kind of one of the first steps is you've got
2 this chunk of change and then you're going to say how you
3 see it spent, and that way, we can -- we know where we're
4 heading. So I would like -- I would like -- I don't know
5 if I have to make a motion or we just instruct the
6 director to please create a line item budget so that we
7 have a better feel of what's happening.

8 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Thank you. Commissioner
9 Turner?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you. That is
11 exactly, I think, the point. We had quite a bit of
12 discussion about budget and our desire to not fly in the
13 blind, to be able to know kind of where we were, what's
14 been spent out. There's been a lot of comments made
15 about the amount of money that's been spent, what we
16 have, we're going to need additional money.

17 And I really was expecting something even high-level
18 at this point as far as where we stand currently, even if
19 it's not the official ran through all of the channels or
20 what have you. I think we need to have something written
21 at this point, and the response, for me, was a little
22 disappointing based on what we -- our discussion and the
23 expectation.

24 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Turner. Commissioner Fernandez?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. And as you'll
2 remember, part of that discussion, also a recommendation
3 was to also -- initially, it would be good to see, like,
4 a side-by-side of 2010 versus 2020, but we do need the
5 expenditure detail information, and that's what I was
6 used to when I was on the board is at least monthly that
7 would be presented so that we see where we are and where
8 we're going. It shows expenditures, encumbrances, and
9 then that's also a flag in terms of if we're running out,
10 we need to not wait until we run out. We need to
11 project -- you know, do some sort of projections as well
12 so that we know when we need to move forward.

13 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Thank you. Commissioner
14 Sadhwani?

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I just concur
16 with the other commissioners who have already spoken.
17 We've had this conversation before, and just as a
18 reminder, this is millions of dollars of the people of
19 California's money. So we have an obligation to oversee
20 that, and I think -- I don't see why that wouldn't even
21 be a public document so that the people of California can
22 understand how this money is being spent.

23 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Director Claypool.

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So I understand the
25 disappointment in not presenting the line items and that,

1 for this Commission, I am fully aware of which line items
2 you have funding in, and the setbacks by the legislature.
3 I simply have not had a chance in the seven or eight days
4 that I've worked for you to actually start working
5 through that. I know it's a priority for you and I'll
6 start working on it. Typically, we would have somebody
7 who is working the budgets, and that would be the interim
8 individual that we have working there available to give
9 us or at least tell me how much the expenditure has been,
10 and I'll start working with that person to put together
11 the list that you want.

12 On the comparison between 2010 and 2020, I'm not
13 entirely certain what you're going to get there. And the
14 reason I say that is because they're two different
15 entities as we keep going and they're two different
16 budgets. So to try to compare an expenditure from a
17 commission that was cash-poor to a commission that has a
18 greatly expanded budget, I just -- I just don't know
19 what's going to be there.

20 So I hear your -- I hear your concerns and I'm going
21 to work on getting that document for you. If you want it
22 public, that -- it should be public. That's fine, too.
23 But this is, again, in this vein of needing staff to
24 assist in putting these types of things together because,
25 as we discussed yesterday and we're going to discuss

1 today, I worked a great deal on just trying to put
2 together the contracting methods that are available to
3 you. I'm working on a lot of things, and so -- but I
4 understand this is another thing that has to be added.
5 Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I have Commissioner Sinay,
7 Turner, then Fernandez.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't know if I -- we're
9 being -- I'm used to a budget. It's a one-page revenue
10 and -- you know, the good news is we know the revenue.
11 But what are the expenses? And they don't need to be by
12 line item by each staff, but what's the personnel, what
13 is the benefit, what is copying, what is -- you know,
14 what is travel for commissioners? You know, all the
15 different line items.

16 Not the budget that was given to us before that the
17 legislature created and it's the lump sum. This is --
18 what I -- what -- the reason a budget is important to
19 come from the executive director to us -- I mean, we can
20 create it, but it would be better for you to come to us
21 with what you think and then we have a conversation
22 around it.

23 When it comes to the outreach budget, there may
24 be -- you know, I don't know if that's where we're paying
25 for some of the folks, but we're also going to have a

1 conversation and that's what we're doing the visioning
2 exercise for next week is so we can create the line items
3 of where we want that money. But to come and tell me
4 that we've spent this much already on the big chunk isn't
5 helping because even when we've been told the cost of
6 things, it's like it costs \$18,000 to do a meeting and
7 staff time was included in that. To me, staff time is
8 another line item that's not a meeting line item.

9 So I'm not feeling that we're given the right tools
10 to be able to, you know, play the role that Commissioner
11 Sadhwani spoke of. So we're asking for just a
12 traditional budget. I don't know if governments do it
13 differently, but private sector nonprofits, I know both
14 of them kind of have line items, and first, it's a
15 budget. We don't need to know how much has been spent.
16 It's this is what -- how you envision the budget for this
17 fiscal year being spent, and we say yes or no.

18 And then if things have to change, you have to come
19 to us and we say, okay, yes, you can make -- change that
20 allocation. But we need a budget that we approve so that
21 staff knows where to go with the funding, and that
22 needs -- that's a top priority for me.

23 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Commissioner Turner?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Pass.

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Commissioner Fernandez?

1 Pass?

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, I'm just frustrated
3 because I continue to ask for this. So I'm just going to
4 stop. And in terms of what I was looking for for the
5 2010 back -- in our meeting at the end of September, we
6 got this, you know, 12-page document that had a bunch of
7 expenditures. So maybe if I -- if they just consolidate
8 it into one page. I don't need it to be compared to the
9 2020. I know it's a different time, but for me, I would
10 still be curious as to how the money was spent in 2010.

11 So that's the only reason. You don't have to do a
12 comparison. That's fine. But yeah, we just -- we really
13 need a budget that's approved by all of us. And that
14 doesn't mean what has already been appropriated or
15 approved. It has to have everything, expenditures,
16 encumbrances. So that's it.

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Did you want to go
18 Commissioner Turner?

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I was just going to say
20 to Director Claypool as far as if it will or won't
21 benefit. I think in the absence of information, you
22 start asking for more information. We need something.
23 We need to see. I'm flying here blind not knowing if
24 it's just a way of saying, okay, even if it's different
25 scenarios, different setup, different time period, we

1 need to have some numbers. And so it may or may not be
2 helpful, but that was some of the kind of background
3 behind trying to determine what can we get, what numbers
4 can we get in front of us.

5 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Director Claypool?

6 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So in the document that I
7 presented to you, I showed the expenditures from the last
8 commission that came out to the 11 point -- or however
9 much it was -- million dollars that were spent. We can
10 go into greater detail than that, if you'd like, but it
11 was -- it was pretty much done by the categories of
12 expenditures that we had by the phases that we went
13 through.

14 Insofar as giving a -- giving you a budget for how I
15 think things should be spent, I was told yesterday that
16 we -- that the ideas that I had presented weren't ideas
17 that were going to be considered until we have a deputy
18 executive director and until we have a media director.
19 So I can tell you that I think that we might have an
20 expenditure for a data analytics person, but if we can't
21 decide that we're going to have one, then all I can do is
22 say it might be this amount.

23 I think I can say that we can have an expense for
24 outreach, but until we have an outreach plan, I really
25 don't have anything that I can work with to tell you I

1 think outreach is going to cost the \$1.4 million or the
2 \$2 million that the legislature has appropriated for it.
3 I think it will be much greater than that. But without
4 having more specifics from the Commission, it's very
5 difficult for me to give you a traditional line item
6 saying I think that it'll be \$4.3 million. I don't know
7 because right now we're holding those discussions until
8 we have those people.

9 So I don't want to act like I'm deferring my
10 responsibility to give you information, but I need
11 information from you before I can give you information
12 about what I think it will cost. I've already said that
13 I believe that we're going to go significantly over our
14 budget because of the things that weren't included and
15 because of the robust outreach that I think this
16 Commission wants to have. But I need to know what that
17 robust outreach looks like in order to structure a budget
18 around those expenses. So please don't think that I'm
19 dodging you. I just need to have more information about
20 where I think you're going before I can start attaching
21 costs to those projects.

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Any other feedback or
23 comments? So I have a question for Raul, on the
24 videographer contract, we talked about having the finance
25 administrative committee and the outreach committees take

1 a look at the statement of work for that. Are we at a
2 place where we can -- we can take a look at that?

3 RAUL: I can send you a draft.

4 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. I think that would be
5 helpful. Okay. Thank you. Any other comments on that
6 topic, those two topics?

7 Okay. Commissioner Akutagawa had mentioned that --
8 or that we needed to go back to, I guess, item 5 and talk
9 about how much time ahead for documents to the meetings.
10 So we had you talked about -- one idea mentioned was the
11 Friday before. We have kind of strange meeting starting
12 times, so I don't know if we want to think about three
13 days ahead of time or something like that. So thoughts
14 on that so we come to an agreement on how we want to
15 manage that? Commissioner Sinay, Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I --

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Then Commissioner Turner.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think, for me, a lot of it
19 was just staff providing good background information
20 ahead of time. I see --

21 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- that a lot of the
23 commissioners are making their best attempt to create
24 reports, but we don't see much on backup documentation
25 for most of the things that we're asked to discuss.

1 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Who was next?

2 Commissioner Sadhwani, then Turner, then Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I would hate to set such a
4 hard and fast rule that if something new comes up that we
5 can't add to it. That being said, I mean, I think it
6 would be helpful to set something in place to say, hey,
7 here's our guideline and try our best to get to that.
8 Because at the -- and I've said this before. Knowledge
9 is power, information is power. You know, we need more
10 than 15 minutes to review a document before we can take
11 action on it. But sometimes that's not always possible,
12 and I recognize that.

13 For me, I would say two business days so that we
14 have, you know, if it's over the weekend, it's that
15 Friday, and depending on when we're starting. But I
16 would want that flexibility, you know, certainly on
17 things like with the census. Things change rapidly
18 sometimes, and I think as we move forward, we're work --
19 we are working at a very fast pace. But I certainly
20 agree to the spirit of this, that having as much time as
21 possible is the goal.

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. And Commissioner
23 Turner.

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I can certainly
25 agree with two business days, and I'd also like to think

1 concerning if it's something that would fall in a shorter
2 time period that there is a text notification or
3 something to alert something that was urgent, emergency
4 went out so that we will -- it'll call it to our
5 attention even though it's shorter than the time frame.

6 And I would like to suggest that if it is something
7 that is, like, within ten, 15 minutes of the meeting, if
8 for whatever reason that needs to keep happening, there
9 needs to be time allotted in the meeting for us to
10 actually read, absorb before discussion is held. Because
11 what we typically will do is, depending on how quick we
12 are or are not at reading, we're trying to read it while
13 the person is talking, while questions then starts
14 flowing.

15 And so those are my things. Number one, two
16 business days. If it's going to be shorter than that,
17 since some sort of text notification that you've got
18 more -- a last minute email that showed up that was an
19 urgent situation. And if it's going to be the day of
20 that hearing, then let's allot for time to be able to
21 actually read it and absorb it before we start
22 discussion.

23 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. And then Commissioner
24 Fernandez and then Commissioner Toledo.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm good with the

1 two business days. And in terms of if there are any --
2 something that comes up, I want that to be the exception,
3 not the norm, in terms of the lesson. And then I also
4 want to make sure that if we're sending it to all of us,
5 that it's also posted at that time instead of waiting
6 until the day of and we realize it's not posted. So
7 that's all I wanted to mention.

8 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Commissioner Toledo?

9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'm in concurment (sic) with
10 everybody so far. I do think we should probably get some
11 feedback from staff in terms of just the time it takes to
12 post onto the website, right? So there's the process of
13 them receiving it, going through the -- so maybe just
14 going through the workflow and making sure that the
15 workflow gets us to the two days.

16 Or if two days is -- I would hope that two days
17 would be enough, but if it's not, given that the website
18 has some issues and we are down on staff, right, that we
19 have a realistic time frame for posting for public
20 notification as well as getting it to us. But I in
21 concurment (sic) with everything that Commissioner
22 Sadhwani and Turner and Fernandez and others have said.

23 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Director Claypool?

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: The two days shouldn't be an
25 issue. Right now, the person that is on contract, and

1 it's probably an interim contract, needs a little more
2 lead time. Once we get somebody that's in-house and that
3 we have that we can lean on, it should be a -- it should
4 go a lot further than -- or a lot faster than that. As
5 far as posting it at the same time, it's an excellent
6 idea and it should be our goal, and that's what we intend
7 to try to do.

8 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Any other comments on
9 this topic at this point? So then I guess we'll adopt --
10 adopt the idea that we'd like to have documents to us two
11 days in advance of the -- two business days in advance of
12 the meeting and have them posted at that time. And if
13 something urgent comes out, we'd like a notification.

14 I mean, ideally, I like Commissioner Turner's idea
15 of a group text. Yeah, one of the things we didn't -- I
16 need to figure out what's happening with our phones
17 because we should have -- Marian -- Marian, can you grab
18 Raul so he can give us an update on our phones? And then
19 I have Commissioner Toledo and Turner.

20 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: The question, I think if we're
21 going to put this two-day rule, it should also apply to
22 the committees that we would have -- you know, that we
23 would be providing the documentation for posting two days
24 ahead of time. And I just wanted to be very clear about
25 that just -- whether it does apply to us or if it's only

1 applying to staff.

2 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. I (indiscernible) --

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I would hope that --

4 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- (indiscernible) --

5 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- it'd apply to --

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- (indiscernible) --

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- would apply on both ends,
8 right?

9 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: It is --

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Both to the commission --

11 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I --

12 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- and to --

13 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I felt it was kind of
14 implied --

15 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- the staff.

16 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- but I'm glad you brought
17 that out explicitly. Commissioner Turner.

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I was going to say,
19 since you brought up the equipment, I think with the
20 newer equipment, perhaps it will be a mute (sic) point.
21 On most of my other equipment in -- that I have, if I get
22 emails, I'm automatically notified, and so I can quickly
23 see that. But since we're trying to keep things off of
24 our personal, it doesn't work that way on my phone, my
25 Commission phone, at least. So with the new equipment,

1 we may not even have to worry so much about a group text.
2 We'll see things when it comes in as well.

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: All right. Very good.
4 Raul, how about an update on the phone situation?

5 RAUL: Okay. So if you're frustrated, I reflect it.
6 Right now, the cell phones are caught up with porting the
7 telephone numbers. I've reached out to them and reached
8 out to them again yesterday trying to get assurance that
9 this can get resolved quickly. So as soon as I hear back
10 from them. As far as the office, I'm trying to get that
11 scheduled. So I've reached out to them three, four times
12 to get them to come in here and get our Centrex up, and
13 why it's taking so long, I don't know. It shouldn't.

14 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So as far as porting the
15 numbers go --

16 RAUL: For the cell phone.

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- I'm not married to the
18 number that I have. I don't think I've ever used it.
19 And I don't know. I mean, if porting the numbers is
20 holding it up, for me, personally, I don't know how
21 others feel, a new number is fine. How -- do I have --
22 I'm seeing a lot of nods. I see pretty much everyone
23 nodding, thumbs up. So if --

24 RAUL: That's what I'm seeing, too.

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- porting -- if porting

1 numbers --

2 RAUL: So I will --

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- is holding this --

4 RAUL: I will stop that.

5 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- this thing up, no port.

6 RAUL: Okay. No ports.

7 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. All right. Good
8 deal. I think I saw Commissioner Toledo. Did you have
9 your hand up?

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, that was my -- I was going
11 to suggest that as well.

12 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. All right. Yeah. So
13 yeah. If that -- okay. And then just --

14 RAUL: Very good.

15 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- let us know what's
16 happening next week. The sooner the better because,
17 yeah, I'd really love to be able to check my email on a
18 phone. That would make my life a lot easier. I think
19 all of our lives. Commissioner Sinay.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And at some point, it might --
21 we may have to wait till we have the IT person. I know I
22 sent something out a long time ago. I was trying to set
23 up Outlook so that Gmail could go into Outlook and I
24 could organize it better because the Gmail interface
25 isn't very good for storing and stuff. So at some point

1 we need to figure out who to work with so we can get all
2 that stuff done, even if it means we -- you know, we do a
3 Zoom class to figure it out. But Gmail is not the best
4 way to -- for a lot of stuff.

5 RAUL: No.

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. And the mail, I use
7 the mail client -- the Microsoft mail client. That's --
8 it's --

9 RAUL: It's just bad.

10 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- worse than Gmail, but you
11 know.

12 RAUL: I interviewed someone today for a prospective
13 IT and they're not going to work out, but just know that
14 I'm spending a lot of time trying to find these people
15 because I'm with you. If we could do Outlook -- I have
16 nothing happy to say about using Google Office. We
17 inherited it and it's helped us get this far. That's the
18 positive. And -- but it is frustrating to use.

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. I -- is there
20 anything else, Raul?

21 RAUL: No.

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Thank you for --
23 thank you for the update.

24 RAUL: You're welcome.

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. So I think we're in

1 agreement. Back to the agreement, two business days
2 ahead of time for staff and for commissioners to get
3 their information and their updates out and posted. And
4 then we'll allot time -- if it's -- if it's late, we'll
5 try to get a notification out. Yeah, I'm not sure about
6 the logistics of that part of it, but at least we'll
7 definitely, Commissioner Turner, try to allot time to
8 read it over before. And do I -- is everyone -- can I
9 have a nod? Okay. Thank you.

10 So that covers everything. So I think we'll -- at
11 this point, we'll go to lunch, and then, when we come
12 back, we'll take up item number 6 and talk about the key
13 milestones and action steps. Is that good? Okay? So
14 it's 1 --

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: One quick question.

16 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yes, Commissioner Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: On that -- for that item,
18 are we supposed to have the Gantt chart up or what are we
19 supposed to be working with?

20 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I'm -- okay. I'm not sure
21 how Commissioner Akutagawa kind of envisioned this part
22 of the agenda. I don't know. We'll -- let me -- and she
23 won't -- will she be back?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 2.

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: 2:15. I think, let me think

1 about it over lunch and --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commissioner Kennedy?

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- everybody has some ideas.
4 So somebody's pointing somewhere. Oh, Kennedy. There we
5 go. He's over here.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Yeah. You know,
8 from my perspective, it would probably be helpful to have
9 the Gantt chart in front of you. What I had said, I
10 believe, last week was that Commissioner Taylor and I
11 will be paying very close attention to capture the new
12 input to incorporate it into the Gantt chart before we
13 turn it over to the executive director. But yes, it
14 might be helpful for you to have it in front of you as we
15 go through the discussion.

16 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Any other thoughts or
17 comments on that? All right. So it's -- I'm round --
18 I'm going to round. It's 12:40, so we'll be back at
19 1:40.

20 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

21 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Well, welcome back from
22 lunch. I guess, typically, we've been taking public
23 comment after lunch, so if we can go and do public
24 comment. If you could read the instructions for us,
25 please.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In order to maximize
2 transparency and public participation in our process, the
3 commissioners will take -- excuse me -- will be taking
4 public comment during their meeting by phone. There will
5 be opportunities to address the commissioners regarding
6 the items on the agenda. There will also be
7 opportunities for the public to submit general comments
8 about items not on the agenda.

9 Please note that the Commission is not able to
10 comment or discuss items not on the agenda. The
11 Commission will advise the viewing audience when it is
12 time to submit public comment. The Commissioners will
13 then follow -- will then allow time for those who wish to
14 comment to dial in.

15 To call in on your phone, dial the telephone number
16 provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter
17 the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed
18 using your dial pad. When prompted enter -- to enter a
19 participant ID, simply press pound. Once you're dialed
20 in, you will be placed in a queue from which a moderator
21 will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You
22 will also hear an automatic message to press star nine to
23 raise your hand indicating that you wish to comment.

24 When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will
25 unmute you and you will hear an automatic message the

1 host would like you to talk and to press star six to
2 speak. You will have two minutes to provide your
3 comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or a
4 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
5 during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be
6 alert for when it is your turn to speak and please turn
7 down the livestream volume.

8 The Commissioners will take comment for every action
9 item on the agenda. As you -- as you listen to the on
10 the -- online video stream, the Chair will call for
11 public comments. That is the time to call in. The
12 process for making a comment will be the same each time,
13 beginning by the telephone number provided on the
14 livestream feed and following the steps stated above.

15 And Chair, there is no one in the queue at this
16 time.

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. I'm just -- I'm
18 watching the livestream now and it's -- the instructions
19 aren't quite completed.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So when they're done, we'll
22 wait a couple of minutes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

24 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. They just -- they
25 just finished.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Commissioner Sadhwani?

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was thinking, rather than,
4 you know, having someone have to restate these
5 instructions every single time, not that -- you do a
6 wonderful job -- but that it might be fun to just make,
7 like, a video that we could play that has the number and
8 we can just repeat it every time.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We actually just got the go-
10 ahead today to do a recording.

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are on point.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Good.

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: We should have cute kids do it,
15 really cute kids.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm hoping that the recording
17 can include at least Spanish, if not all other languages
18 as well.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We will work on that.

20 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. It's been a couple of
21 minutes. We still have no one in the queue at this
22 point, so I guess we will go ahead to agenda item 6, key
23 milestones and action steps, October through March. So I
24 guess what we'll do in -- for this is just go back
25 through the -- each of the subcommittees and then have

1 them share.

2 I mean, this would have been a really good
3 opportunity to have everybody kind of submit what they
4 had in mind in writing so we could all see it, but you
5 know, we weren't that far ahead in our thinking,
6 unfortunately. And so we'll capture it as we go forward.
7 So I'll just go through the list of all the subcommittees
8 and see if they have any action items that they are --
9 milestones or action steps that they feel they want to
10 include. So I'll start with the action on census
11 subcommittee, Sadhwani and Toledo.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I think the amicus
13 brief that we discussed yesterday.

14 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I know that an external
16 deadline is November 16th, so we might want to think
17 about -- we might want to think more strategically about
18 what that would mean in terms of when we have a draft to
19 you all to -- for approval before we send. In all
20 honesty, since our conversation yesterday, we haven't had
21 a chance for the subcommittee to --

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Right.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- meet and discuss that.

24 So --

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- you know, I would want to
2 just be able to check in. My sense is Marian's probably
3 going to do the lion's share of the writing on this,
4 although I'm happy to help out. I have worked up a
5 couple previously, but I wouldn't put myself as the go-to
6 person for the actual drafting. So I don't know if
7 that's helpful. November 16th is a drop dead deadline,
8 though.

9 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. As far as a
11 bigger picture on this, one of the things that I wanted
12 to put on the table for discussion, if we -- if we look
13 back at the Gantt chart, I really did not have -- or I
14 guess I did have some dates in there for public education
15 and then RPV data and Communities of Interest input, some
16 of those key dates falling in this period that we're
17 talking about.

18 My sense, and I guess you heard it before, is that
19 we really need to do some amount of public education
20 before we launch the Communities of Interest tool. I
21 think we can -- we can tease the Community of Interest
22 tool, we can build interest in it before we launch it.
23 So you know, one of the things that I've been saying is I
24 understand the Statewide Database is working towards a 1
25 January or 2 January availability for launch.

1 I would rather see us use January to do this public
2 education and be looking more at a 1 February launch date
3 for the COI tool and just really go out heavy on the
4 public education, what is redistricting, why is it
5 important for you to take part, how can you take part.
6 And then by the 1st of February be ready to launch into
7 heavy duty COI data gathering. We can -- we can, you
8 know, launch the RPV data-gathering effort and the --
9 yeah, I guess the RPV data collection effort before then,
10 if that's possible, or that'll be running simultaneously.
11 Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Sorry. I'm thinking what
13 would -- how would be the most effective way to do this.
14 You know, I'd like to look at the Gantt chart while we're
15 doing it, if we could, but I'm not sure we can -- how
16 effectively we can see it. Do you want to --
17 Commissioner Kennedy, can try to share the Gantt charts
18 so we can take a look at it? And then maybe we can just
19 go through the Gantt chart and see if -- what items need
20 to be added and in what -- maybe we should go by sections
21 in the Gantt chart and see what items need to be added
22 and how we might set some milestones. Does that sound
23 reasonable? Does anyone else have a better idea?
24 Commissioner Sinay?

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: This is more in general, and

1 hopefully Kristian can help us on this because we need to
2 figure out what tools we can use to do workshopping and
3 to do brainstorming and all that. I was looking at Miro
4 and there's other tools out there, and what we need is --
5 we need, first, legal understanding of, in the virtual
6 world, if we did breakout rooms and every breakout room
7 had a phone number and people could call in, that would
8 be similar to the break -- you know, going to different
9 rooms the way the Commission, you know, has done in the
10 past to work on things.

11 But we just need better tools because we can't --
12 you know, I was trying to figure out the same issue for
13 the visioning, and I -- you know, we were all together on
14 awesome facilitator and using a lot of sticky pads and
15 all that, but I'm trying to -- you know, so what can we
16 do, what can't we do, and all that.

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. Okay. So we've
18 got -- okay. I'm going to need some help here if someone
19 could volunteer to look at -- look at the folks, maybe,
20 or -- because I got two things going on. Commissioner
21 Fernandez?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, no. I was going to
23 volunteer to help because I've got the big -- bigger
24 screen over here, so I --

25 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- could probably see
2 people.

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Can you keep track of who's
4 raising their hand --

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- for us? All right. So
7 do we -- so Commissioner Kennedy, this is you sharing?

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It is.

9 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Can you -- is that the
10 first -- okay. Yeah. Public education would be the
11 first section we're looking at right now.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I have Commissioners
13 Sinay and Sadhwani.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess I would like to hear
15 from the Gantt committee what -- how they came up with
16 the time line and, you know, and what was the thinking.
17 I mean, I know that, as a commission, we haven't gone --
18 we haven't had this conversation yet. We've been --
19 we've been holding back on having it. The subcommittee
20 hasn't provided any of this, so I just wanted to
21 understand the thinking behind it.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I mean, this was to put
23 something on paper that could be a conversation starter.
24 This was -- this was not intended to be the be-all and
25 end-all, but just so that we can get a sense, year by

1 year, quarter by quarter, month by month, week by week
2 what we might need to be doing. And so the first thing
3 is we need to build this out as far as what additional
4 tasks need to be reflected, and then we can start playing
5 with the -- with the bars and dates.

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. I think -- I mean, I
7 think the spirit of today was kind of look at the big
8 milestones, the deliverable, and when we want to have the
9 deliverables, and then work backwards and fill in, you
10 know, all the steps to get there in what the time -- and
11 understand how long each of those steps are going to
12 take. But you know, big picture milestone as we go
13 along.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: So my comment is actually
16 just in response to Commissioner Kennedy's substantive
17 comments. So if we're ready for that, I'm ready there,
18 but if we're still talking about the process, that's
19 totally fine.

20 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I think -- no, go ahead.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. So in -- I -- first
22 of all, I just to say, I love the idea of a public
23 education campaign using the COI tool, definitely in
24 support of that. In terms of that public education, I
25 think if our target is to be doing that education in

1 January, then I think it would be really helpful to have
2 a plan for what that looks like.

3 So is that commissioners going out and doing that?
4 Is it, like, the regional teams perhaps doing kind of
5 regional outreach? I mean, I think there's a million
6 different ways in which that could be done, but I'm --
7 you know, I'm not -- and I'm sorry, I'm not really sure
8 where exactly that would be in terms of what I'm seeing,
9 but I think that it would be great to really just
10 prioritize what that plan would be, and recognizing, of
11 course, there's all this staff that's going to be coming
12 in, hopefully, in the next few weeks that can also help
13 coordinate that. But just really having a strong plan.

14 And then the second piece was around the RPV data.
15 So I see here that we talk about collecting data. RPV
16 analysis is done using vote data, and that's already all
17 held by the Statewide Database. So there's not much to
18 do in terms of collection of data. Of course, we do need
19 to identify the regions and areas in which we would want
20 to do that analysis, and I -- and I think that the VRA
21 discussions will hopefully help inform that process,
22 right, in terms of where we see the need to be VRA-
23 compliant kind of as we're going in. But data
24 collection, I don't -- I don't think is as much of a
25 concern because it's all that data is already held at the

1 State Database.

2 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So we're -- so let's just
3 talk a little bit more about that section -- this section
4 right here. It's pretty narrowly focused, collect and
5 analyze RPV data. That section should probably be a
6 bigger sort of picture section, voters right -- VRA
7 because we don't have anywhere captured, you know, hiring
8 a VRA consultant, do the VRA analysis, all that stuff.
9 So I -- it seems to me, in that section, we could -- we
10 could expand that, make that a broader section, include,
11 you know, all this -- all the -- all the steps in hiring
12 and executing on the VRA.

13 So Commissioner Sadhwani, do you -- I mean, have you
14 guys -- have you been able to kind of think out a little
15 bit ways of what are the big milestones along the path to
16 get us where we want to be, and kind of roughly what are
17 those big milestones or when those big milestones would
18 take place?

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, absolutely. So we're
20 definitely still sketching that out, but I'm happy to
21 share with you what we -- what we've discussed. I think
22 framing in mid-November, right, additional training. And
23 actually, just to report, on my lunch break, I sent an
24 email to Justin Lovett with our request to find out more
25 about such a training.

1 Hiring VRA legal counsel and recognizing that that
2 could take a different form from 2010, and that that
3 would be early January, hopefully. To me, the hiring of
4 the RPV analysts is secondary, that the legal counsel
5 will help guide us to some extent around, like, where we
6 need to be thinking about VRA compliance. And you know,
7 if Marian has different thoughts on that, I would
8 certainly welcome them, but that's kind of how -- more of
9 the flow that I'm seeing there. The RPV analysis is
10 super important, but I kind of feel like that having
11 the -- having a VRA compliance plan kind of first would
12 probably -- would inform the hiring of that person.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: I just wonder if the availability of
14 a VRA expert consultant is going to be -- you need to pin
15 that down sooner rather than later because of people
16 being grabbed up by other census projects.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: In terms of counsel or in
18 terms of the --

19 MS. JOHNSTON: In terms of --

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- RPV --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- the consultant. Well, counsel
22 also, but I don't know if putting off hiring the
23 consultant should be put off. I --

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I think maybe the work would be put

1 off, but getting someone on contract, I would urge you to
2 do it as soon as possible.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Got it. Okay. I -- from my
4 knowledge of the field, there's really not that many
5 people that do that analysis, so certainly we can -- we
6 can work on that very soon.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: And the other suggestion of places to
8 start to look would certainly be the three counties that
9 were Section 5 counties before.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Exactly.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner --

12 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- Vazquez?

14 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So --

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh. Sorry. Commissioner
16 Vazquez is in queue also.

17 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Okay. So but in both
18 those cases, hiring this VRA legal counsel and an RPV
19 analyst, those are both -- well, the -- or the RPV
20 consultant, that is a -- that's probably a Request for
21 Proposal requirement. And then Commissioner Sadhwani,
22 you guys had -- you had mentioned a couple of times
23 earlier maybe actually hiring a VRA consultant. Is
24 that -- I mean, are you thinking a contractor or hiring
25 somebody, or are you just -- that's still in the air?

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think that -- I think that
2 we should be nimble on that, that it could be out --
3 external counsel. It could be someone we hire. I think
4 that was -- I mean, that was the feedback that we had
5 received, particularly in speaking with Mr. Ancheta from
6 2010, is that we can hire out external counsel, but we
7 could also hire someone internally if we so choose --
8 chose to do so.

9 So I -- and you know, I think we need to have that
10 conversation with staff, with the executive director
11 about how we're going to -- how we're -- you know, what's
12 the best way to advertise for such a position if we want
13 to attract, you know, a broader array of folks, right?
14 Larger firms would want an R -- an RFP, a Request for
15 Proposals, right, where -- to be outside counsel, whereas
16 the process, it sounds like, is quite different if we're
17 hiring. So we have yet to have that conversation.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't know if --

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. And then --

20 MS. JOHNSTON: -- hiring -- I'm sorry.

21 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Go ahead, Marian.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't know if hiring someone, if
23 that's going to -- if there would be enough work for a
24 VRA attorney to be hired full-time.

25 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah.

1 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So we -- so I'm just -- so
2 I'm going to -- I'm going to keep on this thread for
3 long -- a little bit longer so we get a -- we can get to
4 a better place in sort of the picture of understanding
5 where we're going. And realize it -- excuse me -- you
6 haven't got the details thought -- all thought out, and
7 that's completely understandable. But I want to reflect
8 back on the conversation we had yesterday with Director
9 Claypool and, you know, his comment about if we -- if
10 we're going down the RFP route, the Request for
11 Proposals, you know, now, end-of-year kind of thing,
12 that's the -- that's about the duration.

13 So you had mentioned coming back at the beginning --
14 at the second meeting in November with kind of more
15 details on this. And is that kind of when you envision
16 having a decision on the path forward, and maybe -- so
17 I'm just -- I'm not trying to kill you here, but I'm just
18 trying to figure out what our plan looks like.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. My hope is to have --
20 to be able to come back to the full commission prior to
21 that, right? So in an ordinary subcommittee report --

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- we could bring back an
24 R -- an RFP. The second week of November, I'd like to
25 reserve as hopefully having an additional VRA training --

1 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I --

2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- for --

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: -- (indiscernible).

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- you know, and bringing in
5 an additional speaker, whether that be Justin Lovett or
6 somebody else, to have training during that week.

7 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We have Commissioner
9 Vazquez, Director Claypool, and Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was just going to remind
11 folks to be mindful of acronyms and jargon. So VRA,
12 Voting Rights Act, RPV, racially polarized voting. That
13 last one took me a few minutes, so I figured I would --
14 you know, I would help educate others and the public.

15 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Thank you. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Director Claypool?

17 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So the last Commission used the
18 outside counsel as a vehicle to wrap their VRA consultant
19 into it, and then they just -- it just became part of
20 their contract. And then as the VRA counsel -- or as the
21 counsel was needed, they brought them on, which is a way
22 to keep out of the continual Request for Proposal loop
23 with a lot of things.

24 So I don't know if it's possible to put the
25 polarized voting analyst under that as well, but if you

1 think about just expanding yourself into a larger
2 contract with one entity and have them provide the
3 services, it'll save a lot of time.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

5 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. So you're going to
6 loop back and -- loop back with us in a few weeks, then,
7 with kind of what a fleshed out, more detailed plan would
8 be, okay? And then we could update -- we'll work on
9 updating this part in more detail, then, too. Okay.
10 Thank you. And thank you for being the first -- the
11 first one through the ringer.

12 All right. Next. So we have a -- we have public
13 edu --so let's -- are we ready, Commissioner Sinay, I
14 guess, would be public education. Are you ready? I see
15 you're writing furiously.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, I -- I'm -- this is kind
17 of where I expressed my concern --

18 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- before this all came up was
20 I feel like we weren't really given enough instructions
21 on what was wanted for us to be here and enough time to
22 think it through. Also, I don't have a good sense -- you
23 know, Commissioner Vazquez and I have talked about this
24 several times, and it's really hard for us to know do you
25 all want us to run ahead of you and create a plan?

1 Because we kind of started that, and then we're
2 like, nope, we got to bring people with us and they've
3 got to be part of creating the plan. And then we're
4 like, well, maybe we create a straw plan and have people
5 address it. And so I think that's part of why I'm stuck
6 right now, and maybe Commissioner Vazquez has all the
7 answers for this and I can just hide, but you know, I was
8 actually -- you know, the whole public education piece,
9 that's -- that was very helpful. I understand that this
10 is just time lines and stuff, but I don't think we've
11 given each other enough instructions so we know what we
12 can do on our own and what we need to do in a workshop
13 together.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: I can answer that --

15 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: -- a little bit in that the
17 subcommittees are purely advisory. If they had decision-
18 making authority, they would have to comply with Bagley-
19 Keene. So you can come forward with a plan that you
20 advise the rest of the Commission to adopt, but the
21 action of deciding on the plan has to be by the full
22 Commission.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We haven't even gotten to --
24 we're asking the step even before that. Can we even
25 bring a proposed plan to you all, or do you all want to

1 get your -- roll up your arm -- arms, sorry. English is
2 my second language, Alicia. Roll up our sleeves and get
3 messy together. I mean, and I think that's where I have
4 been really stuck to this point, and so that's why we've
5 been doing panels and giving people different ideas and
6 thinking and all that.

7 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I mean, would you mind if we
8 have that conversation right now?

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I would love it because I think
10 I'm not the only one.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So I mean, taking off on what
13 Marian said, yes, I would very much see the subcommittee
14 as, you know, using November to develop some
15 recommendations. We'll get our hands -- all of us will
16 get our hands dirty, you know, come December when we get
17 your recommendations and have input into the process.
18 But I would be quite happy and I think it really does
19 reflect the spirit of subcommittees for your subcommittee
20 to take November to develop recommendations to the full
21 Commission.

22 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Commissioner Sinay?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The only challenge we have is
24 that, for some of us, we're going to have to create
25 material. We're going to have to -- you know, there will

1 be a need for RFPs and all that. And so if we all agree
2 to -- you know, to present a plan and to -- this is where
3 I was getting stuck because if we decided yes and
4 everyone said yes in December, and then we have six weeks
5 for an RFP and we have the holidays, that's two months
6 later. And so that's where everything gets complex.

7 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So what --

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay.

9 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So what do you feel like --
10 so unmute, Commissioner Sinay, because we're going to
11 have a conversation. So what do you feel like -- I mean,
12 what do you feel like you need -- what kind of guidance
13 do you feel like you need from the rest of the
14 Commission? What questions do you have for us that
15 you -- that you'd like us to provide guidance for you to
16 move this forward? I mean, to -- I -- to ease your --
17 ease your uncertainty or however we want to put it. I
18 can't hear you.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry. I thought I unmuted
20 myself. I saw that my colleague, Vazquez, is unmuted, so
21 I was going to let her start.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I --

23 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- have Commissioner
25 Vazquez and Andersen also waiting.

1 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Well, I -- another big
3 challenge is that we had thought at this point we'd have
4 at least the deputy director -- deputy executive director
5 on staff, which has also been sort of -- we have
6 intentionally been holding ourselves back from fully
7 baking out a plan because I, personally, would like to
8 co-plan and co-develop something with the person who we
9 are going charge with implementing it.

10 And along with that, you know, a communications
11 director. Like, as our staffing has been somewhat
12 delayed, so has the actual planning. So I think -- I
13 mean, part of it is that we know that this is a group
14 that can tend to get in the weeds. I think we're happy
15 to create a straw plan and have it ready in some form or
16 another for discussion.

17 I think what -- for me, what I would like, I would
18 like folks to sort of dig deep and think through in
19 that -- in that sort of review discussion, input/feedback
20 discussion, be very mindful of the time constraints in
21 terms of, like, your -- our collective decision-making on
22 how to do that. Because again, part of our plan, we're
23 not sort of giving anything away, but we do think part of
24 our plan really is that we're going to need community
25 partners to do this work.

1 Philanthropy did it last time around, and
2 philanthropy did the coordination and the administration
3 and support, support meaning resources and support
4 meaning technical assistance, and you know, sort of,
5 like, what are we doing next, and what should -- you
6 know, what should community groups be planning for next
7 month and next week, and what have you? Philanthropy did
8 the heavy lifting on that piece last time around. We
9 have the money, but we don't necessarily have the
10 expertise or the staff.

11 So we're -- what we are trying to do is, honestly,
12 really make the case that to us, to ourselves, that we
13 can't do this alone and we're going to need a really
14 robust plan to pull the community in using the funds that
15 we have. And it's not -- it seems very much like it
16 can't just be a simple, we'll just have, like, 20
17 contracts with 20 regional leads to do this work because
18 who is managing the contractor? Who is -- you know, who
19 is providing that capacity-building and technical
20 assistance? Who is -- you know, there's all this other
21 mid-level infrastructure that was there last time that is
22 not necessarily here this time.

23 So when we present, we have some thoughts about how
24 to do that, how to achieve that, but honestly, I'm not
25 sure everyone is -- will be -- is in a place in terms of

1 understanding how community outreach functions, the --
2 and how sort of -- how community-based organizations are
3 resourced and supported in the private sector to do this
4 kind of work. So part of our plan has been to sort of,
5 again, as Commissioner Sinay said, bring everybody up to
6 speed so that you all have a general sense of how
7 community organizing and community working function --
8 community work functions as it relates to civic
9 engagement.

10 And that way, when we present the full plan,
11 everyone -- we can get into the weeds and already be in
12 agreement about the general approach. My fear is that if
13 we just present you a plan, we will get into the weeds
14 and we will stray far from the general -- we won't have,
15 like, a general framework or understanding of how
16 community organizing works and how we should partner with
17 that system. Any -- I hope I didn't get out in front
18 of -- of you, Commissioner Sinay.

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. I'm going to be the
22 first to say, no, this is not a field that I understand.
23 And I keep on getting the feeling that you have actual
24 ideas. We'd like to kind of do this, this, this, and
25 this, and this. And then we kind of go, oh, that's where

1 you're coming from. But I keep on getting the feeling
2 that it's a field that -- I was sort of expecting -- I'm
3 kind of a little bit more used to kind of a straw idea of
4 this is what we're thinking and this is why.

5 And I feel that you guys are -- totally understand
6 this and are just trying to -- the people we're bringing
7 in who are wonderful and great, but like, remember we
8 were talking about sort of an overview of why we're
9 looking -- listening to the different people. I think we
10 could do kind of a summary that we could give you better
11 feedback on.

12 And essentially, assume that we really -- well,
13 don't assume we don't know anything because we do, but we
14 need an outline to follow and -- because that will give
15 us a much better idea of -- you know, I think you're
16 being very, very wonderful and I really appreciate how
17 you're considering -- you don't want to be doing it for
18 us. You want the whole Commission to do this. But I
19 think the Commission needs a little bit more direction in
20 terms of what you're even thinking.

21 You know, I -- because I keep on getting impression
22 you're, okay we need -- we need to pay people to help us
23 do this, but I'm not quite sure what the rule -- what the
24 roles are that you're planning. So if you could do more
25 of an outline of what your ideas are. Like, remember, I

1 keep on throwing up the idea of workshops, how that might
2 actually function, what -- the functionality of it, I
3 guess, is what I think would help -- certainly, it'd help
4 me, and I'm expecting it would help others. So then we
5 can really jump in and get into the weeds. I hope
6 that -- I don't know if that gives any direction or if
7 that helps anyone else.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani and
9 Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Le Mons would like in the
11 queue.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: If Commissioner Sinay wanted
13 to respond to that, I think she can go first.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Why don't I respond after
15 everybody speaks? So it might be easier than you guys
16 having to hear me over and over again.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. I -- you know, I --
18 it's been many years -- it's been, like, a decade -- or
19 no, maybe it's not that long. I don't know. Anyway,
20 it's been a long time since I've worked in community-
21 based organizations and advocacy groups. But you know, I
22 hear what you both are saying because, in that world,
23 right, things are done very differently, right?

24 It is a collaborative process to develop a plan,
25 particularly a strategic plan. There is a lot of time

1 and emphasis that goes into kind of big picture vision
2 and mission that drives -- that then drives the actual
3 deliverables and the actual components that -- of a work
4 plan. And I just wanted to -- first, I fully appreciate,
5 like, that you're even bringing that lens to the
6 Commission. I think that's so powerful, actually.

7 However, you know, I also -- I think that the
8 challenge for us is that we aren't one of those
9 organizations. As much as we want to be able to interact
10 with them and fully hear the voices of various
11 communities across California, given all of the rules
12 that we have on us, you know, the 14-day meeting rules,
13 the 30, 45 days, however long it's going to be for RFPs,
14 et cetera, I think because of that kind of infrastructure
15 that's placed upon us, we're going to have to function
16 differently.

17 And so I just want to empower both of you to run
18 with it. And I think as Commissioner Andersen said, I
19 agree. Like, go ahead. Put together your -- you know,
20 your dream plan, what that -- what you both think would
21 look great. I think the two of you are amazingly
22 situated to do that work, given your backgrounds both in
23 organizations and in philanthropy. So I would very much
24 welcome your recommendation because as we've said before,
25 we're trying to build this ship while we're flying it.

1 So you know, I so appreciate this process, but at
2 the same time, I think we -- I think time is of the
3 essence, and so we've got -- we got to -- we got to move
4 it forward, and I would welcome a draft plan that we can
5 all -- we can all think about. And that being said, and
6 I mentioned -- you know, Commissioner Andersen and I both
7 mentioned this before, things like line-drawing, VRA, all
8 of that will probably have a lot to say about what the --
9 what an actual plan will look like. So you know, I think
10 it's okay if it's a -- you know, you bring a plan and be
11 prepared for feedback, right? I don't think this group
12 has any problem providing feedback and discussion and
13 dialog.

14 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I think we have Commissioner
15 Le Mons.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: This is Commissioner Le Mons.
17 Did I get in the queue?

18 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Yeah. You're up.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'm up. Oh, thank you. My
20 apologies. I guess what I'm not clear on is the, quote
21 unquote, urgency. Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez, for
22 your comments a few moments ago. I think that having our
23 communications people and our outreach person is
24 critical. I mean, I really think that they should be a
25 part of those conversations. I don't know why we're

1 asking the subcommittee to come back with a plan. I
2 don't think they should be coming back with a plan.

3 I think that they have been doing noble and great
4 foundational work, and I think that's what they've been
5 really wanting to make sure that we're up to speed in
6 terms of understanding how to take in what's presented to
7 us so that we don't go in the kinds of weeds that's
8 driven by our confusion that will be the time suck. So I
9 guess I'm not understanding why we really cannot pump the
10 brakes a little bit.

11 We created a whole position in the spirit of this,
12 and I think to get too far out in front of that is a big
13 mistake. So I really do not support a deeper plan. I
14 think that the high ideas and all of that is great. I
15 would love to get a plan from staff, again, informed by
16 our guidance and direction, and we continue in the
17 meantime, as we work through the delays, getting
18 ourselves personally up to speed to be able to see
19 that --

20 I happen to have worked in this space quite a lot in
21 my career, so I know what they're trying to do here. And
22 so, you know I am all for let's get it done, let's move,
23 why are we wasting time, you know. And I'm that guy. In
24 the context of this, I don't feel like we're in that
25 position. So I just wanted to share that as another

1 perspective and support the very methodical approach that
2 Commissioners Vazquez and Sinay.

3 And Sinay -- Commissioner Sinay, I don't think you
4 should have a plan. I -- what I -- but you guys have
5 high ideas, and I -- and you have experience, and I know
6 that that's going to result in, with this what I think
7 was a -- and we're going to come to find, I really
8 believe -- was a smart and pivotal move in creating the
9 role that we created, which is going to really position
10 us to bring to life the things that I know are to come.

11 So I just unless there's some compelling drop dead
12 deadline num -- date that I'm not aware of, which could
13 be the case, I don't think it's the kind of urgency that
14 I'm kind of hearing in this discussion. Thank you.

15 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: So I've got Kennedy and
16 Turner. I'm not sure who was first.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Kennedy was first, and then
18 Turner.

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Kennedy, Turner, Toledo?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. On --
21 first of all, I'd like to fully endorse Commissioner
22 Sadhwani's comments a few moments ago. Second, on
23 production of materials and contracting for that and so
24 forth, I mean, I could -- I could easily see a situation
25 where -- yeah, ideally, I would like us to be able to

1 provide some quantity of materials to -- particularly to
2 smaller grassroots groups that aren't going to have or be
3 able to get funding to produce their own.

4 But if we develop materials collaboratively,
5 whatever, and hand over a master to one of the larger
6 groups that does have access to funding, I'm perfectly
7 happy with them producing as many copies of it as they
8 want, and you know, going out and using it. So I mean, I
9 think we can -- we can be creative and flexible in how we
10 go about this.

11 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: I've got Turner, Toledo,
12 then I have a comment.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you. I wanted to
14 say that, first of all, I'm really excited about the
15 depth and detail that commissioners -- that the
16 commissioners are working on, Ms. Vazquez and Sinay.
17 Totally trust their plan or their vision of what should
18 happen being deeply rooted in civic engagement and in the
19 community and what have you.

20 Now having said that, I don't -- I agree that we
21 shouldn't get too far out, but I also think that there is
22 some urgency. I come from this world. I am -- I was the
23 ACBL in Region 4 and one of the partners in Region 6.
24 We're not just waiting around to wonder if we'll have
25 work to do. Those organizations are extremely busy and

1 we're planning now what we will be doing post-election,
2 which will -- which, either way it goes, there's lots of
3 work to be done.

4 So I think reaching out, at least formulating a
5 thought or a plan enough to say, here is -- we're saying
6 we want them to help us with the work. There's already
7 tons of work that we're engaged in and will be engaged
8 in, and this will be compelling. We will want to also be
9 able to support and help, but we cannot just spring it on
10 the last minute. I think conversations should be had now
11 as far as if there is even interest.

12 As I look at the documents that were prepared and
13 the contact names that are on the sheet, there are some
14 that does one level of engagement with the community that
15 could be just, you know, some phone-banking stuff, and
16 then there are those that are the trusted partners that
17 are actually out in the communities that's able to host
18 via the workshops or what have you. And again, those
19 things need to be planned out.

20 For nonprofits, as I know a lot of you know, right
21 now we are planning for our next quarter, our next year
22 looks like, which things will be the priority. We're
23 always spread thin, always tons of work to do.

24 Everything is a great and urgent idea to work on, but
25 we're deciding now which things we will work on. And I

1 think the partners that have the deepest connections are
2 those that get inundated quickest with requests and what
3 have you.

4 And so I think like everything else, similar to when
5 we talked about the importance and the scarcity of a line
6 drawer, we think there's tons of community partners out
7 there that's doing great work, and I'm sure there is a
8 lot, but there are some that we'd want to work with that
9 can probably go deeper and broader, and those are the
10 ones that we stand to lose if we take too long in this
11 process.

12 So my only other thing is, is that I'm -- I am also
13 hopeful that as plans are being thought out, ideas that
14 they are posted back for the full team, so for those of
15 us that are also working in that area, we can respond to
16 some of the suggestions. And other than that, go
17 forward, make it happen. I know it's going to be
18 wonderful.

19 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Thank you. Commissioner
20 Toledo?

21 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I would concur with
22 Commissioner Turner. I think some of the other urgency,
23 right, and the established -- navigating the established
24 governmental rules that we're -- we must follow is going
25 to take up quite a bit of time. And I think that's where

1 we're feeling the pressure to move forward, while at the
2 same time -- because we know that everything takes time
3 when you're working with -- through the established
4 governmental rules, and we'll be in April in no time,
5 given the holidays and everything else. And so I
6 understand the urgency.

7 I'm also thinking maybe we -- in terms of just
8 getting us all up to speed, perhaps some kind of draft
9 concept paper or logic model might help get us all
10 aligned and going in the -- moving in the right -- in
11 the -- in the same direction and give guidance to staff.
12 Because I agree with Commissioner Le Mons that we have to
13 have staff to help us navigate those government-
14 established rules, and then put plan together in
15 alignment so that it does go through as quickly as
16 possible and meets the needs that we want to achieve.

17 But we really do need to understand what our -- what
18 our end outcomes, what the outcomes we want to achieve,
19 measurable outcomes, are going to be. And I think that
20 would be helpful for all of us to kind of establish --
21 begin with the process of establishing those things.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I'd like to get in the
23 queue.

24 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Commissioner Le Mons,
25 I have a comment first, and then we'll go to you.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez was
2 also in the queue.

3 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: Okay. Where was she in the
4 queue?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: She's after you.

6 VICE-CHAIR FORNICIARI: After me. Okay. Okay. So
7 first of all, Commissioner Akutagawa is back, and I'm
8 going to turn it over to her to take back Chair
9 responsibilities. I wanted -- she came back a little
10 while ago, and I wanted to allow her time to get in the
11 flow of the conversation before I dumped it back on her.

12 But so love the conversation. Think we've been
13 needing to have this conversation for a long time. Love
14 the perspectives. I think we're right on -- heading in
15 the right direction. So one of -- the thing that is kind
16 of rattling around in the back of my mind is the
17 interplay between a lot of these decisions that we need
18 to make.

19 So for instance, you know, what is the vision and
20 the model we're going to use in the COVID environment for
21 eliciting public comment? What is the model we're going
22 to use for interacting with the -- with our partners?
23 You know, what are the different models we're going to
24 use to gather the information and do the interaction
25 we're going to do, and how do those models play into our

1 contract for a videographer, our contract for a line
2 drawer, our other contracts that we got to put -- that we
3 have to put together?

4 And so, you know, I can see that we probably aren't
5 going to have the exact answer to how we're going to do
6 those interactions because I don't think we're close to
7 answering those questions, but I think, in some way, we
8 have to have some idea of what we're going to do in order
9 to help facilitate us writing those contracts in a way
10 that they can be flexible enough to support the work
11 we're going to do.

12 Because you know, we got Raul right now working on
13 the videographer contract and we got to pull the trigger
14 on that, and maybe we can go back and revisit it later,
15 but if we can have -- at least have some idea of what
16 those engagement models are going to be, I think that
17 would help inform or be very helpful when we're putting
18 those contracts together.

19 And I'm sorry. I'm completely lost. Commissioner
20 Vazquez, I think, and then Commissioner Le Mons.

21 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I will defer to Commissioner
22 Le Mons so that Commissioner Sinay and I can respond
23 all -- altogether now.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Thank you for that.
25 I'll just start by saying I think that -- I guess I'm

1 uncomfortable with this conversation. I feel like we're
2 putting undue responsibility and burden on Commissioners
3 Vazquez and Sinay. So I'll start with that.

4 And when I use the term staff, I'm not just talking
5 about people who just go off and do what we planned and
6 what we want to do. We're talking about expertise.
7 Like, and we're paying good money for expertise. We
8 happen to have people on the Commission in Vazquez and
9 Sinay who can make sure that what we're shepherding in
10 our hired expertise is going to deliver what we want.
11 But I feel like what we're saying is we expect them to
12 figure out the plan and lay out the plan, and I disagree.

13 I don't think it is their plan to have to figure
14 out. I think that they certainly inform it, bring vision
15 to it. I think we all participate in the planning
16 process, but we're hiring expertise. And so they're
17 going to bring -- they -- they've done -- I hope we've
18 hired these people because their experience and have done
19 these things before. So they're going to be -- they
20 should be leading from our direction, but they should be
21 bringing us the plan to review, to give feedback to based
22 upon the direction that we gave them, not just execute.

23 We can just hire a field team, then, much cheaper to
24 lay out what Commissioners Sinay and Vazquez creates. So
25 I think that I'm looking at this a little bit different.

1 And I feel the pressure of the bureaucracy and what that
2 requires in terms of timing. And yes, we're going to
3 have to work with that. But we don't want to have the
4 bureaucracy back us into a situation where we're not
5 creating what we want to create because we're trying to
6 get an RFP done because it takes six weeks to get the
7 RFP.

8 So we've got a balance between these two approaches.
9 And so this urgency -- and I get -- I get, we're doing
10 our strategic planning, too, and I get that everybody is
11 planning, and they need to know. And those that are
12 going to be interested and can do it, will do it. And
13 those that don't have the capacity or are not interested
14 or their bandwidth is already full -- and nonprofits'
15 bandwidth are always full anyway -- they won't
16 participate.

17 So maybe there is some communication we could put
18 out it at a high, high level introducing the Commission
19 to those organizations that are not watching us, that are
20 not engaged, saying this is who we are, this is what's
21 going to be happening, we'll be reaching out to you in
22 support. We're currently developing our plan. Maybe we
23 could release some media around that. Maybe we can do
24 some direct communication to the kinds of organizations
25 to get on their radar in anticipation of that. But I

1 think the planning piece is going to be a bit of a
2 process, and I think that we should participate in a
3 planning process that includes our high-level staff who
4 are not on board, as we speak, and nor is the
5 organization that they're going to want to create.

6 And this kind of hearkens back to Commi --
7 Director -- senator, director -- Director Claypool's
8 comments earlier about the budget in terms of that
9 detailed budget. Until we know exactly -- this is very
10 similar. Until we know exactly what our outreach
11 strategy is going to be, which tools we're going to use,
12 et cetera, it's very difficult to put prices to that, but
13 it's going to -- that part's coming. And that's the part
14 that I think that's not up to Commissioners Vazquez and
15 Sinay to go off and figure out all that stuff and bring
16 the plan back and say, this is what -- this is what I
17 think we should do. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And then Director Claypool.

19 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: You know, I'm listening and I'm
20 hearing all of us trying to figure out how this is going
21 to move forward. And I do think that you all bring
22 amazing expertise. I think that it's possible for --
23 when we get to where Commissioner Le Mons wants us to
24 be -- and I agree that that the deputy executive director
25 and the media director need to have great input into how

1 we proceed forward -- but it's hard for me to imagine
2 that the 14 of you, once they have a plan, won't have
3 modifications and little tweaks that you're going to want
4 to see because I see a group that knows generally where
5 you want to head.

6 For some of these contracts that we need to get into
7 place or start right now, and I'm going to go back to
8 data analytics, I think that, regardless of who our
9 deputy executive director is or our media director,
10 they're going to follow that lead because we all know
11 that there's a fundamental need for capturing this
12 information and then putting it out so people can use it.

13 So I believe that, for many of these things, you can
14 say, we need this component, and we can get started on
15 the -- in the review, who's available, get the RFP out
16 there, and then it will coincide with these other
17 individuals coming onboard and saying, this is what I
18 need. They can be written generally enough so that we
19 can work within the parameters when we start dealing with
20 these people on giving them both their vision and your
21 vision and merging them.

22 So there is a great need. I said it yesterday and I
23 say it again today, anything you want in January needs to
24 start right now. And so I'm just hoping that we can
25 merge both these visions and get to the same place.

1 That's all.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioners Sinay and Vazquez,
3 do you want to respond now?

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have a specific point that I
5 wanted to respond to. Thank you, Commissioner Turner, I
6 think, for highlighting the idea that work is happening.
7 It might not be on redistricting, but work is happening.
8 Communities are organizing around the election; you know,
9 as of a week ago, it was the census.

10 And I think last week, you may -- I'm not sure how
11 much you've been able to catch up on the discussions from
12 last week, but we closed last week's meeting with a
13 discussion around adopting sort of a reconnaissance, for
14 lack of a better term, framework effort for the
15 Commission to sort of begin what I am seeing.

16 We didn't frame it this way last week, but what I am
17 seeing now in light of your comments is also a sig -- a
18 way for the Commission to do some signaling in each of
19 these census regions to say, hey, we're here, we're doing
20 this, this is what's coming starting January to a
21 community near you. Do you want to be involved? Are --
22 you know, are you planning to be involved? Do you know
23 that this is happening? Are you planning on being
24 involved? Do you have capacity and expertise to be
25 involved?

1 If one of those two things isn't true, but you still
2 want to be involved, either you don't have the capacity,
3 you know, money, staff, whatever, or maybe you don't
4 quite have the expertise, maybe you're still trying to
5 figure out how to connect with your community in a COVID
6 environment because you work with rural communities and
7 you're trying to figure out the internet access piece.
8 What do you need to participate in the redistricting
9 process organization?

10 And then each of these regional teams that we set up
11 last week, after doing that sort of very initial needs
12 assessment, comes back to the Commission to inform,
13 again, this plan, this visioning. We're -- I think
14 sometimes, not always, but some of us, when we're using
15 plan, including myself, there's more talking about a
16 general vision, talking about our big goals and
17 objectives, and less so about the weeds.

18 And again, I think to trust that this committee is
19 very, very aware of the deadlines and very, very aware
20 that we, as a Commission, and we, as a subcommittee, are
21 volunteering to make sure we get us to a place at the
22 right time so that we can press go on any plan that we
23 come to consensus on. So we are mindful of that.

24 That being said, I do want to reiterate again,
25 because we are a Commission that likes to go in the

1 weeds, there is a real risk of coming up with our --
2 coming up with our best guess, our best first pass at a
3 plan with goals and objectives and time lines and having
4 this group spend a whole day clawing at that and be so
5 sort of back in disarray with all the weeds that we
6 lose -- we lose any progress we've made on big -- any
7 potential progress for coming to, like, a real solid,
8 like, commitment by everybody that these are our big four
9 goals and these are how we're going to know we -- this is
10 how we're going to know that we've been successful at
11 these four goals.

12 So next week's visioning exercise, in my mind, is a
13 way to get us really rock solid on what are our big four
14 goals or five or what have you. Here's how we'll know
15 that we've been successful so that then we can go back.
16 Hopefully, by then we'll have at least a deputy executive
17 director and we can think through the strategies to get
18 to those goals and metrics.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner. Oh.
20 Commissioner Sinay, do want to say something first
21 before -- okay. Commissioner Turner and then
22 Commissioner Sinay.

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I was just going to say
24 I love that. Thank you so much. And was going to make a
25 quick suggestion that may help with the -- like, a

1 placeholder and a time kind of stamp for everyone.
2 You -- we already obviously have the lists of the
3 regions as was stated, and since census is over and
4 they're kind of winding down, most of these regions are
5 made up of several partners and not just one. So even in
6 spaces where you have a single name, and if the
7 determined person from our Commission reaches out to that
8 one person, that's probably one of ten that actually --

9 So I'm wondering if there is an appetite of the
10 subcommittee to create just one very general letter that
11 can go out to the whole of them that says, and we will be
12 reaching out to the partners. Those of you that are
13 interested in redistricting work, right now while they're
14 still meeting, doing their winding-down lessons, that
15 would be an -- meetings -- that would be an easy message
16 for them to disseminate out and would also mark time for
17 the partners that were involved in each of the ACBLs and
18 to begin thinking if they want to engage in, you know,
19 later on in our efforts of redistricting or not.

20 As opposed to each person reaching perhaps one
21 person, I was just thinking that might be a way that
22 everyone -- I mean, and we still would do that to ask the
23 questions. I'm talking about a generic letter that would
24 just say, and hold, please. We'll be coming back at you
25 to see if you want to do redistricting work.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'll start back -- Commissioner
3 Turner, I think you have a great point, but I think every
4 region kind of functions differently. And so, in some
5 regions, that's why we're calling kind of the CBO -- the
6 organizer and the government people and get a feel from
7 them on what works best, and so maybe a letter will work
8 best. A thought we've also had is that we actually get
9 on their agenda -- the regional directors get the -- the
10 regional teams get on the agenda of the census and just
11 have a conversation on one of their meetings.

12 So we're kind of waiting till you all talk to each
13 of the regions because they're very different to see what
14 the regions are recommending to us on how to approach
15 them. But you're right. It's not just one -- it's not
16 just one and it's great.

17 I do want to share that I was on a call with the
18 Orange County Grantmakers did -- had a four-day summit on
19 race and equity, and one of the panels was on civic
20 engagement after the census, so I just kind of sat in.
21 And I did throw out a question saying, are you thinking
22 about redistricting or what are your thoughts about
23 redistricting? And these were different organizations.

24 And the response was really interesting. They all
25 were thinking about it. They don't have time right now.

1 They -- it's like, what we're going to do in November or
2 December. Don't even ask us anything right now. So
3 they -- there is that desire of we know it's there but.
4 And these were healthcare organizations. They weren't
5 necessarily civic organizations.

6 But what I -- my aha moment on all of it was that a
7 lot of people are young. You know, they -- a lot of the
8 organizers and a lot of the leaders that are involved
9 were not involved in 2010 and some of the misinformation
10 that was being shared about how the process worked in
11 2010. And so it made me very aware that we do need a
12 public education campaign but a little different than --
13 I mean, similar to what Commissioner Kennedy was saying,
14 but just one that's just straight to those groups,
15 those -- the census tables, just to have that
16 conversation and they see our faces and we start creating
17 those relationships.

18 And I know I'm going into the plan versus the weeds,
19 but I just wanted to share that just being in on these
20 conversations is kind of on the background. I did
21 eventually -- the facilitator is one of my clients and I
22 said, if you want to help me as a commissioner, feel free
23 to. And she did out me, so it wasn't -- I wasn't -- they
24 did know that -- who asked the question.

25 I agree that we just need to develop a template of

1 our materials and that others can copy them and print
2 them. And last time, the Commission didn't have the
3 money and a lot of that was done by Common Cause and
4 other nonprofits. I would rather see us create a lot of
5 that material so we have a say on it, but I don't think,
6 right now, we have the staff or the expertise to design
7 something and be -- create it simple and be really good.

8 And so when I'm saying collateral matter and all
9 that, I'm not talking about printing and copying. Those
10 days are gone. Everything now is digital. I'm talking
11 about someone who knows how to create that material
12 digitally.

13 I also feel that we need to deal with this brand
14 thing sooner rather than later. We need to figure out
15 what our look is going to be. And yes, we're not using
16 business cards right now and -- because none of us are
17 out -- you know, we're not out as much. But we do need
18 to know what's our logo? Can we have a virtual business
19 card that's on our thing? Can we have little cards that
20 are thank you cards that we send out to people after
21 we've talked to them so that we're creating those
22 relationships? There's a whole piece of this that isn't
23 even there, and we can't do until we have the right
24 staff.

25 And I think I wanted to say, the urgency,

1 Commissioner Le Mons, I think a few people answered it
2 and you get it. It's really that urgency of bureaucracy.
3 And I really appreciated how Commissioner Forniciari was
4 saying, hey, we need to understand at least the model and
5 how they're going to interact with some of this other
6 stuff. Because I know every once while you'll see me and
7 Commissioner Le Mons go but, but, but, but, but because
8 we have stuff in our heads that we haven't put out and we
9 are seeing the intersection between the tool, the VRA,
10 you know, all those different intersections. So that may
11 be a place where we spend some time thinking through, and
12 some of our wish list on what we see under that. I do
13 also want to remind you all that we did create a tool
14 that is kind of a theory of change. I'm kind of getting
15 past theories of change because they drive everybody
16 crazy. But I did -- we did create a tool that kind of
17 gave you our outline of what we were thinking of the
18 different stages in this and the different -- who is the
19 partners and who's -- and that was done purposely so that
20 you all could fill it in as well as you're listening and
21 send things to us as you have ideas.

22 So we didn't put names and things on there but we
23 basically gave you our -- an outline of what we see
24 happening. We didn't put, yeah -- we can put more info
25 into that that, but I think will be helpful. But that

1 was the first thing we created because we knew you all
2 had some great ideas as well because I always tell
3 everybody that at least half of this commission are
4 organizers. So I don't -- we don't see ourselves as the
5 only ones who understand the community and have rolled up
6 our sleeves.

7 And I wanted to -- I agree with Commissioner
8 Vazquez. We actually do have the expertise to do a lot
9 of this work. We -- yeah, we got -- we could -- I could
10 set up a great grantmaking program for us in a heartbeat.
11 Yeah, we could, we got the expertise. We don't have the
12 time, you know, we don't have the time. I have to keep
13 reminding myself that I do have another life and --
14 because I love doing this stuff, I'm enjoying myself.
15 But we don't have the time. And there is a state
16 bureaucracy. The state bureaucracy is my biggest fear on
17 how we can do this the best way possible. And so I'm
18 thinking part of the visioning is that we need to be
19 clear on why we keep -- Commissioner Vazquez and I keep
20 going back to stumbling on that -- on that piece.

21 I think I hit all my Post-its.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Well, I think I'm -- not
23 seeing any other comments, I'll weigh in with my comment.
24 I do want to agree with what Commissioner Turner started
25 with. I am very much mindful of that, working with the

1 organizations that I do work with. And I think right now
2 we're -- all the organizations, as has been said already,
3 you know, it's kind of like what's in front, elections
4 first and then I think you'll think about what's next
5 after that.

6 I do also want to -- not to put a damper on this --
7 this conversation about the community-based organizations
8 but I also want to also say, in addition to the planning
9 that is going on, COVID has done a number on a lot of
10 nonprofit organizations, particularly smaller
11 organizations. There is, I think, lots of discussions
12 happening. I think people are literally hanging on at
13 least through the elections right now. I think what
14 happens after the elections, maybe after this -- when the
15 new year hits, that's where there's a lot of questions
16 about how many of these organizations will be able to
17 survive. I'm not saying that because we shouldn't use
18 them. I'm saying it because we need to establish these
19 relationships with them sooner rather than later. And
20 especially if there's going to be the possibility of
21 funding that will enable them to do this work, whatever
22 that's going to look like.

23 I don't want to create more issues and everything
24 but I think if they know that there's going to be the
25 possibility of funding for this, I think it will help

1 them in terms of their planning, at least for the next
2 several months, too. And that's also going to be
3 important because I think, as has been said, it's -- we
4 need their partnership. And there's going to be all
5 manner of organizations that we may not even realize that
6 we'll need to engaging. Not just the big ones but
7 there's also a lot of the small ones who really are going
8 to be those conduits to those really hard-to-reach
9 communities that the larger ones will be relying on to
10 reach those hard-to-reach communities.

11 So I just wanted to add that in there as well too.
12 If I can also ask Commissioners Sinay and Vazquez, I have
13 a question for you that I -- that Commissioner Le Mons
14 did bring up that I didn't hear completely addressed.
15 And maybe you did in a different way. But I understand
16 what he's saying. He says -- he made a comment. He says
17 if there -- "it seems to me that we're putting undue
18 burden on you, the subcommittee." And so I wanted to be
19 able to both clarify and also perhaps have you address
20 that.

21 I think it would be helpful for, at least for me,
22 and I would think that maybe for some of the other
23 commissioners to know. Does it feel like an undue
24 burden? Is this something that you feel like, I know you
25 are excited about -- Commission Sinay said that -- but at

1 the same time I think we should address that question as
2 well, too? Commissioner Sinay or Vazquez?

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do you want to speak for first,
4 Commissioner Vazquez?

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I can. I don't think it's
6 an -- I wouldn't characterize it as an undue burden. I
7 do think, in my experience with boards, there is always
8 this tension of how much of a working board versus a
9 strategic directional oversight. It's the philosophy of
10 leadership of -- so that said, I think we're all trying
11 to figure out, especially if we have not been on a board
12 before. Sort of what our orientation to the work is.

13 I am a bit more of the mind that I do think that
14 some of the planning -- we should at least be in
15 partnership with the staff who is going to be assigned to
16 execute it. That being said, you know, I'm more --
17 personally, I have -- I enjoyed this process. I'm
18 enjoying this process. I wouldn't call it a burden at
19 all but it is a lot of work. And I'm not sure if that
20 that question from anyone is in reference to my health.
21 I had a really rough September. I'm feeling much better
22 now and feeling like I have more literal brain space to
23 be committing to the work. So that has been nice.

24 So yeah, there's going to be a tension between --
25 for all of us, between how much time we can commit and

1 brain space we can commit. It's going to ebb and flow.
2 Right now, I do feel like I have the capacity and the
3 interests to do the planning work. But my philosophy is
4 really also that we should be doing some of the finer
5 points with our staff on a lot of these pieces. But I do
6 think we absolutely have the responsibility of the
7 Commission to do the big goal setting and the metrics for
8 our success for ourselves. And that is the stuff that I
9 think we can do without -- in advance of staff getting on
10 board. And that is where I'm trying to prioritize our
11 subcommittee time.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think I would just add, you
14 know, I this has been an interesting experience for me
15 because I've been a consultant now for 18 years, I think.
16 I have worked and did -- there was a point where I was a
17 consultant and a school board member and an executive --
18 on the executive team of a national nonprofit and I was
19 running for school board. But I tried to forget those --
20 that period of my life. Oh, yeah, and as a mom. But --
21 so a lot of times I've tried to figure out, am I a
22 consultant helping you all get there, or am I allowed to
23 step forward? And that's where I think Commissioner
24 Vazquez and I make a good team because, you know, all
25 the -- we're -- yeah, we're messy together and that's

1 what democracy is.

2 And -- but we're messy in a really positive way
3 because we each are building on each other's strengths.
4 And we have pulled in -- like I brought in Commissioner
5 Turner to listen -- sit in on a call with me. And I and
6 I've brought -- Commissioner Sadhwani and I were going to
7 sit on another call. And, you know, so we're kind of
8 running around but also trying to bring people in at
9 different times because we know that this is bigger than
10 just us. Us meaning the outreach piece.

11 I guess, Commissioner Le Mons, I really appreciate
12 you saying that because I personally think for all 14 of
13 us, no one can put more undue stress on us than we do
14 ourselves. And that's how we got to where we are, is we
15 are the type of individuals that are never happy with the
16 work that we have done. You know, we're probably our
17 worst critics.

18 So that's why I say out loud a lot of times, let's
19 be nice to each other. It's a reminder for me to be nice
20 to myself as well as to each other. So when you said
21 that I just -- I took it kind of as a wash. I'm going to
22 use the "L" word but I did take it as it was just a gift
23 of -- a lovely gift to hear you say that.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner --

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That was my intention.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.
2 All right, okay. So just so I am aware, it seems like
3 that was just one part of this larger milestone
4 conversation is my sense -- okay? Was that the first?
5 All right. And I think I heard it acknowledged earlier
6 that the intersections with the other pieces, I think
7 we've been talking or beginning to talk a lot around the
8 VRA about the line drawer. Those are at least some of
9 the other major areas. We also have the Communities of
10 Interest that has its own deadlines as well, too, or kind
11 of timelines.

12 So let me just -- so on this, I know we had the
13 conversations earlier on this, but is there any other
14 input on any of these major milestones that we should be
15 specifically noting, keeping in mind at least raising up
16 so that we're all aware and be mindful of how all of that
17 intersects together so that we don't lose track?

18 And perhaps if I can ask, I know that we have the
19 Gantt charts here. We got the timeline on the
20 Communities of Interest. So I'm a little less worried
21 about that. In terms of the line drawers, perhaps I can
22 ask that subcommittee, Commissioners Sadhwani, and
23 Andersen. Do you have any thoughts yet about timeline,
24 things that we should be keeping in mind at this point
25 right now? Have you had a chance to talk about that yet?

1 Commissioner Sadhwani?

2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I mean, I think -- I'm
3 just trying -- I can't -- can you scroll down just a
4 little bit under map drawings so I can see that. Okay,
5 thank you. That, I mean, I think we could add if you
6 want, you know, put up the RFP. I think that's a part of
7 higher line drawers. Our goal is to have a draft RFP
8 right at the November 4th meeting, as mentioned.

9 My only thought about this timeline is that it
10 includes the holidays. So my guess is just given the RFP
11 timelines, et cetera, we might actually go to like mid-
12 January before we -- or end of January even before we can
13 finalize something, just being realistic. But obviously,
14 we will push for sooner.

15 But yeah, I mean, I think all of this is in broad
16 strokes, fine. We haven't had a chance to discuss a
17 timeline in this great of detail but certainly, we can
18 after this meeting and can come back with, you know,
19 additional pieces. I think that some of this -- these
20 overlap, right. So we had talked before about the RPV
21 and that racially polarized voting analysis question. I
22 think that connects with develop VRA districts. And I
23 think our RPV analyst will help us identify those places.
24 But yeah, I think this is fine as a draft.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think what I've seen is

1 there's two things that we need to consider. One is
2 there's the education of the commissioner's piece. So,
3 you know, thinking about how do we bring in the right
4 experts to help us get up to speed and be further
5 educated on it? And then there's what I would call the
6 actual nuts and bolts of making sure that we can get the
7 people hired that we need. And what is -- what are all
8 those things?

9 There's something that I think when we were planning
10 out the agenda, Commissioner Fornaciari had said, you
11 know, perhaps it might help to just think about what is
12 the drop-dead that we would need to have anybody on
13 board, whether it's the line drawer, the RPV consultant,
14 whether it's the legal counsel, and maybe use that as
15 kind of our line in the sand and then try to work
16 backwards from there, instead of just trying to say,
17 well, we want a target around here.

18 But if we know that we absolutely must have somebody
19 on board by a certain time and work backwards from there,
20 it may make kind of trying to think out the timeline a
21 little bit easier for each of -- each piece that's going
22 to happen.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. My sense and you
24 know, I don't know if Director Claypool or Marian had
25 different thoughts about this but my sense is that

1 there's -- we're up against two different pieces, right.
2 On the one hand, drop-dead timeline -- and we want to
3 have them in place before we start going out and doing
4 any kinds of meetings, regardless if that's on Zoom or in
5 person. But that being said, it's a narrow field to
6 identify these folks.

7 So I think that there's like a -- there's our drop-
8 dead timeline of when we are prepared to go out. But
9 then there's also like the competition to find a line
10 drawer, to find our RPV analysis, et cetera. So I think
11 that we're up against both. But I think our outreach
12 plan can to some extent help inform, like, when this
13 person actually needs to be fully on board, contract
14 starts, that kind of thing.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: If I could kind of add in
16 terms of -- just to add in on top of that is ideally, I
17 think we'd like to have all of them essentially coming on
18 board mid-January. And then when -- because as we use
19 them, they're going to be interacting. Now, in terms of
20 their full time -- they won't be acting that way because
21 we'll fluctuate. But I know personally I would really
22 like to have us have the line drawer working a little bit
23 with the COI tool as we're taking in the information,
24 this data person, all as we are kind of learning and
25 we're kind of doing trial runs or a workshop.

1 You know, Commissioner Fornaciari has talked about
2 models. We need to practice creating models because
3 we're going to try a couple of them and they're not going
4 to work. And then we're going to try -- then we're going
5 to revise. And I'd like to -- when we're -- well,
6 actually rolling things out in February, it's because
7 we've already, kind of January-ish or early February,
8 we've tried models with our different partners. And
9 that's including the connection of, like, the VRA and the
10 line drawer together. The COI tool with the line drawer
11 with our -- with our partners. And trying bits of this
12 and seeing what combination works and what combination
13 does not work.

14 And as Commissioner Le Mons said, get our experts to
15 help us refine our models. And so by the time we start
16 rolling things out to the public, it looks like we know
17 what we're doing. And with the education part being
18 upfront so -- and this -- as the outreach committee has
19 done an exceptional job of -- we're trying to touch base
20 with everybody and say, get ready, we're going to be
21 coming around this time. And so in terms of our
22 preparation, I think we're trying to get people on board
23 and do our rough prep through January. So we're starting
24 things in February. So our education does basically
25 happen now and our touching base happens now. So that's

1 kind of how I see things. Thanks.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I saw Commissioner Sinay,
3 Commissioner Yee, and Commissioner Sadhwani, and Director
4 Claypool.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. I'm going to backtrack a
6 little bit just because I need this said in public, is
7 that we do -- we do want to acknowledge that we know that
8 the community groups are sending their recommendations
9 for outreach engagement and all that. And we haven't
10 forgotten that they said that they were -- be sending
11 that. That was one of my Post-its.

12 Going back to this conversation. There is nothing
13 wrong with putting out an RFP and not giving -- and the
14 person doesn't have to start work for two or three
15 months, you know, two or three months. I mean, that
16 consultants love to know that, out there they do have --
17 the money is coming in. So it doesn't have to be, you
18 know, linear, like, hiring someone is all I wanted to
19 make sure we knew.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, that's helpful. Let's
21 see, Commissioner Yee.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. On the deadlines for the
23 map drawing, especially getting later in the year. I
24 mean, I wonder if we need two different scenarios
25 because, you know, we don't know when the census data is

1 going to be released. And we don't know the quality of
2 it and complications and how much we can or can't
3 expedite as we've been asked to do the production of the
4 draft maps, you know, based on that release date.

5 So, I mean, it looks like the ranges we have here
6 kind of are the maximum ranges, right. Taking us pretty
7 close to the December 15th, absolute deadline currently
8 in place. But, you know, there's that language about
9 expediting it as much as possible. And I guess I'd just
10 like to see that reflected somewhere in perhaps a
11 different scenario, you know, depending on things that we
12 don't know yet.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great point. Commissioner
14 Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think that's a great
16 point, Commissioner Yee. Maybe just even in the Gantt
17 chart, we can kind of, you know, lighter-shade or, I
18 don't want to mess with the system but just to
19 acknowledge that or a secondary line or some scenario or
20 something of that nature. I completely agree.

21 The thing I wanted to actually raise, which I forgot
22 to mention previously, and this is -- actually connects
23 to our previous conversation about the community
24 outreach. In the RFP, one of the things that we are
25 actively trying to figure out, one of the biggest is --

1 and let me just -- sorry -- one of the things we have to
2 figure out is either the rough number of meetings that we
3 are going to do and expect our line drawers to do that.
4 Or we need to have a lot of flexibility about how we
5 structure that RFP.

6 And that is definitely something that is on our
7 minds. One of the pieces of feedback that we received
8 was that in 2010, one set number of meetings was listed
9 in the RFP and then in reality it was actually almost
10 double that number that occurred. And so that is a huge
11 level of undertaking for the line drawer. So in terms of
12 coordinating and collaborating with the community
13 outreach piece, as we've mentioned, we got to get this
14 RFP out soon. That's something that once we put out
15 there, it matters.

16 And so I just want to put that on everyone's radar.
17 We don't have to discuss it now. I can follow up, you
18 know, Commissioner Andersen and I can do our follow ups
19 with the community outreach or with whomever. Or if
20 anyone wants to provide input, that would be fine. But I
21 just wanted to flag that that was a major source of
22 contention for the -- in 2010 for the line drawer and
23 something we definitely need to keep on our radar.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then you've got -- Director
25 Claypool is next.

1 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Excuse me. The time to take
2 a break is now.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Is that a -- are we at the
4 90-minute mark?

5 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: A little past it?

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, then, yes.
7 Let's go ahead. Let's take our 15-minute break. And
8 then when we come back, Director Claypool, perhaps you
9 could address what was just brought up as well as your
10 comment?

11 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Certainly.

12 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Welcome back, everyone. And right
14 before we went to break, Director Claypool was going to
15 make a comment. I also want to just acknowledge that
16 we've been having quite a bit of a discussion around the
17 milestones. What I'd like to do is finish out this part
18 of the discussion and then we'll go to public comment
19 right after that.

20 Director Claypool, I believe you had a comment that
21 you wanted to make.

22 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I do. So you've all been --
23 sort of been beating the RFP drum to death and -- and
24 I've been listening to you. And I think that all of you
25 feel this sense of urgency based on bureaucracy.

1 Commissioner Sadhwani is absolutely correct. There
2 are very limited pools for almost everyone that you're
3 talking about. This happens once every ten years,
4 every -- these groups, like, line drawers and VRA
5 council, this is where they make their money and they're
6 going to -- they're all going to be, hopefully,
7 contracting out with people.

8 I would say the sooner we can do all of the
9 contracts, the better. There's -- all of these
10 contracts, line drawers, your legal counsel, they're
11 bill-by-services contracts. You'll set the contract in
12 place and you'll say, well, we won't need our legal
13 counsel until next January, when we have the, you know,
14 the litigation. But you'll start using their services
15 almost immediately. You're going to ask them about their
16 opinion regarding what's going on with the Supreme Court.
17 Or you're going to, you know, you're going to reach out
18 to them. You're going to use them more than you think.

19 Your line drawer, you're going to use to -- even in
20 your public meetings before you actually get the public
21 law data, people will call in and they'll want to tell
22 you what they're -- this is what occurred last time. I
23 shouldn't say -- I would envision it working this way
24 again, that they'll call in and want to tell you what
25 their neighborhood looks like. And the line drawer would

1 say, okay, is this the northern boundary? And yes,
2 that's a northern boundary. And then they would save
3 that iteration. And we -- and last time we tied their
4 testimony to that iteration.

5 I would envision that whomever is collecting our
6 data for us this time would do much the same thing. So
7 your data collection group, your analytics, your line
8 drawer, your counsel, your VRA people, they almost all
9 merge together and start together. And some you will use
10 more at first and less later and vice versa. But it's
11 not like any of them will fallow, waiting for you to give
12 them a call. All of them will know that they're kind of
13 on call and you'll start using them.

14 The last thing I'd like to do is address the line
15 drawer contract and something that Commissioner Sadhwani
16 said. It's absolutely true last time that Karin ended up
17 doing far more meetings than she had anticipated. We'd
18 never done one of these contracts before. And we leaned
19 on the line drawers. And so put it out as an all-
20 inclusive. You need to, you know, give us all the line
21 drawer services we need until we're done. And so we had
22 two contractors who in theory gave us that bid because we
23 never opened the bid from RDA (ph.) down south because
24 prior to opening the sealed bid, they were determined to
25 be non-responsive.

1 Their part of their contract didn't meet what we had
2 asked them to give us. And so Karin was in fact, Q2 was
3 in fact, the only the only bidder. If you look at the
4 contract that the state auditor put together for the line
5 drawer, and I have my own theories as to why no one bid,
6 but it was -- there was an attempt to address that. And
7 the way -- the way it was attempted to be addressed was,
8 we asked for a bid for a set number, like, 40 meetings.
9 And that would give you the basis of comparison against
10 all line drawers. Well, these people are charging us
11 this for 40. These are charging us that for 40. And
12 then there was a clause in there that said we need a per-
13 meeting bid. So that then when we go way over that
14 number, we can pay you fairly per meeting. And I think
15 that's one of the ways to kind of get around that.

16 There was also the same clause in there for having
17 to give counsel any type of instruction. Yes, our
18 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher asked for a lot of assistance.
19 What they asked for were iterations. They wanted to see
20 how line drawing worked to make sure that they were
21 correctly addressing it in their -- in their legal briefs
22 and so forth. So there are ways to make sure that the
23 line drawer gets paid fairly. And that needs to
24 definitely be addressed. And I just wanted to call your
25 attention to those clauses. So that's all I have to say,

1 thanks. Unless somebody has a question.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Claypool, maybe I'll ask
3 you a question. Did you do the -- do these roles, the
4 line drawer particularly -- I think I heard -- I came in
5 and I heard that the VRA council does not have to be
6 drawn from within California and that that may give us a
7 greater flexibility in terms of being able to go out to a
8 wider pool. Is that also same for the line drawer?

9 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So Doug Johnson (ph.) with RDA
10 did the line drawing for Arizona, I think twice. So
11 clearly they travel. I do -- I think that there's always
12 that feeling that in any state that you have to live, you
13 know, you have to be from California to know California.
14 I do not believe that it's necessarily exclusive. I
15 think that you can go out as far as you can to get the
16 pool you want to make sure that you're making an informed
17 decision. So I think you can go out of state for this
18 contract.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: The only limitation on that,
20 if I may add, is that if it's going to involve
21 litigation, it's got to be someone who's licensed in
22 California, which could be an outside lawyer who's
23 licensed here.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm sorry, Marian, I didn't hear
25 you very well. So you said that anybody for the Council,

1 it would have to be someone who is licensed in
2 California?

3 MARY: If they're going to be involved in
4 litigation.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Got it, okay. Commissioner
6 Sadhwani.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just to -- yeah, just to
8 note the list of line drawers that we have and have been
9 adding to most certainly does have some line drawers from
10 outside of the state. So I agree with Director Claypool.

11 Just one piece of -- you mentioned RDC with Ben
12 (ph.) Johnson? I believe his company here is National
13 Demographics Corporation -- NDC. Maybe I'm --

14 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No, I think you're probably
15 correct. I just was going off memory. And so if you
16 have that right there, it's correct. But he was the only
17 other line drawer. And we never opened his bid, so.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So I do not see any
19 comments. I am going to assume then that you're all okay
20 with where we are right now. And we thank the VRA
21 Committee for the work that they will be doing on the
22 line drawer and what they decide about council. I know
23 that we had several options.

24 And I know we're getting towards the end of the day
25 so people are getting tired. I looked at the remainder

1 of the Gantt chart. Perhaps we could just do a quick
2 look at everything. But I did not see anything else that
3 required any timing out. And please, if anybody sees
4 something differently, please correct me. But I believe
5 that we've covered pretty much everything that is on the
6 Gantt chart and anything that is requiring of being -- at
7 least major milestones being identified so that we can
8 make sure that we are mindful of that as we go forward
9 over the next few months.

10 Because the other major piece I see on there is
11 litigation, but that falls under VRA council and the VRA
12 subcommittee. Okay. In terms of timeline, I know I just
13 said that. I don't see anything else. There is one
14 other thing, and that is the data analytics. And that's
15 also going to be a contract that I believe we're going to
16 need to need to engage. We don't -- I don't know,
17 Commissioner Kennedy, I don't know if that's something
18 that's on there right now because it's a combination of
19 the data from the COI tool. But it's also all of the
20 other data that we'll be receiving in.

21 I know that Commissioner Sinay was also talking
22 about the civics' technology as well, too, which we'll
23 also be collecting additional data that is not just going
24 to come through the COI tool itself. And there is
25 technology that is available now that was not available

1 in 2010. So part of what we should also be thinking
2 about is having some mechanism for, not only collecting
3 the data but how the data will be analyzed and how
4 someone is going to help us understand the data that we
5 will have.

6 So there is a data analytics piece that will need to
7 be mindful of. I know that there was a suggestion, I
8 believe, from Director Claypool, that we also consider
9 perhaps creating a subcommittee that will be focused on
10 this data analytics piece. Unless the desire is to have
11 it fall under one of the existing subcommittees.
12 Commissioner Sadhwani.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was hoping you would.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, me?

15 (Laughter)

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Because I was, you know,
17 it's like, I wonder if this is one that will fall under
18 the VRA subcommittee.

19 (Laughter)

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: More to your point.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I just wanted offer that I
22 sent out an email this morning a listserv. I got a
23 couple recommendations of names. One is actually someone
24 who's at the Ash Center at Harvard. The 2010 Commission
25 received the Ash grant from them. I forget, the other

1 one is where -- at Georgetown, I think, and runs some
2 sort of civic data, something or other. I'm sorry, I
3 shouldn't phrase it that way, but it's a new field for
4 me, so, you know, I included the -- Commissioner Sinay on
5 that -- in that email, knowing that this was an area she
6 was interested in. If someone else would like to take it
7 on, you know, I'm happy to hand that off to someone else.
8 If not, I can work on it because I think it does need to
9 get done. But I'm also very involved in these other
10 pieces.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, I actually thought that
13 you and I made a good team on this Sara, since we're
14 looking at it from two different -- oh, sorry,
15 Commissioner Sadhwani. I guess I'm getting tired. But
16 you are on about six other subcommittees. So if someone
17 else is interested in learning about this as well.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Now, there is a whole field of
19 data analytics that is being utilized -- Commissioner
20 Ahmad.

21 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I would volunteer for tribute.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Anyone -- no one got the
24 reference. Okay, never mind. Commissioner Vazquez got
25 the reference. But, yeah, data analytics is something

1 that I'm interested in. I am more than happy to take the
2 reins with someone else as a subcommittee if the chair
3 chooses to appoint one.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner, is that -- is
5 that you're volunteering? All right. Thank you very
6 much, Commissioner Turner. Okay, so Commissioner Ahmad
7 and Commissioner Turner, thank you very much for
8 volunteering. I think I would like to appoint a data
9 analytics subcommittee. I think it is something that's
10 going to cut across many of the different pieces and I
11 think it would be helpful to have someone looking at, not
12 only the resource we'll need to engage in terms of a
13 consultant but also what as a commission we should be
14 looking at around that, so that we can put that as one of
15 our milestones to be also considering.

16 Another one that I also want to add to the
17 milestones that was brought up by Commissioner
18 Fornaciari, and I think that this has come up in
19 different ways, is one focused on language. I know that
20 a lot of it -- initially, I know that there is an
21 intersection with the COI tool. I know there's an
22 intersection with outreach and engagement. Is there a
23 perspective as to whether or not it should be its own
24 separate subcommittee that then works across the various
25 subcommittees? Or is there a preference to keep it

1 within one of the current subcommittees? Commissioner
2 Kennedy. You're on mute.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So I was not muted, to begin
4 with -- okay. I believe we put this on the agenda for
5 the 4th to the 6th of November to have a longer
6 discussion on the whole language issue.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: The intent is to -- actually next
8 week we will be bringing that up as part of a larger
9 language access. But we -- to give ourselves some
10 flexibility we renamed that agenda item, general access.
11 And so in preparation for that, I think the question is,
12 does it make sense? Because like -- it was observed
13 before, there is an education piece for all of the
14 commissioners.

15 But I think there's also the details and the work
16 and the process piece as well, too, that's going to be
17 coordinating the work across all these various
18 subcommittees as well, too. And there was an observation
19 and a recommendation that perhaps we consider one that is
20 going to be focused on language access across all of the
21 different areas that we're looking at, rather than trying
22 to just have it housed under one area and expand what is
23 already quite a bit of work.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. It is a cross-cutting
25 issue, very much.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And I'm happy to work on that
2 myself. If anybody else would be interested in working
3 on that, too. Commissioner Fernandez or Commissioner
4 Kennedy -- I comment or query.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. I was just saying I
6 could volunteer as well, so. But I know it's dear to
7 Commissioner Kennedy's heart, so I'm not going to take it
8 away from him.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Do the two of you also want to
10 work together as well, too? I will not necessarily say
11 I'm interested but I'm also happy to have the two of you
12 work together as well, too. Commissioner Yee.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: In this case, I am thinking
14 having someone Spanish bilingual would be pretty
15 important for this. It certainly is one that you.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, how would be both of us
17 if it's --

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Can I say this, though, perhaps
19 also then to that point, I wonder if it would also then
20 be helpful to have someone who is also, maybe -- I'm not
21 bilingual in a formal way, but perhaps somebody who's
22 also aware of Asian languages, too might be helpful
23 because that's going to be a big piece as well. So then
24 Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Kennedy, if you
25 don't mind, then perhaps Commissioner Fernandez and I

1 could be part of that language subcommittee and we will
2 move forward on that. Commissioner Sadhwani.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: All right, I apologize. I
4 just wanted to go back and -- I know it's the end of the
5 day but the scope of this data analytics -- my
6 understanding is that that's dealing with the input of
7 submissions that we receive, am I correct in that?

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That is my understanding. So at
9 the very least, looking at what kind of needs we'll have
10 for that resource, I'll say the -- a consultant to help
11 us, I guess somebody -- I guess a subcommittee to help
12 scope out the larger kinds of pieces of what kind, I
13 mean, someone to help us make sense of it is what I'm
14 understanding.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay, I -- that was my
16 initial impression. And then after another comment, I
17 thought, wait a second, that's not it? So I might
18 just -- I would ask if maybe we can find a different name
19 rather than data analytics, only because that kind of
20 connects to, like, census, RPV analysis -- we're talking
21 about lots of different kinds of data.

22 So maybe it's something a little bit more
23 descriptive regarding, like, I don't -- I don't know, I
24 don't have a good name at the top of my mind but just
25 something a little bit more descriptive of what it's

1 doing. Only so we don't -- so we can keep clear, all
2 these different subcommittees.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That is totally fine. We were
4 calling it data collection and data mining but that's not
5 necessarily accurate either. Perhaps we can ask
6 Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Turner, would you
7 determine what would be the best appropriate name for
8 this subcommittee and the work that you're doing so that
9 it is descriptive but is also not going to be confusing
10 with the other pieces that we have going on.

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And I don't think we have to
12 do that now.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. Thank you,
14 everyone. I think we can bring this piece to a close.
15 Director Claypool.

16 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Because we don't have enough
17 subcommittees, may I suggest that at some point you're
18 going to need a legal subcommittee. Somebody that's
19 going to be able to put together your proposal for
20 outside counsel and then to meet with outside counsel.
21 And it's an extremely important function. So if you
22 don't do it now, it needs to be done soon because you'll
23 want to also start the fast track on that that proposal
24 as well.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I thought that's what the VRA

1 Committee was doing.

2 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: For outside counsel?

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Correct.

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Oh, okay. All right. I
5 misunderstood what that function was but as long as it's
6 on your radar and you're working on it, then that's fine.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I think we're
8 talking -- yeah, anyway, yes.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. When you say outside
10 counsel, you're -- Director Claypool, you're talking
11 about the VRA consult -- VRA council?

12 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No. I'm talking about the
13 Gibson, Dunn, or the Morrison, Forester that would
14 represent you for litigation and for any potential
15 litigation in front of the Supreme Court, that counsel.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Director Claypool, perhaps
17 we can have a conversation Thursday and Friday about your
18 understanding of what that would be?

19 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Certainly.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And if I may, just really
22 quickly, one of the pieces that we learned in our, you
23 know, in the VRA conversation with Mr. Antetta (ph.) from
24 the 2010 Commission was that we may also want to start
25 considering, rather than small subcommittees as we move

1 forward, having slightly larger subcommittees and
2 actually having them as public meetings for transparency.

3 And he, I believe, my understanding, my impression
4 of that conversation was that the legal subcommittee from
5 2010 was a larger subcommittee and did have public
6 meetings separate or attached to the full meetings.

7 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: I believe it only had two
8 members but it did sometimes have public meetings when it
9 was discussing issues that were not litigation issues.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. Okay, so I
12 think we're ready to call this piece to a close. Is
13 there any other comments? And perhaps just for the sake
14 of ensuring transparency, I will go to public comment on
15 the milestones. Commissioner -- Director Claypool.

16 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I just wanted to clarify. The
17 last commission held open meetings for Admin. They had a
18 subcommittee meeting. They did it for legal. They did
19 it for, I think, three or four different subcommittees.
20 And they would usually be in the mornings and in the
21 afternoon would be the business meeting and then the
22 evening would be a public meeting. So that would be a
23 13-hour affair. But they tailed it -- they didn't just
24 do it for legal. They did it for many of the
25 subcommittees.

1 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: And you can always hold a
2 committee meeting during a regularly scheduled meeting.
3 So if you have a regularly scheduled meeting, you could
4 subdivide into -- I don't know how that would work with
5 Zoom. But you could --

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: You could do breakout -- you could
7 do breakout groups. But does that have to be agendized?

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: It does not have to be
9 agendized but it would all -- all of them would have to
10 be broadcast.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was speaking to someone about
13 that and they said, yes, we could do breakout rooms and
14 this is where we need it -- where my question was. The
15 question is we, can do breakout rooms, I don't know if
16 each breakout room can have their own number so you can
17 call in whichever breakout room you're interested in.

18 Because the reality -- or then we do three Zoom
19 calls. But the reality is that if we were live, we would
20 be breaking out into different rooms and the public would
21 have to choose which room they wanted to go to. So it's
22 the same concept, but the public -- so the public needs
23 to be able to have a number to go to.

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Well, sort of. The
25 difference is, if it was a public meeting, when people

1 were actually here, you wouldn't have to worry about that
2 the same as you do with the -- and I think there is a
3 requirement that in -- under the emergency regulations,
4 that each portion of it has to be broadcast. And I don't
5 know if there are facilities -- you would need, Kristian,
6 a separate broadcast for each of those.

7 MR. MANOFF: Yeah. Typically, we would. Probably
8 not use the break-out room feature. We would use a
9 completely separate Zoom meeting and probably hold some
10 multiple Zoom meetings simultaneously, do multiple
11 broadcasts with multiple caption teams and multiple ASL
12 teams to provide the transparency and the ADA that the
13 Commission has asked for.

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: So it takes a little bit of
15 planning.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. Commissioner
17 Andersen.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Before we go down all that
19 complexity, in Bagley-Keene, is, that would not be
20 allowed to occur all at the same time or they have to be
21 one after the other because --

22 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Yes, because under Bagley-
23 Keene, you had members of the public who actually
24 attended your meeting, and then they could pick which one
25 they would go to. But because, if you're doing it only

1 remotely, you have to give that same opportunity for any
2 member of the public to go to whichever meeting they
3 want.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That one strikes me as that
5 could come back to bite us in terms of -- because, you
6 know, there's typically one person for these different
7 groups and they -- they on zoom could not go, you know,
8 it's essentially they'd have to pick one or the other.
9 And I'm just concerned we could get caught with Bagley-
10 Keene on that.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Well, no. But those
12 portions of Bagley-Keene are suspended because of COVID.
13 But it would be a problem if just one person wanted to
14 attend all of them. Probably, we would have to get
15 different people from the same organization to split up.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. My understanding is, in
18 the -- in the 2010, they would have different rooms and
19 each of the subcommittees would meet in different rooms.
20 So individuals would have to choose which room they
21 wanted to go to. So it's the same, but it's virtual. So
22 even back then, no one could attend all the subcommittee
23 meeting.

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Correct.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, that's helpful

1 to know. All right. Let's just -- we're coming to the
2 end of our meeting agenda. Agenda item number 13,
3 Discussion of meeting dates and future agenda items. I
4 know that there was a proposed draft agenda, I believe,
5 for the November 4th agenda. That was -- question?
6 Commissioner Fernandez, yes.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I thought you were going to
8 go to public comments. I would --

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry, yes. Thank you.
10 I did say that, yes. Sorry, thank you. It's getting
11 towards the end of the day. Let's see, Katie, you're
12 still looking very, very fresh.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair. So
14 would you like me to go through the full instructions?

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. If we can go through the
16 full instructions, we'll also then give time for people
17 to catch up on the livestream to start calling in.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have someone in the
19 queue, so.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, okay.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, they called a
22 little while ago, so.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, okay.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
25 transparency and public participation in our process, the

1 Commissioners will be taking public comment during their
2 meeting by phone. There will be opportunities to address
3 the Commissioners regarding the items on the agenda.
4 There will also be opportunities for the public to submit
5 general comments about items not on the agenda. Please
6 note that the Commission is not able to comment or
7 discuss items not on the agenda. The Commission will
8 advise the viewing audience when it is time to submit
9 public comment. The Commissioners will then allow time
10 for those who wish to comment, to dial in.

11 To call in on your phone, dial the telephone number
12 provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter
13 the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed
14 using your dial pad. When prompted to enter a
15 participant ID, simply press the pound key. Once you
16 have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue from which
17 a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their
18 comment.

19 You will also hear an automatic message to press
20 star nine to raise your hand indicating you wish to
21 comment. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator
22 will unmute you and you will hear an automatic message,
23 the host would like you to talk, to press star six to
24 speak. You will have two minutes to provide your
25 comments.

1 Please make sure to mute your computer or live
2 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during
3 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert
4 for when it is your turn to speak, and please turn down
5 the livestream volume. The Commissioners will take
6 comment for every action item on the agenda. As you
7 listen to the online video stream, the chair will call
8 for public comments. This is your time to call in.

9 The process for making a comment will be the same
10 each time, beginning by the telephone number provided on
11 the livestream feed and following the steps stated above.

12 And we do have one caller in the queue. And if you
13 will, press star six. If you will state and spell your
14 name for the court reporter, please, and then state your
15 comment.

16 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
17 This is Alejandra Ponce De Leon, A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-A,
18 P-O-N-C-E D-E L-E-O-N. I just wanted to call in and
19 really appreciate just, again, all the conversations that
20 you've been holding and thinking through, you know,
21 thoughtfully in terms of the process that you're taking
22 and in terms of the community outreach, but in also
23 recognizing the challenges of the time constraints, the
24 bureaucracy constraints that you're also facing. And so
25 we just wanted to call and just uplift and appreciate the

1 time that you have been putting into place. The process
2 that you've been taking to engage with a diversity of
3 community organizations and partners to help you think
4 through.

5 And we just want to uplift that, you know, that you
6 still have time compared to the commission last time, you
7 have more time to work through all of these details,
8 think through and, you know, be able to consult with many
9 partners in this process to develop the best strategy
10 because at the end of the day, it's embodying one of our-
11 - my director from our team here at Advancement Project
12 and, you know, if you want to move fast, you go -- you go
13 by yourself, but if you want to move farther, you go
14 together.

15 The other thing that I wanted to uplift is that our
16 partners from the network -- that we're all in this
17 together. We have submitted the recommendations to all
18 of you last night, early last evening, and so hopefully
19 you'll have a chance. We did a lot of work in thinking
20 through many components of community outreach and
21 engagement. And so we hope that our recommendations are
22 helpful in your thinking. And that, again, you know, we
23 are here to -- to provide, you know, support and be able
24 to answer any questions.

25 And if the information that we provided is something

1 that you would like to engage in one of your meetings,
2 we're more than happy to be here for you and to be able
3 to present and just be, you know, to think collectively
4 with all of you in terms of the best the best community
5 outreach plans and engagement. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the only
8 person in our queue at this time.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Okay. Then let's go ahead
10 and let's move on to agenda item number 13, discussion
11 and meeting dates, and future agenda items. And I do
12 believe there is a draft agenda for the November 4th.
13 Commissioner Fornaciari.

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes. We asked for
15 feedback or comments on that by noon so you get it up
16 because it was due up today. And I got feedback from a
17 number of commissioners. And so, I believe Raul has
18 posted that. So I think at this point the -- would be
19 gathering input for the following meeting, which
20 Commissioner Kennedy is chairing on -- I'm not sure the
21 date.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think it's November 16th
23 through -- 16th, 17th, 18th, I think. The 16th through
24 the 18th, I believe. Commissioner Ahmad.

25 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Before we jump to that agenda,

1 I just wanted to share that Commissioner Fernandez and I
2 were able to connect with the candidate for chief
3 counsel. And we will be bringing that discussion in
4 closed session next week.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Excellent. Thank you
6 very much for doing that. Okay. We'll go back to public
7 comment. Last piece on items, not on the agenda. I
8 don't know -- Katie, I think we have another opportunity
9 to seek further comment. This would be on anything
10 that's not on the agenda. Anyone who perhaps wanted to
11 call in before but didn't have a chance to.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. Are we doing? So
13 we're doing full instruction -- the whole thing?

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Might as well. Just in case. I
15 don't want to --

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Because if it were me, I would be
18 like, what was that again?

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right, yeah. No,
20 definitely. Yes. Okay. So we will go through -- and
21 this -- so this will be for general comments, just
22 anything all around. Okay.

23 In order to maximize transparency and public
24 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
25 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.

1 There will be opportunities to address the commissioners
2 regarding the items on the agenda. There will also be
3 opportunities for the public to submit general comments
4 about items that are on the agenda. That is now.

5 Please note that the Commission is not able to
6 comment or discuss items not on the agenda. The
7 Commission will advise the viewing audience when it is
8 time to submit public comment. The commissioners will
9 then allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in.

10 To call in on your phone, dial the telephone number
11 provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter
12 the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed
13 using your dial pad. When prompted to enter a
14 participant ID, simply press the pound key. Once you
15 have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue from which
16 a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their
17 comment.

18 You will also hear an automatic message to press
19 star nine to raise your hand indicating that you wish to
20 comment. When it is your turn to speak the moderator
21 will unmute you and you will hear an automatic message,
22 the host would like you to talk and to press star six to
23 speak. You will have two minutes to provide your
24 comments.

25 Please make sure to mute your computer or live

1 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during
2 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert
3 when it is your turn to speak, and please turn down the
4 livestream volume. The commissioners will take comment
5 for every action item on the agenda. As you listen to
6 the online video stream, the chair will call for public
7 comments. That is the time to call in.

8 The process for making a comment will be the same
9 each time, beginning by the telephone number provided on
10 the livestream feed and following the steps stated above.

11 And we do have someone in the queue. If you will
12 press star six to unmute yourself. If will state and
13 spell your name for the court reporter, please.

14 MR. WOODSON: Hi. My name is James Woodson,
15 J-A-M-E-S W-O-O-D-S-O-N, and I'm calling to -- on behalf
16 of the Black Census and Redistricting Hub, an alliance of
17 35 organizations across the state representing Black --
18 Red and Black serving organizations. Really just calling
19 to echo my colleague, Alejandra, from Advancement
20 Projects' comment and want to thank you all for the time
21 that you're taking to think through these important
22 pieces. And just, you know, again, highlight the
23 importance of taking time to actually get this right.
24 Right? And not just sort of move fast, you know,
25 particularly when we're kind of thinking about community

1 and community residents.

2 You know, a lot of times in dealing with government
3 officials and government entities, folks will feel like
4 things are being done to them and not with them. And so
5 I think, you know, the amount of time that you all spend
6 on the front end developing those relationships and
7 building that buy-in, I think the easier and the more
8 efficiently you can move on the back end. So I just
9 wanted to, again, just echo Alejandra's comments and
10 again, thank you all for the work that you're doing.
11 Thanks you so much.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the only
14 person in our queue at this time.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. I guess I -- I
17 guess we went -- so are we done with 13? So we just went
18 through it really fast.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, because it didn't seem like
20 there was any other additional agenda -- unless you have
21 one that you want to bring up that we do?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. I'm just hopeful maybe
23 at the next meeting -- because we do have meetings
24 planned out for November, December, and then maybe at the
25 next meeting, we can start planning out January and

1 February. So if everybody can start looking at their
2 calendars just so that we can say, you know, a few months
3 ahead. And then that -- when the chairs and vice-chairs
4 know when it's coming up.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So perhaps for the sake of -- I
6 know that -- I feel like we're all pretty tired.
7 Technically, we will have 22 minutes more. I'm wondering
8 if we should at least look at January now, only because
9 the next time, if we're already late and trying to plan
10 out for another meeting -- I just -- I'm just trying to
11 think about how we make things a little bit easier, so.
12 Is that okay with everyone or -- okay. Thank you. So
13 can we start looking at our January calendars then?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So our last -- maybe look
15 at -- what's our last meeting -- December the 14 -- 14,
16 15th, and 16th. Is that right?

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I think it's the week
18 before the Christmas holiday.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It is 14, 15, 16.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Just out of curiosity, is
22 there a desire to meet between Christmas and New Year's
23 or are we going to let ourselves have a vacation?
24 Okay -- Commissioner Vaquez -- all right, thank you. I
25 just thought I'd ask. I just -- I didn't want to assume.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commission Christmas party.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. How quickly after the New
3 Year do you all have an appetite to meet?

4 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: It may be nice to do a social
5 in between those two weeks but I think we all will at
6 that point will have earned a solid two weeks of no
7 business. Especially once we have our staff on board.
8 Yeah, two weeks.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So perhaps, are you suggesting
10 then that maybe that either the week before Christmas or
11 the week between Christmas and New Year's, that we might
12 do a social.

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: We can plan that later but
14 just thinking we -- it might be nice. And I'm open but
15 then that's also not required if people are trying to
16 plan for getting out of town or what have you.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So right after the New
18 Year, that's the week of the 4th. Is there a desire to
19 meet right after the New Year or would there be a
20 preference to wait until the week of the 11th?
21 Commissioner Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I have a preference to
23 wait to the week of the 11th.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I think if we're following
25 our cadence, the last week of meetings that we'll have in

1 December starts on a Monday. Does that mean that we
2 would then start our meeting in January on a Tuesday?
3 And at that point should we be meeting -- planning for a
4 meeting of perhaps three days? Okay. So January 12th,
5 13, 14. Or would you rather wait to a Wednesday,
6 Thursday, or Friday? Commissioner Sinay.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'd rather do Wednesday. I
8 like it better when it's on one, one or the other
9 weekend, just because that makes it easier for my
10 clients. But I understand why Commissioner Vasquez
11 states that that doesn't work for everybody. So I -- if
12 it's two days, it doesn't bother me. But if it's three
13 it's a little harder. So since I spoke up first, I would
14 say 13 to 15th.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I was going
17 opposite because it is a three-and-a-half-week break
18 almost, and I would prefer that we do it sooner in case
19 there's things that we need to push through, we need to
20 approve any action items. So I was actually looking at
21 11, 12, and 13. I mean, that was my only reason.
22 Because we do have this big block of -- which is great.
23 So thank you very much for that.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad.

25 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I'm flexible with the dates.

1 January is so far away. But I think what I would just
2 want to bring to folks' attention is that agendas do have
3 to be finalized two weeks prior. So that would fall in
4 that week between Christmas and New Year's. So someone
5 will have to be working during that time.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandes, is that
7 you or do you have a comment?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, I did have a comment
9 to that. You don't have to wait. You could actually do
10 the agenda four weeks in advance.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then, Commissioner Turner, I
12 saw your hand go up too. Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: It just went away.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So 11, 12, 13? Okay. I
15 also want to just note for everybody that Monday, January
16 18th, is the Martin Luther King holiday as well, too. So
17 just keep that in mind as we plan out our other meetings.

18 I know that there was also an intent or hope to have
19 our line drawer hired by around that time. The COI tool
20 is also going to be completed by that early January
21 timeframe, so we'll, I think have a lot to be talking
22 about. Is there a desire to meet the week after?

23 Commissioner Turner.

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I was going to just ask for a
25 reminder because I don't remember and I'm not flipping to

1 it quick enough in my notes. When we moved to three days
2 per week, was the intent still to meet every week or
3 every other week with three days? We talked about that,
4 but I'm --

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think it was, like, three
6 days, two days, three days. And then we were going to
7 take a break somewhere in between, like, every two weeks
8 or every three weeks. Commissioner Fernandez.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I kind of remember that one
10 because I'm the one that asked for it. It was it was
11 more of to do the -- instead of, like, I think we're
12 doing two, two, two was to do three, week off, three,
13 week off, until we actually get to the point where we
14 have to meet every week. But either way is fine.

15 Sometimes you want to maybe put the date out there
16 in case you need it, and then if you don't need the two-
17 day, you can just go to the following three-day, which is
18 another option. You could go three, two; three, two; and
19 then if you don't need the in-between, you cannot meet.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner.

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I'm -- I like that as
22 an idea. But I also don't feel us necessarily ending
23 meetings early. So when we're doing the three days,
24 we're taking the three days and it's still three days and
25 it's every week. So I think -- I really hope we either

1 schedule two days every week or three days every other
2 week.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So then if we do that, then
4 we would then next meet the week of the 25th. So taking
5 Commissioner Sinay's request, do we then go the other end
6 of the week, the 27th, 28th, 29th? That will mean that
7 we'll have about a week and a half in between.
8 Commissioner Vazquez.

9 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I think I would like
10 if we could at least try to do the middle again. I'm a
11 lowly middle manager and it'd be nice if I could at least
12 start a week and finish a business week. It's really
13 challenging to have such long gaps between when I can
14 focus on actual work. So perhaps if we start on Monday,
15 then if we could do the 26th, 27th, 28.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Is everybody okay with
17 that, 26 through the 28th in January? Commissioner
18 Andersen, and I see a thumbs up from Commissioner Ahmad.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I know we want to do the
20 three of three -- I'm just concerned that January we
21 won't be getting our fees back. And, you know, in terms
22 of getting our fees back, obviously, these won't
23 necessarily be interviews, but we'll have to have closed
24 session or something. And so I'm wondering, should we
25 pencil in, you know, that let's go three but then two

1 days that next week and three just in case. Because
2 we -- we'll sort of know November goes and before -- by
3 the time December comes around, we might be able to
4 delete it. But if we don't kind of block off a little
5 bit of time now, then we'll obviously be putting
6 ourselves in a bind, I'm concerned.

7 So I would propose 11, 12, 13 and then say two days
8 somewhere the next week and then go the three.

9 COMMISSIONER: Okay. Commissioner Vazquez.

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I like that idea but I'd
11 amend to say one day and make us laser -- to make us
12 laser-focused. I will say we do -- we do expand or
13 contract to fit the time allowed, generally. So I think
14 if we if we're putting on a day as a just in case, then
15 that day is reserved for things that have to get done,
16 closed session, things that have to get done. So maybe,
17 you know, no committee updates sort of things. This is
18 for stuff that has to happen in the next 48 hours.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And if we're going to do
21 that, I think it might be useful to schedule one of those
22 that first week of January. And it can be later in the
23 week. But I'm kind of like Commissioner Andersen. I'm
24 concerned that if we leave too much time, our running
25 between the -- what was it, the 16th of December -- 16th

1 of December to the 11th of January is a long time when we
2 may have things coming at us. So I think we would do
3 well to have something scheduled that first week, even if
4 it's a one day, you know, middle of the week, late in the
5 week, whatever.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I saw Commissioner Turner and then
7 Commissioner Sinay.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy's comment
9 took whatever it was straight out of my mind. I don't
10 know what I was gonna say, okay.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. That's great. Mind melt
12 right there. Okay. Commissioner Sinay then Commissioner
13 Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'll be honest, I'm going back
15 and forth. I do like the one day, especially if we need
16 it closed session and we stay focused both of the week of
17 the 4th and the week of the 18th. I am thinking at some
18 point we need to get work done. And we need -- once we
19 have staff, us as commissioners are going to be working
20 with staff on some things and then bringing it back. So
21 I don't -- I would hate to think that we're taking two
22 weeks completely off because, you know, there is a lot of
23 work that needs to be done and maybe it's just
24 Commissioner Vazquez and I.

25 But I think a lot of us are going to be working.

1 And I mean, our workflow may be different once staff
2 comes in where we're preparing for the launch of things
3 and so -- so I just want to put that out there. That
4 life could be different for us in January as we're
5 getting ready for a February and March getting out there.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was kind of thinking
8 along the same lines with Commissioner Sinay is, I don't
9 see it as three weeks that we're doing nothing. I just
10 see it as three weeks of one, the staff gets to catch up
11 to us, and then two, we can actually have some
12 conversation with staff to try to move forward on some of
13 these. Because it's hard right now when you don't have
14 staff to help you on some of these subcommittees to
15 really have a true update for the next meeting because
16 they're so frequent.

17 So and then the other question, or not question,
18 comment I had was on RFPs. We, actually, when you create
19 the RFP, you actually know what the date is in terms of
20 when all of the bids are due back. So at that point, you
21 can really -- you can schedule your time in terms of,
22 okay, the bids are back now, we can start scoring them.
23 So we'll know that in advance, too. So we can always
24 plan that out. If it's going to coincide on a week that
25 we don't have a meeting, then maybe we can work around

1 that, those timeframes.

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: And normally those bids are
3 opened by staff so it doesn't have to be an open meeting.
4 But then they're presented to the commission during an
5 open meeting.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So okay. So Commissioner Turner
7 next and then I have a comment.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to -- on the
9 single days that we're thinking, we're considering, is
10 that something that would need to then, of course, well,
11 I believe it would also need to be agendized. And how
12 are we going to categorize that as -- because we're
13 talking about them? That's just in case they --
14 something -- what would that look like from an agenda
15 perspective?

16 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Was that for me?

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, Marian. Would there --
18 we heard the desire of the desire of the commissioners to
19 also throw in a catch-all day, a single day, just in case
20 something comes up. I'm wondering, that sounds like an
21 okay idea, but I'm wondering how would we capture that
22 and have it agendized in advance?

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: You could put in your
24 standard agenda items but that wouldn't take into account
25 if there was something specific that came up that was

1 new.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. And what we're talking
3 this day -- we're considering it as a day in case
4 something came up that we needed to have a meeting for.
5 And we specifically said wouldn't be for our regular
6 committee feedback and all of those other things. And so
7 I don't know about, how that -- I think we would have to
8 put something on as an agenda item, which means then we
9 would need to cover that as an agenda item, which means
10 it wouldn't necessarily serve as a catch-all day.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Yee has a
13 comment.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. I believe Commissioner
15 Fernandez was right before Commissioner Yee. But it
16 looked like they were trying to confer. And is there
17 something that needs to be shared with us, either Marian
18 or forget it?

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: There is a practice you
20 could follow of noticing every day and then canceling
21 those that you don't want to have meetings on. But you
22 would have to notice every possible action item that
23 might come up. And then if it doesn't come up, you don't
24 have the meeting. Cancel the meeting.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And that's what I thought we were

1 considering doing on the one day; that if it wasn't
2 needed, it would be canceled. Or even on the other days
3 that the meetings would be scheduled, it would be
4 canceled if it wasn't needed.

5 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: You can do that.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez, I
7 believe you were next. And then Commissioner Yee. Okay,
8 Commissioner Yee.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I think we were
10 specifically thinking that RFPs will be rolling in at
11 some point there that we would need to consider. And --
12 but those are not considered in closed session.

13 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Right. And you know the
14 date they're coming in. So you can schedule those.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I am thinking, though, that for
16 the sake of all of our calendars that perhaps we do
17 identify the potential dates. We don't have to agendize
18 them or announce them formally just yet. And that as the
19 RFPs -- we'll have a better idea when the RFPs will be
20 coming in by December. And we can make a determination
21 as to whether or not we'll need some of those meetings or
22 not and formally agendize those. Is that true?

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Yes.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'm just thinking about --
25 I think I just think about how much -- the more I can

1 block out, the less then I have to leave a meeting. So
2 I'm just also thinking that it's probably the same for a
3 lot of others. That if we know in advance we could try
4 to make accommodations around it if we know the further
5 out.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: We sort of have to plan the
7 other way. If you know when you're going to issue your
8 RFPs, then you can schedule when you know they're going
9 to be coming in.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Well, let me just say --

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Then that triggers --

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Maybe we could have our
13 committees who are working on those figure that timing
14 out. But I also heard that there was a desire to at
15 least hold on our calendars a day during the week of
16 January 4th as a just in case. Can I suggest perhaps a
17 Wednesday so that if any work needs to be done by staff,
18 it could be taken care of on a Thursday or a Friday? And
19 then it could be ready for us when we meet on the 11th?
20 Would that be okay? All right.

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: What day is that?

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Wednesday, January 6th. Director
23 Claypool.

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL Yes. And to reiterate what
25 Marian had said earlier. These, if -- when you're

1 thinking about your FRPs, think about the week -- the
2 week after they come in or some period after they're
3 supposed to come in on the deadline because your staff
4 are going to open them up. They're going to notify the
5 chair and the vice chair they're in. They're going to
6 prepare them for scoring. And on -- whether you --
7 sometimes staff does the scoring, sometimes you may wish
8 to do the scoring yourself.

9 But that all gets set up. And then when you come
10 in, it's ready for you to simply process it and get it
11 done. And then the other thing to, to agree with
12 Commissioner Kennedy, that is a long period of time
13 across January. And with us and not knowing what's going
14 to happen with the census and everything else, to have a
15 day where we can have action items for everything and
16 then just get rid of it if we don't need it could be very
17 important because we just don't know what's going to
18 happen with the census. That's all.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So I know that this wasn't the
20 appetite, but it's been -- it's been -- is there a
21 thought that we should consider perhaps meeting. Even if
22 it's just one day formally for business, sometime -- I'm
23 going to suggest the 20 -- maybe the 29th or even --
24 maybe the 29th or the 30th?

25 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: Of December or January.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: December. I'm not saying I want
2 to but I would like to have time off, too. But I'm also
3 very conscious of what there could be that we may need to
4 be considering. Okay, so Director Claypool and then
5 Commissioner Vazquez.

6 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I think that if you have that
7 day on the first week of January, you're good. I think
8 there's going to be very little that will occur between
9 Christmas and New Year's. Having said that, however, you
10 don't know. And -- but it's hard for me to imagine that
11 anybody on state or federal level is going to do
12 something in between Christmas to -- that would affect us
13 so much that we would have regretted not having a meeting
14 then. But I do think that if you have that meeting that
15 you can dismiss in the first week of January, that's a
16 real safe meeting to put in place.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez.

18 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: That was mostly going to be
19 my point. I mean, if you take -- if you look at the
20 7th -- if you look at having a meeting on the 7th, we
21 have until Christmas Eve to get our ducks in a row for
22 that meeting on the 7th. So that to me seems safe.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON: I thought maybe was on the
24 6th.

25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Or the 6th but I was just

1 trying to backwards map or forward everything from
2 Christmas Eve, so, yeah.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And if for whatever reason, as
4 things happen, if for whatever reason we do need to put
5 something in, we'll know probably well in advance that if
6 we need to put in an extra meeting, we can still have
7 those 14 days advance notice to do so.

8 All right. Okay. So I have Wednesday, January
9 6th, January 11th through the 13th. January 26th through
10 28. Is there a desire to put in a one-day meeting the
11 week of the 19th through the 22nd? Yes. I see
12 Commissioner Andersen saying yes. Commissioner Sinay is,
13 like, uh. Commissioner Yee says thumbs up. Okay. All
14 right. I'm seeing thumbs up. Okay, thank you.
15 Commissioner Kennedy.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The 20th is Inauguration
17 Day. I'm not sure any of us want to be distracted.
18 21st?

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: 21st is fine. I don't know.
20 Commissioner Vazquez.

21 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Can I ask for Tuesday?

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: The 19th?

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm okay with that but the

1 meeting -- it just feels so quick when we do it that way.
2 So if this is just a meeting in case we need a closed
3 session or stuff like that, that's fine. But if there's
4 going to be work that needs to get done, I'm looking
5 forward to next month when we have weeks off where I can
6 actually get some of the commission work done in between
7 meetings. So I like the Thursday better than the
8 Tuesday. But I am a minority.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thursday is fine. We can do
10 the 21st.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. And I believe it is a --
12 supposed to be a, if we need to do work. Otherwise, I
13 think we were going to try to just -- we were going to
14 cancel it if it was not needed, I think, given everything
15 that there's a lot of uncertainty. I think we just
16 wanted to have this whole place in there. Commissioner
17 Ahmad.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Quick question for Marian. Is
19 there a timeframe in which we have to notice a
20 cancelation or can we do that up until the start of the
21 meeting?

22 MARIAN: You can do it to the start of the meeting.

23 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Okay.

24 MARIAN: Yes, but you can add a problem since the
25 meetings are virtual. If someone were traveling, then it

1 would be nice to give them more advanced notice.

2 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Okay.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Excellent. Thank you.
4 Okay. We have our meetings in January. And it took us
5 right to 4:30, all right. That is one less month of the
6 meetings we have to schedule at another time.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well done, Chair.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. All right. Yes,
9 Commissioner Ahmad did say it right. She said we fill
10 the time based on how many days we have, so. All right.

11 All right, so I believe we can adjourn. Okay.
12 Thank you very much, everyone. Great work. Thank you.
13 It's nice seeing you all again. See you next week.

14

15 (Whereupon, the CADGS-Citizens Redistricting
16 Commission Business Meeting adjourned at 4:30
17 p.m.)

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19

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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

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

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



May 17, 2022

LISA HILL, CDLT-163