

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:
CRC BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020
9:30 a.m.

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

Julia Liou, Asian Health Services
Thu Quah, Asian Health Services
Rosalind Gold, NALEO

Also Present

Michael Wagaman, Legislative Consultant

Public Comment

Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Dan Ichinose, OCCET
Tho Vinh Banh, Disability Rights California

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Thursday, October 29, 2020 9:31 a.m.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Good morning, everyone. Welcome back and thank you to all who hung in there yesterday with our closed session and then for our viewers who have logged in with us. Welcome back and thanks for joining us again.

So this morning I just wanted to give you a brief update on what we'll be doing today. And we did not expect to be in closed session all day, so I would have given you the rundown of our schedule yesterday if I had expected that, so my apologies on that. So what we're going to do is we're going to start the morning with public comment.

And then what we'd like to do is we do have a panel. We are moving the panel up. This is agenda item number 9. It says General Access. And that is to be combined with agenda item number 12. They were supposed to be a combined panel, but somehow they got separated on the agenda, so agenda items number 9 and 12 are all supposed to be one. So we have a General/Language Access Panel that we will have. We'll be starting that shortly, right after the public comments are completed. We will be going through 11 o'clock, at which time we will then conclude the panel.

1 And then what we'll do is we'll take a brief break,
2 and the commissioners are going to go back into closed
3 session, hopefully for a brief time, and then what we'll
4 do is we'll reconvene back in open session after lunch at
5 about -- we estimate about 1:30-ish.

6 And then what we'll do is we will resume with our
7 agenda, starting with agenda item number 5 after lunch
8 with the executive director's report, and then we'll go
9 through we'll follow the agenda through that time.

10 I also want to mention, just for the sake of making
11 this announcement, agenda item number 8, the Local/Field
12 Level Nonprofit Panel will be taking place tomorrow,
13 Friday, at 11 a.m. And then, shortly after that, agenda
14 item number 10 will take place after the Local Field
15 Level Panel, after tomorrow's lunch. So just from a
16 scheduling point of view, I just wanted to give everybody
17 the big pieces so you'd know what to expect if you're
18 interested in -- in watching during that time.

19 So with that, Marian, I am going to go ahead and ask
20 you to give roll call.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

22 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Here.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

5 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Here.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

7 I know he's here. I saw him.

8 Commissioner Le Mons?

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

21 Commissioner Yee?

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

24 You're frozen. He disappeared again.

25 Commissioner Vazquez?

1 I will add them if they appear later. It looks like
2 Mr. Kennedy is trying to get in.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, he was having internet
4 problems yesterday. It looks like he might have had the
5 same issue today, too.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Yep.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: We have a quorum.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, wonderful. Thank you.
10 Jesse, welcome back. Thanks for joining us again.

11 And would you please read off the instructions to make
12 public comment, and we'll start with public comment.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
14 transparency and public participation in our process, the
15 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To
16 call in, dial the telephone number provided on the
17 livestream feed. The telephone number is (877) 853-5247.
18 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on
19 the livestream feed. It is 98512592479 for this week's
20 meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
21 press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will be placed
22 in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting
23 callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an
24 automated message to press star 9. Please do this to
25 raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. When it

1 is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you, and
2 you will hear an automated message that says: The host
3 would like you to talk and press star 6 to speak.

4 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream
5 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your
6 call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
7 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn
8 down the livestream volume. These instructions are also
9 located on the website.

10 The Commission is now taking public comment at this
11 time.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, we'll wait a few minutes
13 just to let the livestream catch up and hopefully allow
14 people to call in.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Good morning, caller.
16 Could you please state and spell your name for the
17 record, please?

18 Good morning, caller. Can you hear us?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm hearing you.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Could you please state
21 and spell your name for the record, please?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: This is Commissioner Kennedy
23 dialing in because my internet connection went down.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Welcome, Commissioner Kennedy. I
25 will mark you present.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Thank you.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Jesse, do we have any other
3 people in queue to make a comment?

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, there are no
5 further comments at this time.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Let me do this, then. We
7 will be starting this morning with our panel, as I
8 mentioned, agenda item number 9 and 12. I'm kind of
9 stalling to allow people to call in if they want to. And
10 what I'm going to do is I will turn this over to
11 Commissioner Fernandez to introduce our panel. It does
12 look like

13 Jesse, it looks like we may not have any more? Or
14 do we have another panelist?

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no
16 callers in the queue, Chair.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Then let's go ahead. Let's
18 go ahead.

19 Commissioner Fernandez, I am going to turn this over
20 to you to introduce our panel.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess I have a
22 question. I'll ask, too, later if Julia's going to be
23 joining us today. I don't see her so far.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I just realized she's not
25 here yet either.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

2 MS. QUACH: I texted her and she should be on soon.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: She'll be on soon? Okay.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Good morning, everyone.

6 It's the last week of, hopefully you remember, it
7 probably seems like so long ago. But Chair Akutagawa
8 established a Language Access Subcommittee, and I'm going
9 to give all the credit to Chair Akutagawa. She's been
10 very diligent in reaching out to different organizations.
11 And today we have Rosalind Gold from she is the chief
12 public policy officer with NALEO Educational Fund, and
13 she has called in a few times, which is great, so thank
14 you so much. She has over three decades with the Latino
15 civic engagement efforts, and she will be providing a
16 presentation relating to our Latinx community.

17 And then we also have right now we do have Dr. Thu
18 Quach who was the chief deputy of administration programs
19 for the Asian Health Services.

20 And we will also have Julia joining us soon,
21 hopefully. She's also with the Asian Health Services,
22 and that's a community health center that provides health
23 services to the medically underserved families in Oakland
24 and surrounding communities in fourteen different
25 languages. And they will both provide a presentation

1 relating to our Asian communities. And we've asked each
2 of them to present for fifteen minutes, and then after
3 their fifteen-minute presentations, we'll allow for time
4 for questioning.

5 So we thought this was better to have them present
6 first because I'm thinking our questions will probably be
7 similar in terms of what we would ask each one, and so
8 we're just hoping that this will be more efficient. And
9 I just really want to thank both of them for coming here
10 today. It was really last minute.

11 I think, Dr. Quach, I think we just talked to you on
12 Monday, and Rosalind, I think, was on Friday. So thank
13 you so much. Their bios are online. And with that, I'm
14 just going to

15 I think, Rosalind, you're going to go first, right?
16 Okay. And then the presentation is online, also, so if
17 you want to follow along.

18 MS. GOLD: Great.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rosalind.

20 MS. GOLD: Thank you so much, Commissioner
21 Fernandez, Chair Akutagawa, Vice Chair Fornaciari, and
22 Commissioners. My name is Rosalind Gold. I'm chief
23 public policy officer of the National Association of
24 Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, NALEO,
25 Educational Fund. And I want to thank you all so much

1 for this invitation to talk about a critical issue facing
2 the Commission which is: How do we ensure that Latinos
3 and all Californians have an opportunity to provide input
4 and a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the
5 Commission's process, and that the Commission's
6 activities are clear and understandable to members of the
7 Latino community and all Californians?

8 I'm going to start my presentation by talking a bit
9 about the NALEO Educational Fund and our work in
10 redistricting. I'm then going to talk about some issues
11 about overall accessibility and why that is just good for
12 all Californians. I'll then talk about the importance of
13 language access and best practices for language access
14 for Latinos and all Californians.

15 So what I'd like to do is to start by sharing my
16 presentation on my screen. All right. So first of all,
17 the NALEO Educational Fund was founded in 1981. Our
18 mission is to empower Latinos to participate fully in the
19 American political process. So of course, the work of
20 our organization and the work that the Commission is
21 doing to strengthen California's democracy are very much
22 resonating together.

23 And we have -- when we started our work on
24 redistricting we started several decades ago, but really
25 got involved in the redistricting of this independent

1 Commission ten years ago, we articulated some policies
2 and priorities for our efforts. First of all, it is very
3 critical that the Commission's map provide Latinos with a
4 fair opportunity to choose the candidates of their
5 choice, their elected representatives. And so as it's
6 spelled out in the California Constitution, compliance
7 with the U.S. Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights
8 Act are what should be the top priorities for the maps.
9 And we also feel respecting communities of interest are
10 also a high priority.

11 We believe the process -- the redistricting process,
12 should be transparent and, as we've been talking about
13 for this panel, the public needs to both understand what
14 the Commission is doing and be heard.

15 And then finally, as some of you may know from our
16 earlier advocacy, we believe the Commission's membership
17 should reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, gender,
18 and age diversity of California. And we again want to
19 thank the first eight Commissioners for the choices they
20 made for the full Commission.

21 In terms of our work, we are going to work and
22 continue to work with a partner organization, the
23 Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, to
24 mobilize Latinos to participate in the redistricting
25 process. We're going to continue our advocacy with the

1 Commission, and we'll be reviewing draft maps, and then
2 we're also going to finally continue our work with
3 coalitions and partners, and we're also going to be
4 working on a unity mapping effort.

5 So as a starting point, you know, we wanted to talk
6 about why is overall accessibility so important, not just
7 for Latinos but for all Californians? Well, first of
8 all, Latinos are the state's largest population group.
9 They comprise thirty-nine percent of the population. And
10 essentially you cannot have an accessible process in
11 California unless it is accessible to Latinos. Overall
12 accessibility increases participation, transparency, it
13 instills public confidence in the work that the
14 Commission is doing, and, again, it's very much a two-way
15 street between the Commission and members of the public.

16 And I also strongly want to urge the Commission to
17 have a separate session or workshop to address the issues
18 of accessibility for persons with disabilities. This is
19 a community that has some of the same needs as all
20 Californians, but also some special needs. And we know
21 that there are a lot of really good partners and
22 organizations who can really provide important
23 information on this issue.

24 So I just briefly wanted to highlight some of the
25 best practices for overall accessibility of Commission

1 hearings. And I wanted to note that the recommendations
2 in my entire presentation are really the culmination of a
3 collaborative work of many partners, both in the
4 Redistricting California Collaborative and the Alliance
5 Collaborative and that our partners really help to shape
6 and formulate these recommendations and that all of them
7 have expertise and would be happy to and willing to share
8 their particular expertise as well.

9 Just a couple of highlights about overall
10 accessibility. There should be a robust number of
11 hearings, and if they are being done virtually,
12 especially when you're collecting community of interest
13 testimony, they need to be held focusing on very
14 different regions of the state. Thinking about when the
15 times of those hearings are going to be scheduled, you
16 know, many people from underrepresented communities have
17 family and job obligations, and regular business hours
18 are not going to be good for their participation. So we
19 suggest a mix of hearings during weekday evenings as well
20 as on weekends.

21 And then, also, as we think about the technology
22 being virtual, we also have to understand that if we're
23 going to be continuing to do virtual meetings for a
24 while, there are communities that have no access to
25 hotspots or internet, and we're going to have to try to

1 figure out how we can stream and provide for their
2 participation. I think this is just something we're
3 going to have to work with the Commission together on.
4 There are no easy answers to this issue yet. It's just
5 something we're going to have to do a lot more thinking
6 about.

7 And then, finally, it takes time to get testimony
8 about communities of interest. It's very important that
9 community members have some certainty about when they're
10 going to be permitted to testify. Ten years ago it was
11 basically done on a first-come, first-serve basis. You
12 would show up at the meeting, and you might be waiting
13 three or four hours to testify. You had no certainty
14 about when you would testify. Even if members of the
15 public can be given some kind of window or opportunity, a
16 timeslot, in which they know that they'll be able to
17 testify.

18 So these recommendations are set forth in a letter
19 that we work with the Redistricting California and the
20 Alliance on, dated October 20th. You'll see much more
21 detail about these recommendations, but you know, I just
22 wanted to provide the highlights.

23 Okay. I then wanted to address why is language
24 access for the Commission's work important for California
25 Latinos? Well, first of all, many Latinos and

1 Californians as a whole just may not be very familiar
2 with redistricting or really understand why it is
3 important for our communities. You know, the ability
4 just to educate people about the importance of
5 redistricting is critical. And redistricting, unlike
6 other civic engagement opportunities, really only happens
7 once every ten years. So unlike elections where you have
8 some going every couple of years, again, it's something
9 that you have many members of the community are not yet
10 familiar with it.

11 Also, dialogues about redistricting use some of the
12 most complex and unfamiliar terms for community members.
13 Communities of interest, racially polarized voting,
14 contiguity, right? These are just not terms that are
15 typically used in civic engagement.

16 So having good access and language access and
17 education about them is important because redistricting
18 is really a truly democratic process. Every single
19 Californian can participate, no matter whether they're a
20 voter, no matter, you know, whether what immigration
21 status they may have. All Californians can provide
22 input.

23 And I think it's also important to remember that for
24 the Latino community, more than one out of every four
25 Latinos that's about twenty-eight percent are not yet

1 fully proficient in English.

2 As we think about best practices for language access
3 in the Latino community, it's important to understand
4 that Latinos are linguistically diverse. You know, the
5 population not only includes Mexican-Americans,
6 Salvadoran, and Guatemalans, but you can see that the
7 proportions and the diversity are even higher in places
8 such as Los Angeles County, seventy-six percent Mexican,
9 Salvadoran nine percent, Guatemalan six percent. And
10 there are at least eighteen national origin or subgroups
11 within the Latino community in California. There's also
12 diversity by age, by immigrant status, by culture, by
13 region, by education, employment, and family networks.
14 And as a result of this, there is enormous variation in
15 the dialects, the word uses, the pronunciation, and the
16 idioms that are used in Spanish. So basically Latinos
17 are not monolithic, and the language and the
18 pronunciation and usage and idioms are not monolithic
19 either throughout the Latino community.

20 It's also important to recognize that there is a
21 segment of the Latino community who are not proficient in
22 either English or Spanish. We have a group of indigenous
23 Latin Americans and they speak several languages;
24 Zapoteco, Mixteco, Triqui are some of the most common
25 ones, but there's also Guatemalan Mayan languages and

1 just a whole host of languages spoken by Latino
2 indigenous Latin Americans.

3 And just to give you a little sense of the
4 population and where they work, about one-third of
5 Californian immigrant farm workers are estimated to be
6 from southern Mexico indigenous communities, but not only
7 in rural areas. Many indigenous community workers are
8 also in service industries in urban areas such as
9 restaurants or maintenance workers. So this is another
10 population we have to think about when we think about the
11 linguistic diversity of the Latino community.

12 So what are some of the best practices? Well, first
13 of all, in terms of the initial development of
14 information and translation, we believe that the
15 Commission should use professional translators for all of
16 the key information it provides but supplement this with
17 community review. And in this connection, we suggest
18 getting community review of translations because then
19 that gives you this kind of diversity of perspective on
20 word usage and idioms and different national origin
21 groups.

22 But also very important to make sure that you
23 provide sufficient time for community reviewers to review
24 materials and stipends. I think some of us who have
25 worked with community based organizations have had the

1 experience where we get a twenty-page booklet in English
2 and somebody says, "Could you please review this by
3 tomorrow?" So if you're going to involve the community
4 in reviewing materials and information, you need to
5 provide sufficient time and be cognizant of the resources
6 that are needed.

7 One approach to help you with getting these
8 translation assistants is to establish a Language
9 Accessibility Advisory Committee or a LAAC. The
10 Secretary of State has a LAAC and many county registrars'
11 offices have those committees as well, and they can be a
12 model or they can provide model materials to show how
13 LAACs work on translation and other language access
14 issues.

15 And finally, your starting point for materials,
16 before you even think about translation, is you should
17 use plain language for the initial English language
18 versions of the key information. If you start with
19 simple and accessible English, it will make it easier to
20 translate it into accessible Spanish and other languages.

21 Also, in terms of the ability of the public to
22 participate in hearings, we believe that Spanish language
23 interpreters should be provided for all hearings
24 considering, you know, the widespread use of Spanish in
25 the state. You may even want to consider establishing a

1 dedicated Spanish language video channel, you know, a
2 separate channel that Spanish-dominant Latinos can listen
3 in to the hearings. But again, providing those
4 interpreters should be supplemented by allowing community
5 members to use their own interpreters like family
6 members, friends. This may be, again, important where
7 finding interpretation of a language that is not widely
8 spoken might be a challenge.

9 And then when interpreters are needed for testimony
10 or comments, it's important to extend the time limits for
11 those comments so that people have time to have
12 interpreters while they're doing comments. And then you
13 should also permit the submission of written comments in
14 any language and expedite the translation of them.

15 Okay. We also appreciate the work of the statewide
16 database and particularly the work on its Communities of
17 Interest tool. It has started a dialogue with community
18 organizations, and we have let it know it should be
19 translated into Spanish and several other languages. We
20 are also encouraged the statewide database to continue to
21 work with language minority communities on the format and
22 the language used and prompts and other ways of the
23 structure of the tool. And there should also be a --
24 continue to be opportunities for just hands-on beta
25 testing of the tool. And again, the statewide database

1 has made a very promising start in this area.

2 However, the database tool -- statewide database
3 tool should not be the only way that community members
4 should be able to submit community of interest input.
5 You know, we need some low-tech opportunities such as,
6 you know, just mailing in a drawing or calling someone
7 who can take public comment from that person, letting
8 them call in to provide their comments.

9 Finally, we want to encourage you to continue to
10 partner with community groups and other institutions
11 familiar with diverse Latino community members. You
12 know, you can build on the foundation of networks of
13 organizations that have do civic engagement and are
14 trusted organizations that do naturalization, you know,
15 we do our organizations that do nonpartisan voter
16 engagement like our Ve y Vota campaign, census
17 mobilization. Our, you know, we have lots of partners in
18 our Hagase Contar campaign.

19 But you should also continue to expand the networks
20 of organizations that are not solely based, solely
21 focused on civic engagement. So for example, we're
22 delighted to hear that the other panelists on this
23 particular panel come from health services because health
24 services workers are on the front lines of working with
25 community members and are very knowledgeable about their

1 needs. And there are also other partners' opportunities
2 such as faith-based organization, business leaders, and
3 of course Spanish-language media is a critical partner
4 for anything that the Commission is going to be doing in
5 print or through broadcast media or digital media.

6 So in conclusion, I just want to thank you all
7 again. We appreciate the opportunity to testify, and we
8 appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with the
9 Commission to strengthen our democracy and to help ensure
10 that there is an accessible process that will produce
11 maps for the next ten years that will shape the contours
12 of our representative democracy and be truly responsive
13 and accountable to all of our residents. Thank you so
14 much.

15 MS. QUACH: Do you want us to go right now? Julia,
16 do you want to pull up your slides?

17 And while Julia is setting that up, I just wanted to
18 thank everyone for the opportunity for us to share our
19 work at Asian Health Services. It's a great privilege to
20 be here and excited to be involved in this.

21 Julia, go ahead.

22 MS. LIYOU: Yeah, thank you, everyone, for this
23 opportunity. It's a pleasure to be here. I'm going to
24 go ahead and kick us off. So Asians are the fastest
25 growing major ethnic group in the United States, and

1 almost forty percent of the new American arrivals in 2017
2 were Asian. Nationwide, the Asian population increased
3 twenty-seven percent from 2010 to 2018, making it the
4 fastest growing racial ethnic group. The Asian
5 population is predicted to actually be the largest
6 immigrant group in the country by 2055. Between 1980 and
7 2010, the Asian population just in the Bay Area increased
8 300 percent.

9 So this is just a visual of the diversity of the
10 Asian-American population. California, as a state, has
11 the largest Asian-American population in the United
12 States and the second-highest proportion of Asian-
13 American residents after Hawaii. Asian-Americans are
14 often, though, seen as a monolithic group, and as you
15 heard from the last speaker, it's a very similar theme
16 with the Latinx group. Yet, in California, there are
17 twenty-one distinct Asian-American ethnic groups. So
18 while these ethnic groups often have shared experiences
19 with immigration and language barriers, even
20 discrimination, they each have unique histories and
21 culture and can differ significantly in their educational
22 attainment, employment, and economic status.

23 There's also considerable social and economic
24 diversity among all ethnic groups. And there's also
25 quite a variance in diversity in dialects. Failure to

1 recognize the differences really renders invisible the
2 needs of some of the most disadvantaged in the Asian
3 communities.

4 So it's really important to recognize these
5 differences because there are hidden disparities. And so
6 if you aggregate Asian-Americans in totality, you will
7 miss many of these disparities. And just an example of a
8 very recent example is in COVID we know that Filipinos
9 nurses in the United States make up 4 percent of the
10 workforce, but nearly thirty-one percent of deaths are
11 among registered nurses who are of Filipino descent. In
12 California, Filipinos are one-quarter of the Asian-
13 American population, but they make up one-third of the
14 deaths, and nearly forty percent with COVID have died.

15 I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Thu, to
16 share about Asian Health Services.

17 MS. QUACH: Great. Thanks, Julia.

18 So just to give you some background on who we are,
19 Asian Health Services was founded in 1974 by a group of
20 students at UC Berkeley who lived in Chinatown and saw
21 that their own community were not accessing care and
22 realizing that they needed care, and when they did a
23 needs assessment found that many of them were hindered by
24 the language barriers. So Asian Health Services started
25 in 1974. We have two pillars in our work which is around

1 both service and advocacy. We provide medical, dental,
2 and behavioral health to about 50,000 patients throughout
3 Alameda County, and we're really proud that we are always
4 pushing for cultural and linguistic competency. So we
5 provide our services in English and in fourteen Asian
6 languages. That's not all the Asian languages, but
7 that's what we do, and these languages are provided among
8 our bilingual and bicultural staff.

9 And as a community health center, there's a lot of
10 built-in accountability about how we work with our
11 community that our board of directors has to have a
12 majority of them being patient and consumers so that
13 we're really driven by the needs of our community. And
14 then Asian Health Services has gone above and beyond by
15 making sure that we have patient leadership councils from
16 our own patients who help us and direct us on how we
17 steer our organization.

18 Next slide. So this is a picture and you know, as
19 we're thinking about public engagement, I want to share
20 this picture. So since the beginning, we have started
21 what's called general meetings with our patients. So
22 every year or two what we do is we bring patients in and
23 we actually hear from them. So this is a picture of 500
24 of our patients, you know, that are brought into one
25 room. Unfortunately, with COVID, we can't do that

1 anymore. But we would actually have it translated
2 simultaneously in ten to twelve different languages. And
3 you can see the signs that, kind of, is very similar to
4 the United Nations where they have headsets, and this is
5 how we engage community. We can't just say, oh, there's
6 too many languages and, therefore, we cannot bring the
7 patients in and hear from them. We make it very
8 intentional that we want to hear from them.

9 And a great quote that comes from our own CEO is:
10 "Our measure of success is not only in how many patients
11 we see, but also in how many are empowered to assert
12 their right to health care." That is the basis of how we
13 do our work is we know they have needs and we know they
14 have voices, and it's up to us to create a platform to
15 hear from them.

16 Next slide. This is just a graph that shows you the
17 diversity in languages that we serve. Now, a lot of our
18 patients are actually Cantonese speakers, but that does
19 not mean that the other languages which are smaller does
20 not matter. We really look at the different dialects,
21 the different languages that are spoken, and really try
22 to ensure that we have on staff the trained interpreters
23 to serve our patients.

24 Next slide. Handing it back to you, Julia.

25 MS. LIOU: Thanks, Thu.



1 So one thing that is similar to the redistricting
2 process was when we established a process by which our
3 patient and community voices and vision could be heard.
4 So as an example, we established a local partnership with
5 the city to conduct workshops in language about what is
6 urban planning. So similar, redistricting is a very,
7 very challenging concept. Urban planning was also very
8 challenging. There were many developments that were
9 coming into the area, and so we had to work with both our
10 patients and our communities to really educate and help
11 folks understand what was a specific plan and why these
12 developments coming into the community how it might
13 impact them. And so I think similarly with
14 redistricting, it's the ability to be able to break down
15 very, very foreign concepts into something that's
16 understandable and understanding what the impact can be
17 on their community.

18 So we've built relevant data for advocacy through
19 several aspects. We did community needs assessments with
20 over 1100 community members, we actually trained our
21 patients to conduct surveys, and we collaborated with the
22 churches and schools and community organizations, our art
23 centers, our recreation center, along with urban planners
24 and even affordable housing. It took that type of
25 collaboration in order to be able to help our community

1 members be empowered to understand what the impacts and
2 also to really call out what their input is around this
3 process. And so we organized hundreds of community
4 members to community meetings in numerous Asian
5 languages. And with their input we established what were
6 guiding principles, we developed a platform, we even
7 utilized mobile apps to be able to track assets and
8 issues of what was working or not working in the
9 community. And we did all this training so that we could
10 identify very specifically what were some of the issues
11 and also input that people could, that could do in a very
12 localized neighborhood and area.

13 I'm going to turn it over to Thu to explain more
14 about some of the work that we've done as well.

15 MS. QUACH: So another example we wanted to provide
16 was our work around pushing back on the Public Charge
17 rule change. That was a rule change that was introduced
18 a few years back and it required public comments as part
19 of that. It's a federal rule, and the basis of it is
20 that anyone who was applying for legal status yeah, at
21 that time they look at what they were using and whether
22 they're a public charge to society.

23 The Trump administration had proposed changes that
24 said if they use things like Medicaid, housing, and food
25 assistance that they could be impacted when they apply

1 for lawful permanent residence. And we knew that that
2 would affect our community, not just in those who were
3 changing their statuses, but also the chilling effects of
4 it.

5 So we mobilized not just among our own community but
6 we worked across the country and we formed what's called
7 the One Nation Coalition, working with Asian-Americans
8 and Pacific Islander community groups across the nation
9 to kind of speak up because we actually knew this rule
10 change was going to disproportionately affect Asian-
11 Americans. So we gathered over a hundred different
12 community organizations to really push in the local level
13 to let people know that there were public comments coming
14 and that we needed to be involved and that our
15 communities' voices needed to be heard.

16 Next slide. As part of any rule change, there has
17 to be a period for public comments. And I thought this
18 is a good example for your redistricting. We mobilized,
19 and across the nation there were many, many groups not
20 just our One Nation. We were aiming for 100,000
21 comments. We ended up with 267,000 comments that were
22 submitted. And within our coalition, we were able to
23 mobilize 23,000 comments among our 100 organizations.

24 And how we did that was we worked with community
25 groups and we developed sort of because it's an online

1 public comment submission. While you can send in the
2 written ones, it just wouldn't be read, and so we wanted
3 to work with communities, so we created these portals so
4 that they could submit these comments more easily.

5 Next slide. We also knew that there was a digital
6 divide, so even with the portals, our communities would
7 have been left out. It was not translated into
8 English -- I mean, into different languages; it was only
9 in English. And so what we did was we also took it to
10 the ground and created these comment cards in different
11 languages and disseminated it to our community and had
12 them write in the languages that they felt most
13 comfortable. We translated it and actually submitted on
14 their behalf to the portal. And this is not just about
15 language, but it's about empowering our community and
16 recognizing that there is a major digital divide, and it
17 was up to us to break down all these barriers so that
18 they could participate.

19 Next slide. Handing it back to you, Julia.

20 MS. LIYOU: So our general recommendations is that
21 it's important to invest in community-based
22 organizations, community health centers around the state
23 who really have deep roots and established trust and an
24 in-depth understanding of the diverse Asian-American
25 communities that are in California that enables the

1 cultural and linguistic competency. They are the trusted
2 source as messengers, especially during this time. They
3 play such a significant and in-depth role in outreach and
4 education and engagement and that ability to convene town
5 hall meetings with stakeholders.

6 And then our second recommendation is really to
7 engage with the ethnic media and social media platforms
8 that are specific to the diversity of the Asian-American
9 community from traditional TV, to radio, to print ethnic
10 media. Because of the wide diversity of our population,
11 there are so many different modalities in the ethnic
12 media. There's things, like, particularly for the
13 Chinese community. There's WeChat. But then there are
14 folks who also go to YouTube. And so we know just from
15 the diversity, again, that can be tackled by taking a
16 multi-tiered approach.

17 So those are our two main recommendations. I think
18 that the last speaker also had many recommendations that
19 we would also reinforce as well: having translators,
20 interpreters that are at the hearings, and the ability to
21 allow for that cultural linguistic competency to be able
22 to be applied.

23 And we just thank you for the opportunity overall to
24 be able to partner with you all and to really ensure that
25 our diverse Asian-American communities can provide the

1 input and engagement that is needed for this very
2 important and historic redistricting process. So thank
3 you very much.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you very much.
5 And I'll wait all right, great, we can go back to gallery
6 view. All right, we are ready to take questions from the
7 Commissioners. Okay.

8 Commissioner Sinay?

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I didn't want to disappoint by
10 not having a question. I have one for kind of I mean,
11 I'd love to hear from all three of you on it. Regarding
12 hearings, you know, when I hear hearings, it's the
13 traditional hearings that we used last time where there's
14 a diocese and there's a line, and you wait, and you get
15 two minutes to speak. I feel that with COVID, we get to
16 blow up a lot of our traditional models and think
17 differently.

18 And when I so one of the questions is: Instead of
19 hearings being the main way that we get public comment
20 and testimony I would like to get rid of the word
21 testimony because that is with hearings; it's the
22 testimony so public comments and input from all
23 communities. It seems that we really need to focus on
24 the diversity of tools and partnership on the ground and
25 doing hub, you know, hub meetings, finding out what

1 meetings already exist in the community, and talking
2 about it and showing the tool and telling people other
3 ways that they can participate. And that would still
4 cover the quote, unquote, hearings, but it would be
5 meeting the community where it's at. And so that's one
6 you know, that's just been the thought that we keep kind
7 of playing with, and I wanted to get your feedback on
8 that. Why don't we start with that one, and then I'll go
9 to my second question.

10 MS. GOLD: Fellow panelists, is it okay for me to
11 start?

12 MS. QUACH: Yeah, go ahead, go ahead.

13 MS. GOLD: Okay, great. Yeah, so thank you so much,
14 Commissioner. Yes, I think we do have the opportunity to
15 kind of redesign, reimagine what this whole two-way
16 street process would look like. I think that a couple of
17 things to keep in mind as we're thinking about what these
18 convenings would look like is to really know from the
19 outset: What is the purpose of the convening? Okay, is
20 it an informational convening? Is it a way to provide
21 community members with information about the Commission?
22 Or is it an opportunity to get comments and to get input?
23 So it really you know, first of all, you have to be
24 clear. However you're going to do this, you need to be
25 clear on what is the purpose. Right?

1 Secondly, I think you could consider co-hosting one
2 of these convenings with community partners if that's
3 something that would be permitted in terms of at least
4 it's something to consider and to look into; what kind of
5 relationship you could have with community partners to be
6 part of the convenings.

7 I would say it's very important, as we had
8 mentioned, to have convenings that, even though they're
9 virtual and anybody could participate, that focus on a
10 particular -- that, you know, focus on region or areas in
11 the state because you get a nice synergy. You get, when
12 people are all talking about a particular region or an
13 area, there's a synergy between what the focus of it is
14 and what people comment about.

15 And then, finally, again, just really making sure
16 that there are: one, translation services; and, two, even
17 in a convening of the kind you're talking about, you have
18 to have some sense of who's going to speak at one time,
19 at what time for members of the public. So having a
20 system that, again, members of the public can either have
21 an appointment window or some time where they know
22 they'll be able to speak. So you have to have a
23 combination of the Commission feeling very accessible,
24 but a certain structure, as well, and of course you have
25 to educate the community about what that structure is.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. LIOU: And maybe just to add to that, I think it
3 is really important to identify where the centers of
4 gravity are in the community. And oftentimes I think
5 that partnering in a cohosting aspect would be pretty
6 critical because it is hard. If you throw out that
7 there's just one meeting and to be able to coalesce
8 people all at once, I do think it needs to be broken down
9 into regions and also into smaller, you know, bite-sized
10 aspects in terms of communities.

11 And also considering the way -- you know, if it's an
12 educational approach, starting that way, that they have
13 to be translated and putting them all on the various
14 platforms that we had recommended, so from social media
15 to YouTube. You know, we experienced that even with
16 reopening, you know, with nail salons and recognizing
17 that there's many different methods and multi channels by
18 which to do that, and it won't be just one aspect. So I
19 think appreciate the Commission for thinking about a
20 multi approach for reaching out to the communities,
21 especially because they're so diverse.

22 MS. QUACH: And I would just add that redistricting
23 is a really complex concept, and I think there has to be
24 a lot of work done to explain how it impacts community.
25 Just like with public charge, like, we didn't just put

1 out the postcards and everyone just came up and actually
2 said, oh, I'll participate. There was deep work that was
3 done by the community-based organizations to say how it
4 affects lives so that the comments make sense when they
5 do participate. We know that this has impact on our
6 communities, but if they're left out of the picture and
7 understanding, then what use is it to have all these ways
8 of engaging if they're not sure what it means.

9 And then you're competing with, you know, life and
10 death right now for people around COVID. So we really
11 have to explain. You know, I mean, people even had a
12 hard time with the census. And imagine how much work was
13 done around that. And so I just really would want to
14 make sure that we're working to educate and empower
15 communities before asking them to come and participate in
16 these settings.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee? You're on mute.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: I think Commissioner Kennedy was
19 first.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry.

21 Commissioner Kennedy?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just a question regarding
23 sequencing. I've been saying for quite a while that we
24 need the public education element. And looking at the
25 calendar, you know, what is your sense of how much time

1 we need to devote to public education before we start
2 soliciting input through the Communities of Interest
3 input tool that the statewide database is working on?
4 Thank you.

5 MS. GOLD: Thank you. I would certainly say, at the
6 minimum, a month, just because that, the time invested
7 will enrich the quality of the comments you get.

8 Also, to be very candid, in terms of the focus of
9 the community right now and the focus of the partners
10 with them, you know, basically we just finished census,
11 which went a little bit longer than we expected; just
12 finished voter engagement; the holidays are coming up.
13 You know, we could see maybe some planning going on about
14 some of this education between now and the end of the
15 year and then kind of, you know, going into January with
16 that education effort.

17 And I think for those of us who are going to be
18 working in the community, we are going to be trying to
19 combine both, right, which is to initially talk about the
20 importance of redistricting, educate people about how it
21 affects their daily lives, try to work on some of those
22 concepts, and then at least get people to think about
23 what a community of interest looks like. And then,
24 depending on when the Commission starts to really drill
25 down on, you know, hearing about communities of interest,

1 we would want to be prepared. But for us, at least,
2 we're doing a lot of that work, the planning, between now
3 and the end of the year and hoping to unveil the actual
4 work in January.

5 And by the way, I wanted to go back to the earlier
6 question. The other thing I wanted to mention is that if
7 you have convenings that are regionally specific, it's a
8 nice touch to have a Commissioner who's from that region
9 preside because I think that, again, really shows the
10 community that's one of their members is on the
11 Commission and is having a leadership role in that
12 community area.

13 MS. LIOU: Let me just add, just based on experience
14 when we worked with the city, it actually took us about
15 three months to do the education just with
16 intentionality, the translations, to be able to organize
17 the communities to come, and also to make sure that it
18 was out in ethnic media. I think that we leveraged a lot
19 of those resources to be able to make sure that people
20 even knew about the meeting. So I think similar, when
21 there are these announcements in the meeting, it usually
22 goes through a specific, you know, listserv or a
23 compilation of contacts. But I think that it's worthy to
24 be thinking about how do you expand those contacts and be
25 able to partner with the community-based organizations to

1 expand that universe of connection.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I have Commissioner Yee,
3 Commissioner Ahmad, and Commissioner Sadhwani.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. Thank you to our three
5 presenters. Really helpful and very inspiring, actually.

6 My question has to do with how to overcome distrust
7 of government, people having negative experiences either
8 in their nations of origin or here, actually, now in
9 recent years, and really not even thinking that talking
10 to officials, you know, is a good idea at all. So of
11 course partnering with trusted community organizations
12 and so forth, but any other strategies or approaches that
13 you've found helpful?

14 MS. QUACH: Maybe I can start on this one. I think
15 that the absolute key is working with community-based
16 organizations, with health care providers, and folks that
17 are in contact with the communities. And I just want to
18 give the example that during COVID, you know, we not only
19 were working with our county to start up a community
20 testing site that's in different languages, but now we've
21 been deputized to be contact tracers. Contact tracers
22 are often within the realm of the county. But imagine if
23 you are an immigrant. You know, even if you're not
24 undocumented, you get a call from your government asking
25 you if you've been infected, who you've been in contact

1 with. Those are scary messages.

2 But now, you know, in working with our county,
3 they're deputizing us so that we're taking on this role
4 saying, hey, I'm calling as Asian Health Services. We
5 want to let you know that this I mean, it just changes
6 that messaging. So I don't think the strategy is
7 different, but I think the messenger is really key. So
8 it's not just maybe granting funding to community-based
9 organization; it's really partnering with them. It's
10 really saying, hey, we're in this together and we want to
11 hear from you on what's the best way. And so I really
12 encourage that deep partnership with trusted entities.
13 And we've seen that work throughout, again and again, in
14 so many different areas.

15 MS. GOLD: And you know, I would just want to add,
16 you know, this is very important for many Latino
17 community members who are immigrants from countries where
18 you have very authoritarian regimes, where talking to a
19 government official or talking to a government agency is
20 seen as very intimidating. These kinds of concerns,
21 unfortunately, have been exacerbated by the dialogue
22 about the addition of a citizenship question to the
23 census questionnaire, so we have had to do a lot of
24 education about the Bureau keeping people's information
25 private and confidential.

1 So first of all, I wanted to thank you for raising
2 the issues. I think, you know, for the Latino community,
3 trusted messengers are not only community organizations
4 but you know, for example, we found that, like, teachers,
5 teachers and family members are among the most trusted
6 people that Latinos look for to get information about
7 civic engagement.

8 So I think just in terms of, first of all, helping
9 to make sure, again, that there's good information, there
10 has to be a lot of information from the Commission,
11 right, so that people see the Commission as a trusted
12 place to get good information, combined with, you know,
13 not only working with community-based organizations, but
14 just a whole lot of different partners that are trusted.
15 And you know, as you think about and or as we may work
16 together on something, you know, thinking about how we
17 can also position key family members to help work with
18 their other family members on, you know, getting people
19 to participate.

20 You know, one of the things we've found in research
21 on what are the who are the key messengers to get Latinos
22 to vote is that it's often female family members. And
23 you know, our joke is: If your mother tells you to vote,
24 you will vote. You know, we'd love to think about a way
25 to have your mother tell you to go and testify before the

1 Commission and provide input before the Commission.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Thank you very much.

4 I have Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Sadhwani, and I
5 think I saw Commissioner Vazquez and Commissioner Turner.

6 Okay, so -- all right, Commissioner Ahmad?

7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you so much, Chair. And
8 thank you to our panelists for a wonderful presentation.

9 I don't necessarily have a question, but just a
10 reflection that I would like to share with the group and
11 particularly my colleagues as well. So I language access
12 is something that I'm very passionate about, and I
13 actually ran a test on our current system. So when we
14 went through the application process to actually sit on
15 this Commission, I rolled from my cubicle to my
16 colleague's cubicle, and I said, hey, did you submit your
17 comment yet on my behalf? And if you haven't, would you
18 please submit it in Spanish? And she actually submitted
19 it in Spanish. It took the system approximately two
20 weeks to get me an English translation back into my inbox
21 for review, and that -- at that moment I was like, okay,
22 if I am one of the lucky ones to be chosen to serve on
23 the Commission, we cannot have a two-week delay between
24 someone voicing their perspective on this issue and us
25 actually receiving that information. So I thank you so

1 much for uplifting this very, very important topic in our
2 community engagement processes moving forward. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you for sharing
5 that. That was very helpful to know.

6 Commissioner Sadhwani?

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And thank you to
8 Commissioner Ahmad for that comment. I think that's
9 really helpful to kind of keep in the back of our minds.

10 You know, actually, I have one kind of follow-up
11 question for Rosalind and then my other question. So the
12 first one in terms of follow up was you had mentioned
13 teachers and parents and things. I can imagine that
14 that's going to be very difficult for a statewide
15 commission to reach out to teachers on a localized level.
16 Do you have or family members, especially when we don't
17 necessarily have, you know, the community grounding as
18 organizations would. Do you have recommendations on how
19 to do that? So that's my first, kind of, follow-up
20 question.

21 My broader question, though, is: You know, as I'm
22 thinking about this, you know, and we're talking about
23 different regions and going deep, and I'm hearing this
24 recommendation to spend a lot of time in specific
25 regions, many of these regions have their own

1 redistricting processes as well, and I'm wondering if our
2 panelists have any thoughts about: one, to what extent
3 should we collaborate with those other efforts in light
4 of redistricting being a complicated process, one that
5 there's not a lot of information for? Community members,
6 right, I think a lot of people understanding voting, but
7 redistricting is a little bit more vague. How do we keep
8 it clean, so to speak? Right? Like, how do we ensure
9 that communities are going to understand these
10 overlapping processes and yet there's two different
11 bodies? Any recommendations for how to do that?

12 Because I'm imagining, right, I was listening to San
13 Jose City Council talk about redistricting and their
14 efforts yesterday. I know they're moving forward in Long
15 Beach and Los Angeles and Berkeley and other areas. You
16 know, any recommendations on how we should be thinking
17 about this work to make sure that communities can
18 understand that there's multiple processes and that we
19 would hope that they would be involved on both sides?

20 MS. GOLD: Well, I'd like to start the answer to
21 your first question. Thank you, Commissioner. So
22 really, part of this is what our you know, when the
23 Commission is going to do any kind of communications or,
24 for lack of a better word, marketing of what the
25 Commission does, right, that I think using images, right,

1 that have these trusted you know, that show families,
2 that show other trusted messengers, using those images as
3 part of the information that's presented. Because I
4 think that, really, the idea is to create a face of the
5 Commission that feels very, very accessible and
6 nonintimidating. So that was really part of what I was
7 getting at in that regard.

8 I did want to mention also, in developing that, I
9 want to emphasize our recommendation on having a Language
10 Access Advisory Committee to help with developing any
11 kind of, you know, public-facing marketing or the
12 engagement materials of the Commission.

13 I think, you know, redistricting is just you know,
14 our message is it's how to make sure that your community,
15 you know, has a voice in choosing its leadership, and
16 that is one of the basic messages that we use. I think
17 your idea of trying to collaborate is a very promising
18 one. I think, though, again, we'd have to work out how
19 do you sort of give people general information about
20 redistricting but then give them the specific practical
21 tools to deal with the particular process that's going
22 on, you know, in their city or in their county or in
23 their school district. So I think the idea is promising.
24 It's how do you get that balance of good overall
25 information with information that is specific and not

1 confusing as to what's going on in the localities. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. LIOU: Just to chime in, I think I would agree
4 with that. I think that if there are multiple entities
5 from city to regions that are also doing redistricting
6 efforts, I think it would be good to have clarity around
7 what is that overall input process because if there
8 become multiple processes, people will get confused. So
9 I think that if there's some if the Commission can
10 actually envision what that process would look like and
11 work with those entities to create a streamlined manner
12 which you envision that input, I think it would be so
13 helpful because I think the messaging that goes out needs
14 to be clear to community members. I mean, we're just
15 trying to educate on redistricting itself, which is quite
16 complicated, and then to explain if there's, you know,
17 different sources of input, I guess I think the
18 Commission, you know, should consider some kind of
19 streamlined process and work with the other entities
20 around that. That would be my recommendation.

21 MS. QUACH: And I just wanted to add I agree with
22 that. I have a comment more on the messaging side. So I
23 think over the years of work that we've done and Julia
24 and I in particular have done a lot of different things
25 it really starts with how it affects people's daily

1 lives. We've worked on nail salon issues where, you
2 know, people were being exposed to chemicals. Julia led
3 this amazing process that was around urban planning, but
4 really it was someone one of our patients getting hit and
5 killed and really thinking about development in other
6 areas.

7 I think you have to start there and really explain
8 to people how it affects their lives and be very our
9 communities are very sophisticated. They're very smart.
10 It's how we explain how it affects their lives to catch
11 their attention. So the onus is really on us to explain
12 not the process, but the impact that it may have on them.
13 And I think we need to think about that when we consider
14 messaging.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Vazquez?

16 (No response)

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No, okay. Commissioner Turner

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I don't really have my hand
19 up, but I do want to say I appreciate all three of the
20 presenters. And particularly even to work backwards to
21 the last comment that you made and I'm not going to even
22 try to say your name. I think I forgot it again. Say
23 your name?

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That was Thu, I think.

25 MS. QUACH: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thu. Thu, okay, Thu.
2 Starting with how it affects people's daily lives, start
3 there to catch their attention, I think that's powerful.
4 I appreciate everything that's been shared, but I really
5 appreciate that frame and the intentionality. And I'm
6 familiar with NALEO and you know, and the a lot of the
7 other community groups that are out there that's working
8 for specific groups that have done years and years of
9 analysis and what works and what gets people's attention
10 and down to, you know, if mom tell you to vote, we know
11 for this particular community this will work.

12 And so as we expand and go into other groups as
13 well, I think this one message will carry through no
14 matter who the target audience or population is to ensure
15 that we're starting with what is, what how will this
16 impact your life? I think there's a lot of people in our
17 communities, me being one of them prior to this
18 experience, that did not have a lot of information about
19 redistricting or know why it mattered or why I needed to
20 be involved. And as I now have been involved, as I ask
21 people the question, they're like, well, wait, that,
22 yay -- what is that? You know, why is that important?
23 So I think there's a lot of education that we need to do
24 and with everything else, as I've expressed before,
25 that's going on in our environment, I think it has to

1 start with this is why it's important to you regardless
2 to whatever else is going on. This is the direct line
3 and how it will impact you. So I'll just add by saying
4 thank you for adding that component as well. And thank
5 you for the presentations.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Okay, Commissioner
7 Kennedy, is your hand up or I wasn't sure if your hand's
8 up or if you were just having, resting your hand.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It was going to be. And I
10 wanted to ask Rosalind very specifically. I liked the
11 idea of the cards, the comment cards in various
12 languages, and I just wanted to get Rosalind's thoughts
13 on whether those would be effective in reaching out to
14 the Latino community as well. I had written myself a
15 note a while back, you know, put something like, there
16 are voter registration cards in stands at city halls and
17 libraries and so forth, all of these sorts of comment
18 cards in similar locations around (audio interference) --

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: He hung on for a while there.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. It was pretty quick.

21 Rosalind, did you get enough of his question to --

22 MS. GOLD: Yes, yes.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- get an answer?

24 MS. GOLD: I mean, I think those kind of cards are
25 just one tool, but they have to really be combined with

1 an overall effort that does a couple of other things. So
2 those cards have to basically push people or provide a
3 way for them to get information about redistricting and
4 the redistricting process and about what it is they
5 should be commenting about. Okay?

6 Because, you know, in addition to the message and
7 you know, thank you, Commissioner Turner and my fellow
8 panelists, for bringing up the concept of, you know, the
9 importance of redistricting and how does it affect your
10 daily life. The part of the message that community
11 members need to give in terms of their input is, hey,
12 here's an opportunity to talk about your community, your
13 neighborhood, the people around you, how you want them to
14 be together, right, to translate into decisions that will
15 affect your life. So comment cards really do have to be
16 combined for redistricting with a way to get people to
17 some place where they can get more information about the
18 process and particularly understand, you know, what are
19 the kinds of comments about their neighborhoods,
20 communities of interest. That would be helpful.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, I also I did
22 realize that I think you had a second question, so I
23 apologize. I think I didn't let you finish that. And
24 then I see Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner
25 Turner.

1 So Commissioner Sinay, do you want to

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I was good with
3 just letting just hearing other folks. Now, I have to
4 find my other one.

5 I heard you all say that in the campaign for public
6 charges, the community submitted their comments to the
7 organizations, and then the organizations translated it
8 and submitted it to the federal government because the
9 federal government I think it was the federal government
10 did not have it was all in English. Which way would be
11 the I know what would be easier for the organization, but
12 which way would the community feel was the most
13 trustworthy; going directly to the Commission or going to
14 organizations and having organizations translate it? So
15 where would the point of translation be best for the
16 trust in the community?

17 MS. QUACH: I'm a big believer that there's no wrong
18 door, and so you want to offer all the different ways.
19 In our case, you know, we're providers. I mean, our
20 patients trust our providers and trust our staff, and
21 then we were seeing them, so it's easy to give those
22 postcards. But we also gave out links through QR codes.
23 We made it so that they could participate any way that
24 they felt comfortable because (audio interference) felt
25 really empowered to go online. So really that point

1 about communities being able to have multiple ways of
2 participating is really key to this.

3 The reason why the postcard was something that we
4 worked on was because we were really worried that
5 comments would not just as I think Commissioner Ahmad
6 explained, we could have sent it but it would have been
7 ignored possibly or it would have taken weeks. And so we
8 didn't want to take that chance. And it was a lot more
9 work for our organization that was seeing patients, doing
10 all of this work, but it was important to make that extra
11 step for those who needed it.

12 And we got tons of postcards in every single
13 language possible, from Tagalog to Cantonese, Vietnamese.
14 I mean, I think I interpreted I mean, I translated some
15 of the Vietnamese ones. It was really a lot of effort by
16 staff who are in clinic, willing to volunteer to do that.
17 So it really took the heart and soul of our community to
18 make sure that

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And before we go on to the
20 other individuals, I want to build on that comment. It
21 took a lot of work from your organization and it took a
22 lot of resources. Can you be more overt or share with us
23 what that means, what's the cost to staff, how is that
24 funded, what is it taking you away from? Because there
25 is a zero sum time. And so how, as an organization, do

1 you look to make those decisions? And then I promise to
2 come back to the other two for the translation question.

3 MS. QUACH: It's hard to put a number. I think for
4 us, because we knew the impact of the public charge on
5 our communities, we stepped up and just did it on our
6 own. But I think if you have to cost that out, you know,
7 the planning of the portal that was created cost us, I
8 think, at least 50,000, and it was a very simple portal
9 that we created. And then the staff time, you know,
10 including myself, we probably had a staff of ten that was
11 putting efforts into all of that work for that few
12 months. And that's with the language translation, and
13 that didn't even account for all the other folks who were
14 pushing it out. So it's not a small cost, but it is for
15 a focused period of time.

16 MS. LIOU: And maybe just to add on to that, when we
17 actually did the city urban planning process around
18 developments, we actually also piloted what was an app
19 that was in language that enabled folks to go in their
20 community and really identify where there were places of
21 blight or where they felt like they needed to see
22 development, and so they were able we had to do the
23 training, and we also pushed the folks to you know, in
24 terms of digital divide, we did have to work with many of
25 our patients and community members to input that data,

1 but in some ways it was really great because it was able
2 to collectivize and put it into a database that was
3 accessible and also streamlined. But it did take work
4 because we recognize there are folks who face a digital
5 divide. And so as Thu was saying, we did have to work
6 with them. It was not cards but it ended up being on
7 your phone, so it was very similar. But I do think that
8 the cultural lens of being able to do that and work with
9 different communities, you know, I think that has to also
10 be taken into account as well as we think about the
11 public comment cards or technology.

12 MS. GOLD: And if I could just add, Commissioner, I
13 do think it's important that the Commission have its own
14 translation services. When we work with our community,
15 we did not want to necessarily be the ones that
16 translated their comments from Spanish into English. We
17 really wanted them we spent a lot of time if you talk
18 about the time, it took a fair amount of staff time to
19 educate people about what a community of interest is.

20 And we actually had a nice little Spanish-language
21 form that said, you know, answer these questions, and
22 this is going to be your testimony about your community
23 of interest. And that form was in Spanish and guided
24 people to write in Spanish. But I think the ability, if
25 we're going to have robust comment, for us to translate

1 is going to be very challenging. And again, when it
2 comes to the question of who should translate for the
3 Commission, again, I think that's why having a Language
4 Access Advisory Committee would be very, very helpful in
5 determining how the Commission should approach both
6 written translation and audio translation as well.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much.

8 Commissioner Fernandez, I have you next.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I did have some questions
10 but actually, I think everybody else just -- again,
11 Rosalind, thank you so much. And I agree with all three
12 of you that education is going to be the focus, because I
13 think once we do that part I don't want to say the rest
14 is simple, but at least they're aware of it and at that
15 point in time they choose to participate or not.

16 I did have a question or just a comment for Director
17 Claypool. I don't know if the presentation that Thu and
18 Julia gave, if that's online? And if not, if we can make
19 sure that we post that, please, because that was actually
20 very good information that I'd like to have for the
21 future.

22 And Thu and Julia, you kind of answered this, but I
23 was actually very curious as to how long you talked about
24 the urban planning effort and also the One Nation
25 coalition, I think it was. Oh, no, the Help City with

1 Urban. And I was just curious as to how long those two
2 processes were. And you answered it kind of with
3 Commissioner Sinay's question because, you know, we're
4 talking about the education piece and how long that
5 should be, and I'm thinking that might be a longer piece
6 or longer time frame than we initially thought.

7 MS. LIOU: I can answer in terms of the urban
8 planning effort. You know, it was in phases. And so
9 when we first started out, as I mentioned, it did take
10 time to partner with the city in really making sure that
11 the content of what we were trying to educate folks of
12 what this process is about and why it's important. That
13 took a couple of months. And then being able to push it
14 out so I think that in totality of being able to gather
15 the initial input and do, sort of, the community town
16 halls which I know would all have to be virtual, it took
17 probably over a two- to three-year period. And then we
18 did it in phases as well. So it was a long process, but
19 I think in some ways that it was very important because
20 we were able to engage our community members into the
21 process, and in that way it empowered them and they
22 understood and they felt that they could really elevate
23 their voice and feel that they could shape the process.
24 So it did take time for us. But I think public charge
25 maybe, too, can speak to that.

1 MS. QUACH: Yeah, public charge was interesting in
2 that we knew it was coming out and it was just, like,
3 every day watching to see when that rule change process
4 begun. But as a federal rule, they were required to give
5 us 60 days, and so as soon as it started we were hitting
6 the ground because we needed to see the specifics of what
7 was being released, but we had gotten everything
8 prepared. So by that time we had our portals ready to
9 go. So you know, if you add on an extra month from
10 there, you know, we were really looking at a three-month
11 process. And so communities can work within the confines
12 of what's restricted, but I think organizing ahead is
13 always helpful.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much.

15 Okay, Commissioner Turner and then back to
16 Commissioner Sinay. No, okay. Commissioner Sinay?

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So on this messaging and kind
18 of the public education, I know last time the Commission
19 did not have time to do a lot of that work, and they
20 really depended on the community groups. And I even read
21 comments where they used our material, you know, and they
22 were very excited. This time we have a little bit more
23 time. And how do we what recommendations are there to
24 actually create a cohesive message so that there isn't
25 the community's got a message out and the Commission has

1 a message out? Or does it not matter if there isn't a
2 cohesive message? Just as we're thinking about the
3 public education, this time it's different because the
4 Commission's thinking of doing public education, and the
5 community groups are as well. So how does that look like
6 or what could it look like, I should say?

7 MS. GOLD: Well, first of all, again, there really
8 should be I think the Commission has a role to have some
9 kind of basic message about the importance of
10 redistricting and some basic message about participation.
11 Right? And there should be this was something we
12 struggled with a little bit during the census. There
13 were a lot of different census campaigns, and so we
14 really wanted to make sure we were coordinated. I would
15 certainly say there should be good coordination between
16 the Commission. If the Commission brings on any
17 contractors or as you're hiring staff, it needs to be
18 contractors or staff who get input and know how to
19 coordinate with the community.

20 And then I just did want to talk a little bit go
21 back to the timing issue. I know this is a little
22 premature, but I thought I would get us thinking about
23 it. I suggest we think about it now. There is
24 uncertainty about when the redistricting data is going to
25 be delivered to the commission. If the redistricting

1 data is delivered at the current statutory deadline which
2 is, you know, by the end of March, right, we would hope
3 that the Commission would still look at extending the
4 deadline, keeping the deadline extended for the
5 redistricting process to later than August 15th.

6 Because, you know, we've talked about all of the
7 things that it's going to take to educate the public, to
8 get the public mobilized, and we're not going to, again,
9 I think, really be able to get the public attention and
10 engagement until the beginning of next year. And that
11 really compresses the maps have to be finalized by August
12 15th. That really compresses the outreach, education,
13 and input process. So I wanted to add that as something
14 the Commission should be thinking about and what kind of
15 flexibility is there in the Supreme Court declaration
16 regarding the potential extension of the deadlines.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Ms. Gold, can I just follow up?
18 You had said that it's really important for the
19 Commission to get the input from the community. But what
20 about vice versa? As the community groups are creating
21 their material, will they also be sharing it with the
22 Commission staff or the Commission so that we can have
23 input as well?

24 MS. GOLD: So I think, you know, that's something
25 that's a great question. It's something to think about

1 because, again, I'm going to be candid: I don't have an
2 answer about exactly how that process would work.
3 Certainly during census it was much more of a sharing and
4 coordination, and there were actual regional workshops
5 held where representatives of the Census Bureau,
6 representatives of the state of California's campaign,
7 representatives of L.A. County's campaign would all get
8 together to talk about those issues. We may not have the
9 time to do that in as much of a robust way so, you know,
10 I don't have an immediate answer about what that would
11 look like, whether it would be, you know, mutual input or
12 coordination. So you know, yes, let us do some thinking
13 about that.

14 MS. LIOU: And I can share a lesson just with our
15 local, sort of, tax commission of what we have been doing
16 is that we actually contracted a communications
17 consultant that was you know, we selected on the basis of
18 looking to see the experience within various communities
19 and being able to look through a cultural linguistic
20 lens, but that that actual consultant was able to conduct
21 focus groups, key focus groups, so that you could hone in
22 on a particular message because I think a unified message
23 and that's practically a marketing campaign, right, that
24 you really want people to understand what you're trying
25 to get at. And so I think I would encourage this

1 Commission to also think about how you can enlist those
2 type of focus groups into the messaging, because I think
3 it does need to be a unified approach. Otherwise, it can
4 get confusing. And then move from there.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm just looking to see if any
6 other comments, questions and -- okay.

7 Commissioner Sinay?

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I would just like to remind all
9 my fellow commissioners that we do have a nice form that
10 we created for you, a matrix that you can fill out after
11 this panel to kind of put your thoughts in an organized
12 way so that you can share it later when we have other
13 meetings. So it's great to take notes, but we did create
14 a matrix so that you all can take information like this
15 and start processing it. Thank you.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Actually, I know we
17 have about four minutes, and maybe in that four minutes I
18 can just quickly ask one question. One of the things
19 that struck me is, Rosalind, I heard you say that the
20 Commission should have its own translators. I believe
21 that we're looking at how do we ensure that all of our
22 outreach tools and other public comment modalities, I
23 guess, will be available in various languages. I do have
24 a question, though. I mean, I'm thinking about obviously
25 we cannot cover every single various languages that exist

1 here in the state of California, and that includes both
2 the particularly, I'm thinking about, like, some of the
3 indigenous languages in the Latino community and then I'm
4 thinking about the very multitudes of not only languages
5 but dialects in the Asian community as well, too. And
6 that's just these two communities. I mean, there are a
7 number of other communities, too, I think, we maybe need
8 to consider.

9 And so on the one hand it's like, you know, do we
10 ignore them because they're too small? You know, what
11 are some of your thoughts on how best we can also ensure
12 that some of those communities where they have where the
13 languages are where the populations are so small and the
14 languages are not prevalent enough that we cannot, in all
15 practicality, offer up a translated version of it. What
16 would be your suggestions and how do we help reach those
17 groups? And I have a feeling I know what you're going to
18 say, but I think I just wanted to ask it.

19 MS. QUACH: Yeah, I can start with the (audio
20 interference) for us, which is with COVID. You know, we
21 are seeing really high rates in the Latinx community.
22 And they're working with La Clinica in Alameda. But they
23 realized that the mountain community was really having
24 really high rates. And that's where you just don't deal
25 with translation. You've got to go in and I think,

1 Linda, you know my (audio interference) working with the
2 community organization that was already there. And so
3 you build off not just around translation but really the
4 deep roots that are existing.

5 Because you're not just contracting out on a
6 translation or interpretation; you're really going in and
7 using the existing infrastructure of these community
8 organizations to gather that input. And so in that case,
9 you know, I sit on the task force for COVID in the city
10 and the county, and knowing the street level went in
11 there because they already worked these workers that were
12 moving around and understanding what was happening. So
13 really working through them and getting the feedback, the
14 rich feedback, that wasn't just translation and such.
15 But really understanding what was going on and that so
16 they couldn't get testing. Many didn't want to get
17 testing. I think we have to really be creative and not
18 just go with sort of a translation approach but really
19 building on what's already there. A lot is happening
20 around COVID testing, around food distribution and going
21 to those venues and trying to gather feedback rather than
22 kind of just setting out. And I don't think it should be
23 on the Commission but if you partner and I use the word
24 "partner" intentionally you can do a lot of that.

25 MS. GOLD: I would just want to add that in the

1 letter that we worked with and sent with the district in
2 California and Alliance members, we do have very specific
3 recommendations on which languages and using demographic
4 information about limited English proficiency populations
5 about what kind of translations we feel are just very
6 critical. And so I would refer you to that letter for
7 that particular set of recommendations.

8 And I would just echo the comments about if there is
9 a group that is really, really small and it may be
10 difficult to get translation services from the
11 Commission, the overall working through networks and
12 working and just the fact that you're mindful of it. I
13 think that's just wonderful that this is something that's
14 already on the Commission's radar, being very mindful
15 about the fact that these communities are out there.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. So it just definitely
17 sounds like there are and I think this was recommended,
18 too, is there are going to need to be different ways to
19 reach out to some of these groups that just media even
20 the technology may not be enough. It may mean and even
21 working with the CBOs or the community-based
22 organizations, what I'm hearing is that even in this time
23 of COVID we may need to make some decisions about
24 strategic locations where we're just going to have to
25 make some personal in-person visits to hold these

1 hearings is also part of what I'm hearing as your
2 recommendations. Okay, I do appreciate it.

3 Any last questions, comments by anybody?

4 MS. LIOU: Linda, I would just say, like, I think
5 that I really appreciate the Commission for really
6 broadening and thinking about this with intentionality,
7 because I think it is going to take a multi-tiered
8 approach. It's not going to be a one size fits all. So
9 I just want to appreciate all the commissioners for this
10 opportunity to really be a thought partner and also to
11 partner on future aspects as well.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, definitely. And we
13 appreciate that all three of you came in, as Commissioner
14 Fernandez had said at, you know, a pretty last-minute
15 timing. And this was something that you know, we have to
16 create these agendas in advance and just kind of trying
17 to figure out what it's going to look like, what it's
18 going to be. You know, it just started coming together a
19 little bit later.

20 So Rosalind, I also want to just ask you: Do you
21 have any last words that you want to share? And Thu,
22 also I'll go to you afterwards to see if any last words
23 you might have before we just wrap this up.

24 MS. GOLD: Again, I just want to echo our
25 appreciation for you thinking about this issue and

1 thinking about it early. I also hope that this is just
2 the beginning of the Commission's dialogue, that there
3 are a lot of other communities that may have similar
4 needs. But to really get the sense of the true diversity
5 of language minority communities in the state, I hope you
6 will continue the dialogue with groups that are familiar
7 and trusted messengers. And thank you so much for this
8 opportunity to help to make our democracy stronger.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thu?

10 MS. QUACH: I would just echo in that appreciation.
11 I feel like we've come a long ways and yet we haven't.
12 Some of the issues that we face still continue. But it
13 feels nice speaking from the Asian-American community.
14 And I'm glad you're having a separate one with the Native
15 and Pacific Islander communities, that we're not an
16 afterthought to this, that you're bringing us on early to
17 have this discussion, because oftentimes this theme of
18 invisibility has really come through decades and decades
19 after, and so I'm really grateful that we were invited to
20 the table early on. Thank you.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, thank you, and thank you all
22 for engaging in this really fascinating and very helpful
23 discussion. And so with that, I am going to call an end
24 to this.

25 And what we'll do is Commissioners, thank you very

1 much. For the Commissioners, let's go ahead, we'll take
2 a fifteen-minute break, and then what we'll do is we'll
3 reconvene back in closed session.

4 And for those who have been watching on the
5 livestream, our hope is that we will return from closed
6 session after lunch, which will be roughly around 1:30 in
7 the afternoon.

8 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:04 a.m.
9 until 1:37 p.m.)

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Good afternoon. Welcome back,
11 everybody. Hope you had a nice lunch. We are back from
12 closed session and we may possibly do one more closed
13 session, so we will report out on all of the results of
14 closed session tomorrow. So sticking to the agenda, we
15 are going to now go on to agenda item number 5, the
16 executive director report.

17 Director Claypool?

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Thank you, Chair.

19 First of all, there is just an announcement that I
20 need to make. The day before yesterday I intended to
21 bring this up yesterday but their -- Misha (ph.) from
22 Ogilvie (ph.) called over and a nonprofit organization in
23 New Mexico called New Mexico First has asked for a
24 representative or representatives from this Commission to
25 discuss redistricting rules and processes and engagement

1 and transparency.

2 So I know that, obviously, this is a topic of great
3 interest for this Commission, but we do need to make a
4 decision today about who would like to participate in
5 that conversation if the Commission decides they would
6 like to have someone participate in that workshop. It
7 would be on November 11th or, I'm sorry, November 9th,
8 from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and they're looking for a speaker on
9 the engagement and transparency issues and how they were
10 handled in California obviously how we intend to handle
11 them at this point. I don't know if you want to go
12 through this or to think about it, and then when I'm
13 finished we can have a discussion about it. But I just
14 wanted to make sure that it was out there so everybody
15 knew that we needed to have someone back to Misha today
16 in order for us to have a participant in that.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Claypool, I apologize; I
18 was just reminded that we do take public comment after
19 lunch, so my apologies. So I think that may give
20 everyone a chance to think about what you just announced.

21 And in the meantime, let's go ahead and, Jesse, I
22 think we're going to go to public comment, and then when
23 we come back out of public comment, then perhaps you
24 could resume, then, your executive director Report and
25 get an answer to that particular question.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Jesse, welcome back.
2 Thanks for joining us again. And would you please read
3 off the instructions to make public comment, and we'll
4 start with public comment.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
6 transparency and public participation in our process, the
7 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To
8 call, dial in the telephone number provided on the
9 livestream feed. The telephone number is (877) 853-5247.
10 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on
11 the livestream feed. It is 985twelve592479 for this
12 week's meeting.

13 When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
14 press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will be placed
15 in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting
16 callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an
17 automated message to press star 9. Please do this to
18 raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. When it
19 is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you, and
20 you will hear an automated message that says: The host
21 would like you to talk and press star 6 to speak. Please
22 make sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to
23 prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.
24 Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it
25 is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the



1 livestream volume. These instructions are also located
2 on the website.

3 The Commission is taking public comment at this
4 time.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: We'll wait a minute or so to let
6 the livestream catch up. Hopefully if anybody does have
7 comments that they want to make, we encourage them to
8 please queue up.

9 Director Claypool, while we allow time for anybody
10 I think we do have somebody. Okay.

11 Jesse, do we have someone in queue, or am I just
12 imagining?

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do, Chair. I'm
14 waiting for them to unmute themselves.

15 Good afternoon, caller. Could you please state and
16 spell your name for the record, please?

17 MS. MARKS: Hi. Can you hear me?

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

19 MS. MARKS: Yes, great. Hi, my name is Julia Marks
20 and I'm calling from Asian Americans Advancing Justice,
21 Asian Law Caucus. And I just wanted to give some brief
22 comment regarding the wonderful presentations and
23 discussion this morning about language access.

24 First, I wanted to say thank you to the Commission
25 for giving so much attention and care to language access

1 and to both Asian Health Services and NALEO for their
2 great presentations.

3 Our organization has worked on language access in
4 the context of voting and census outreach and education,
5 and I just wanted to confirm how much today's
6 presentations represented many of the key lessons that
7 we've seen in our work, too. We wholeheartedly support
8 the recommendations from both of our sets of speakers
9 this morning and really appreciate their expertise in
10 providing language access and mobilizing and engaging
11 communities across different language groups.

12 I also wanted to affirm and uplift that your
13 translation plans, if possible, should go beyond the top
14 twelve language groups in California. As our speakers
15 earlier noted, there are so many different languages
16 spoken in California: indigenous languages, African
17 languages, and a vast array of Asian and Pacific Islander
18 languages. I'm glad that you'll have additional speakers
19 next week addressing some of those other language groups.

20 In today's conversation this morning someone posed a
21 question about how to meet the needs of language groups
22 recognizing that you may not be able to translate and
23 interpret all of your content for every language in the
24 state. And I just wanted to say we encourage you to,
25 yes, do all that you can, but then if there are languages

1 where you aren't able to translate the majority of your
2 outreach material, think about translating some subset
3 for additional languages beyond whatever top set of
4 languages you're focused on. In the state census work,
5 there is a heavy focus on the top twelve languages, which
6 was great for those communities, but it meant in some
7 cases the smaller language groups got left behind.

8 And when thinking about smaller language groups,
9 it's also helpful to think about what proportion of
10 speakers of those languages are limited English
11 proficient. So for example, there aren't that many
12 people in California who speak Mongolian, but there's
13 still thousands of people in California who speak
14 Mongolian. And of those Mongolian speakers, about sixty
15 percent are limited English proficient. So ideally, it's
16 looking not just at absolute numbers for a given
17 language, but also whether those folks have high rates of
18 LEP status.

19 And in our census work, as folks mentioned this
20 morning, it was really essential to have partnerships
21 with community-based organizations. One challenge we saw
22 with census is that the online tool that people were sent
23 to, to respond to the census, was only available in
24 twelve languages. And so when people who do not speak
25 those twelve languages and do not speak English were

1 trying to fill out the census form online, they had huge,
2 huge challenges to do so. So we would encourage you to
3 be very expansive with the COI tool so that community-
4 based orgs who are doing language outreach and in
5 language workshops can send people to an acceptable and
6 usable tool for them as well.

7 So those are our reflections. We're happy to be a
8 resource to you as well as you continue to think through
9 this. And as Thu from Asian Health Services said, I
10 liked her idea that there's no wrong door, so if we can
11 provide language access through the COI tool or through
12 radio ads for folks with limited literacy, or through
13 social media, or through fact sheets, as many options as
14 possible should be pursued. Thank you.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Ms. Marks.

16 Jesse, next public comment?

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. I'm waiting
18 for them to unmute themselves.

19 Callers, if you could press star 6 to unmute
20 yourselves?

21 Could you please state

22 MR. ICHINOSE: Hi, my name is

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead. Sorry.

24 MR. ICHINOSE: My name is Dan Ichinose. Last name
25 is spelled I-c-h-i-n-o-s-e. And I'm research director of

1 the Orange County Civic Engagement Table or OCCET, which
2 is spelled O-C-C-E-T. OCCET's a multiracial civic
3 engagement alliance with seven local partners that will
4 be helping to lead countywide community engagement
5 efforts around redistricting next year. This will be my
6 third statewide redistricting process, and I want to
7 applaud the Commission for its interest in taking
8 unprecedented steps to provide language access.

9 To that point, I'd like to reiterate concerns that
10 the languages in which the Commission engages with the
11 public move beyond the twelve languages most commonly
12 spoken statewide. Given our state's diversity, we know
13 that counties will have specific needs. For example, in
14 Orange County, the top twelve languages spoken include
15 Hindi and Ilocano. Among those who are limited English
16 proficient countywide there are nearly 3,000 LEP Ilocano
17 speakers and 2,300 LEP Hindi speakers compared to only
18 576 LEP Armenian speakers, for example.

19 Moving beyond the twelve languages will also help
20 engage smaller communities that would otherwise be left
21 out of the process. For example, about twenty-eight
22 percent of those speaking African languages at home
23 countywide are limited English proficient. So I just
24 wanted to underscore a comment that the Asian Law Caucus
25 made about the importance of moving beyond the twelve

1 languages.

2 So thanks so much for the opportunity to comment,
3 and we look forward to working with you throughout this
4 process. Thanks so much.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for your comment.

6 MS. BANH: Hi, this is can you hear me?

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Please state your
8 name and spell it for the record, please.

9 MS. BANH: Yes, my name is it's pronounced Tho Vinh
10 Banh. It's spelled T-h-o capital V-i-n-h capital B-a-n-
11 h.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

13 MS. BANH: Okay, great. Thank you so much. So my
14 name is Tho Vinh Banh, and I'm calling from Disability
15 Rights California. I want to thank Rosalind of NALEO for
16 doing such a great presentation this morning. And I know
17 that one of the piece that she mentioned is disability
18 access. Disability Rights California, we stand ready to
19 provide input, provide resources and, importantly,
20 provide partnerships and entities that can help the
21 Commissioner as you move along in this process to ensure
22 that this process is entirely accessible for people with
23 disabilities.

24 One piece of language that I think is often not
25 thought about includes language for individuals who are

1 deaf. So I see that as the Commissioners you guys are
2 doing a wonderful job of providing ASL interpreters, and
3 I see that. I want to just give a heads-up that there
4 are other languages besides ASL. There are Chinese sign
5 languages, there are Japanese sign languages, there's LSM
6 which is the Mexican sign languages. So on top of the
7 language piece to factor in for those who are deaf who
8 may need signs in other than ASL. So I applaud the
9 Commissioners and this Commission for providing ASL built
10 in that's wonderful and to think through other language
11 groups. And in combination of that, accessibility for
12 people with disabilities is going to be an important
13 factor.

14 And I was a Commissioner on the California Committee
15 on the Census, and in 2010 I don't sense that there were
16 a lot of outreach and a lot of thought around disability
17 communities, but in 2020 they did a wonderful job. So I
18 know the Commissioner is pressed for time, resources,
19 money, so if there's anything that you can do to offset
20 having to start from scratch is to learn from the census
21 staffers themselves. They've created a nice
22 infrastructure around outreaches to all of the groups
23 that probably this Commissioner is interested in reaching
24 out as well, so I think it would be good to actually
25 learn from them and learn from the processes and the

1 infrastructures they've already built up so that you
2 wouldn't have to repeat it with the limited resources you
3 may have.

4 So Disability Rights California again, my name is
5 Tho Vinh Banh, spelled T-h-o, V-i-n-h, B-a-n-h stand at
6 the ready to help in whatever ways we can, and we applaud
7 all that you're doing and continue to do the wonderful
8 work that you're doing for the citizens of California.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Will you just stay on just a
10 moment? There is a question for you, it looks like, from
11 Commissioner Fernandez.

12 MS. BANH: Sure.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Are you still there? Okay,
14 great. Because, actually, this is perfect timing because
15 I'm part of the Language Access Subcommittee, and I was
16 looking for a contact. So do you mind if I reach out to
17 you in the next few days?

18 MS. BANH: Oh, I would love that. Yes, please.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great.

20 MS. BANH: Do you need my uh-huh.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Would you mind going
22 on our website and giving me your contact information?
23 That would be great.

24 MS. BANH: Okay. So I go to the website and look
25 for your email is what I'm doing?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It should be on there. I'm
2 hoping it is. If not, it's Alicia.Fernandez@crc.ca.gov.

3 MS. BANH: crc. --

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Or you can also email the staff
5 and they'll forward it to her.

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, right.

7 MS. BANH: Okay. And just for let me spell my let
8 me give you my email as well --

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Actually, please do not. Please
10 don't do it publicly. So --

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- I think it's

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We'll make contact.

14 MS. BANH: Okay, no worries. I will reach out to
15 you, Alicia Fernandez.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

17 MS. BANH: I will look for your email and I look
18 forward to the connection. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you so much.

20 MS. BANH: Not a problem.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, that concludes all
23 public comment at this time.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. All right, thank you
25 very much. Thank you, Jesse.

1 All right, so Director Claypool, let's return to you
2 and your report. I do see that we've been joined by the
3 I think we now have all of our commissioners with us, so
4 if you can, perhaps you can just briefly repeat the
5 invitation request.

6 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Certainly. So a group called
7 New Mexico First has a redistricting task force with a
8 goal of developing recommendations to present to the New
9 Mexico legislature on redistricting rules and process.
10 They're having a meeting on November 9th, at 2:30 to 5
11 p.m., and they would like a speaker from this Commission
12 on public engagement and transparency issues and how this
13 is being handled in California. And this came from
14 Misha, from the Ogilvie, and she was hoping to get a
15 response today so that she can submit it well, she's
16 still under contract but submit it to New Mexico for us.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari and
18 Commissioner Yee.

19 Commissioner Fornaciari?

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes. So I had been on the
21 email chain since I was the vice chair for this meeting,
22 and I had expressed an interest in participating since I
23 work for a company that was headquartered in Albuquerque,
24 New Mexico, and I spend a lot of time down there. But I
25 thought that since, you know, their questions are really

1 about outreach that maybe if someone from the Outreach
2 Committee might be interested in joining too, but I don't
3 have to be on it. I just I'm interested so

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you, Commissioner
5 Fornaciari.

6 Commissioner Yee and then Commissioner Sinay?

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm also interested but don't
8 have the deep connections in New Mexico and I'm not on
9 the Outreach Committee, but I am interested.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Are their questions really
12 about outreach or transparency?

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It says public engagement slash
14 transparency issues.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I could do it. I've
16 looked at my calendar. I am open if that makes sense for
17 me to be involved.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Claypool, so would it be
19 do you know if two commissioners would be appropriate or
20 acceptable to them?

21 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It only says they're looking for
22 a speaker. It didn't say they were looking for multiple.
23 I would think it would be acceptable for two. I don't
24 know. Probably not fourteen. So we have to make a
25 decision.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Neal, why don't you go and we can
2 just brief you if you need some briefing?

3 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I mean, I think I
4 probably have enough of an understanding to answer the
5 questions right now, but I thought you guys have just
6 been thinking about it more deeply. But maybe we can
7 just have a brief chat before the call and I can come up
8 to speed a little bit better.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Yee, are you
10 okay with that?

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: That's fine. And if you had more
12 than one, they should be of two different parties anyway
13 so

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Probably, okay. That's a good
15 point.

16 So Director Claypool, looks like you have your
17 volunteer speaker.

18 Everybody is looking and they're pointing in
19 different ways and I'm like, wait a minute. Commissioner
20 Sadhwani is in the middle of my screen and I'm seeing
21 people go this way.

22 Commissioner Sadhwani?

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I just wanted to
24 chime in. I do not need to do this, and I'm happy that
25 Commissioner Fornaciari and Commissioner Sinay are going

1 to do it. But just in listening to the conversation
2 yesterday by the San Jose City Council, this was the
3 exact issue that they were dealing with was around
4 transparency and community engagement. And I think that
5 I don't know what New Mexico's questions are, but my
6 sense is that there's a question about, like, to what
7 extent can commissioners talk to or engage with community
8 groups and still be transparent. Right?

9 So for example, like our subcommittees we have
10 decided it's okay if our subcommittees go out and talk to
11 different groups and then we come and report back or
12 we're doing it for training purposes and not for actual
13 line drawing purposes. So my sense is, like, the ability
14 to just talk about the differences there and our
15 constraints under Bagley-Keene or the Brown Act would
16 probably be really helpful in those kinds of
17 conversations. But that's just kind of after listening
18 to the conversation last night from the city of San Jose.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari, did you
20 have something you wanted to say? Okay.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: You're welcome to join, too.
22 I mean, that's fine. No, okay. Okay, thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I can, but I think
24 that the two of you will be just fine.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It does sound like it might just

1 be helpful to perhaps get maybe some suggestions and
2 comments from Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner
3 Sinay. And I would also encourage also perhaps from
4 Marian in terms of the questions that Commissioner
5 Sadhwani just brought up about transparency and how much
6 we can be transparent and still engaged. I think that
7 that's really a great question, especially under the
8 rules of Bagley-Keene.

9 I'm just going to make sure I'm not missing anybody
10 else.

11 Director Claypool, I'm turning this back to you to
12 complete your report.

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Thank you. So I sent all of you
14 five documents, and you should have received them, and
15 there was also some statements about why I wanted you to
16 take a look at them. The first thing I'd like to talk to
17 you about is your budget. The first document I'd like
18 you to look at is the budget document by categories.
19 It's something that you've already seen. I only want to
20 touch on three things with it so that we can be clear as
21 to what's going on here.

22 The first one is the state auditor's budget of \$5.2
23 million. I want it to be very clear there had been a
24 discussion as to whether some of that money would flow
25 back to the Commission. It will not. If there is any

1 money left in that fund, it will revert back to the
2 general fund. The reason for this is because this amount
3 was predicated on what they spent last time, and the
4 state auditor will go ahead and put together a document
5 saying how much they spent this time, and it will be the
6 budget for the 2030 selection effort. They continue to
7 spend on your behalf. They're still spending somewhat
8 for your videography services, and we're still getting
9 the last of our supplies and so forth. But I just didn't
10 want anyone to think that some portion of that money
11 would revert. It's not the way it's going to work.

12 The next sum of money I'd like you to look at is
13 actually, as we go down the detail, the 1.313 million is
14 your operational budget. It's for all your staff
15 salaries, it's all your TECs. All of your money is going
16 to come out of that for our basic operations.

17 After that, you have your 2,065,000. This is
18 outreach. This is money, as I've been told, can be used
19 for grants as well as for the expense of reaching out to
20 individuals. And this can be augmented, but we would
21 have to give them an explanation for why we're having the
22 augmentation.

23 The next one is your legal fund. It's basically
24 held and reserved for any defense of the maps that you
25 may have, and this money was determined by what we spent

1 in 2010 for all legal services before the Commission
2 turned over the final case which was I'm trying to
3 remember.

4 Who was the final case, Marian?

5 Connerly. I'm sorry. The Connerly case went to the
6 Department of Justice so that the Commission, the 2010
7 Commission could be kind of sent into dormancy, if you
8 will.

9 The next one says available and there's 3,936,000.
10 This is the money that was never put in any category.
11 It's uncategorized money. As we make a determination as
12 to what you're going to do and how you're going to do it,
13 then we'll make requests for this money to cover those
14 costs. Best example would be your data mining. So it
15 was never done before in the past, and so when you
16 establish a contract we will go to the Department of
17 Finance and ask for a q release to encumber the amount
18 of that contract out of that money. Hopefully it will be
19 less than 3,900,000. But these are the funds that are in
20 reserve.

21 When these funds are used, once we have allocated
22 them and we've said, okay, this is the amount of our
23 effort across through the maps, I anticipate that we will
24 be over the amount that you have been given. At that
25 point, once we know those amounts, we will go into what

1 they call spring revision. And in spring revision we
2 will ask for the legislature to revise our budget and to
3 consider that we have these additional costs and to
4 expand your budget to cover them. They may or may not do
5 that. We're just going to say these are going to be our
6 expenses. If they don't do that, then we will have a
7 deficit in the following year, and we will have to go to
8 a deficit hearing and they will appropriate funds for the
9 deficit in a different manner. And I had talked to you
10 about that when I interviewed with you. But we're past
11 the budget change proposal process. That was two months
12 ago it started, and so we are now looking at the spring
13 revision. There's every reason to believe that they will
14 look at your budget and grant some or all of the amount
15 that you asked for. But there are no guarantees in that
16 process, but I wanted to tell you: anticipate we'll go
17 over and that's how we will handle it.

18 The final number is I bring it up briefly. If you
19 look down, there's a line item that says Fiscal Year
20 2019-20 Expenditures, and it says minus 69,000. Okay,
21 this money is a continual appropriation to this
22 Commission every single year. And after you move through
23 and after June 30th, 2022, that will be your only source
24 of income for your operations. It will be in a line item
25 called 0730. That's the money that we need to start

1 planning for next year in a budget change proposal to get
2 it increased for you so you have an increased amount of
3 funding when you go into what I call dormancy. So I just
4 want you to be aware that there are three different
5 funding sources, and we have to keep our eye on all three
6 of them, and I will.

7 So if there are no questions about this part, then
8 I'd like to just move into your budget.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen,
10 Commissioner Sadhwani.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I do have a
12 question. If your revision, what's the date you have to
13 ask that by?

14 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I'm working with the Department
15 of Finance on that. We have to start it now. Because
16 it's kind of a moving target, I can't tell you when the
17 spring revision will actually occur. I can just tell you
18 that it is in the spring and we have time to move for it.
19 And I'm also, at the same time, in a conversation with
20 the Department of Finance about how we get the release of
21 these funds as soon as we know how to get them. So I'll
22 have more information next time, but we are well ahead of
23 the spring revision as opposed to being behind on the
24 budget change proposal.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And second question: Do you

1 have a time frame for when we go to ask that we actually
2 get?

3 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yes. We'll know before June
4 thirty of this year, clearly, because that's when there's
5 actually a process called May revise. We'll know by May
6 and during that revision period what our expansion is
7 going to be. I would anticipate that the actual spring
8 revision will occur in February or March our submission
9 and then the negotiation.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sadhwani and then
12 Commissioner Yee.

13 And I'm sorry, I just need to step away.
14 Commissioner Fornaciari, can you take over?

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Sadhwani and
16 then Yee.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Director
18 Claypool, I just wanted to get a little clarity. So when
19 Commissioner Andersen and I have had some initial
20 conversations with line drawers, multiple people have
21 told us that they would expect that this cost for that
22 service here in a state as large as California would run
23 2 to \$3 million perhaps. Just for clarity, would we
24 expect that that comes out of that 5 million that's
25 allocated to the state auditor? If not, if it's

1 operational costs, then we certainly wouldn't have the
2 funds to cover that.

3 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So for clarity, the state
4 auditor's funds will never be available and, in fact,
5 they've been expended. So that bucket is gone. Those
6 funds would come out of that group that's called
7 available. Those aren't operational funds that you're
8 talking about for the line drawer. Those are actually
9 contract funds. So that 3,936,000 is going to be the
10 bucket that we pull out of for our data mining, it's
11 going to be the bucket we pull out for the line drawer,
12 for all over our services, and that bucket will go dry
13 very quickly as we encumber those funds.

14 The thing to keep in mind is that this budget was
15 never built to handle your process. This budget was
16 built off the last process. And 2030 will be built off
17 of whatever you spend this time. We just have to figure
18 out what we want to do, figure out what the cost is, and
19 then in the spring revision say: This is what the cost
20 is; we need to revise our budget and it needs to expand
21 to match this operation. And that's the negotiation.

22 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Got it. Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. Thank you, Dr. Claypool.

25 I appreciate the deep and detailed grasp of these numbers

1 and what's behind them. Concerning the additional monies
2 you expect to request, I think you've mentioned before
3 mostly that's for additional outreach work you expect us
4 to do that the previous Commission did not. Is that most
5 of it? Or is there other things you have in mind that
6 will drive that additional need?

7 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So our operational costs are
8 going to be higher because you're hiring more staff than
9 the last Commission did, and you have a bigger operation
10 because we've taken on this commitment to have better
11 engagement, better outreach, better education. And so
12 some of those funds are going to be a request for
13 additional operational funds. Some of those funds are
14 going to be for additional funds in that category that
15 just says available where we start cutting our contracts
16 out of it and paying for them, encumbering those funds.
17 When we get to litigation, that some 4,297,000, they may
18 allow us to use a portion of it for operational costs if
19 we're running low at that point. They may allow it
20 because it would most of your costs after the lines are
21 drawn are directly related to litigation. But at that
22 time, if we start running short on funds, then we might
23 have to not be able to use that funds but ask for a
24 deficiency amount to cover our bills until we can get
25 across to cover them in the 2022-23 budget.

1 So we have many mechanisms available to us to cover
2 your costs. No contractor will go unpaid. None of your
3 staff will go unpaid. You won't go unpaid. But it's
4 just we're such a different animal for the way they
5 budget in the state that they've given us these big pools
6 of money and now they're waiting to see what we tell them
7 it will cover and how much more they will give us. And
8 so we just do it a little bit different than, say, the
9 state auditor or the Department of General Services.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, carry on, Director
12 Claypool.

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So the next thing I'd like to
14 look, there's actually the proposed fiscal year spending
15 plan to spreadsheet. You can see the same numbers are in
16 this spreadsheet. I put in all of the known expenses
17 that we have at this point, including a half a month of
18 my expense and Marian's expenses. It's in chief counsel.
19 You're going to look at this and say it doesn't seem like
20 a lot of bills for having run for two months. That's
21 because state auditors covered most of your costs.

22 So the actual amount that you have expended for
23 these three months, the amount encumbered, if you will,
24 expended or encumbered, is that amount in the operational
25 budget at the bottom. I apologize for not having it

1 totaled, but it's about \$100,000 worth of expenses, about
2 101,000. This is clearly going to start increasing. But
3 the biggest expenses at this point are your per diems.
4 And even though you haven't been paid, the reason they're
5 shown there is because the money is encumbered. So I'm
6 sure all of you we all took some accounting sometime even
7 though we didn't want to do it. Just encumbering is
8 knowing that there's a demand for the money even though
9 it hasn't been expended, but it's earmarked and it's not
10 going anywhere else.

11 If you go to the bottom, you can see that your
12 remaining total allocation as of this time is only
13 \$100,000 less than that top figure, and you currently or
14 currently as of this accounting have 11,581,000 left in
15 all your buckets. Again, remembering that the amount for
16 legal, that 4,097,000, whatever it is 4,297,000 can't be
17 touched until you actually have litigation. So the true
18 amount is closer to about 7 million available before we
19 have to start asking for a revision to cover the rest of
20 your expenses.

21 Any questions on this one?

22 (No response)

23 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Fornaciari, I
24 believe Commissioner Kennedy has a question.

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Kennedy?

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm just
2 wondering because you mentioned a total expended so far
3 of 100,000. And if we were only looking at August and
4 September, I'd say yes, but once we include the 21,000
5 from July, it looks like we're looking at 122,000 and
6 change.

7 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay. You are right on that. I
8 was going by the bottom balance and just going the
9 1,291,000 minus the 1190. So it appears that I have a
10 \$20,000 glitch in this spreadsheet. I apologize for
11 that. But these are your total expenditures. I'll clean
12 that up.

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Sinay?

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So one thing that I thought we
15 might see is kind of the left column full so we know what
16 we think is going to be the expenditure for the full
17 year. And then, you know, we compare the far left with,
18 you know, what we actually spent. But on the different
19 areas, like for outreach, should we be setting up a
20 meeting like with you and the Outreach Committee?
21 Because outreach is also engagement, so that would be you
22 know, different groups are doing different parts of all
23 the work that we're calling outreach. But there seems to
24 be a lot of stuff missing, and it would be or do we wait
25 until the rest of our staff comes on board and do a

1 robust planning so we know how much it's going to cost?
2 Because I think we need to start moving. There's no
3 material on there like collateral material and videos and
4 all this stuff that we've been talking about.

5 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So on developing the projected
6 costs, I don't actually have what we're going to pay
7 these individuals, so I can't project on salaries that
8 way. I now know what we're going to pay our chief
9 counsel and I can make that projection. I can get the
10 amount that we'll pay to the deputy. But for everyone
11 else, I'd just be pulling a number out of the air for
12 operational expenses. And then when we drop down into
13 outreach, I need to know -- we need to have that
14 conversation, clearly, but that conversation needs to be
15 about what we're actually going to do. We could project
16 against different plans. If you said, well, what if we
17 did this, or what if we do that, we could say, okay, then
18 this amount would come out of this bucket if it costs
19 this amount. This amount would come out of that bucket
20 if it costs that amount. But other than that, I don't
21 have anything to project to.

22 Does that make sense?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. Yeah, it goes back to
24 the conversation we had at the last meeting, kind of the
25 chicken and egg thing, is planning and waiting for

1 there's a lot of missing pieces here, but as soon as we
2 have the staff, I think we probably should sit down and
3 create that straw plan that we bring right back to the
4 Commission and start moving on it because there's just
5 some pieces that the development of actual good material
6 and videos and all that and more tools than just the COI
7 tool is going to take some time, especially with the
8 holidays around the corner.

9 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, I agree with you 100
10 percent that we need to have that conversation and get
11 that straw plan out there because even if it's a straw
12 plan that's going to be the basis of our request in the
13 revision. So yeah, we absolutely need that plan and then
14 we go asking for whatever additional funds we need.

15 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Quickly, the line item for Daily
17 Journal; can you remind us what that is?

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It was given to me as an
19 expense, and I could only -- I need to check on that.
20 But the reason I put it in there was because it is an
21 expense of ours. I believe the Daily Journal is for our
22 advertising for positions, but I'll have to confirm that
23 with you because that's the only thing I've ever seen the
24 Daily Journal used for.

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez?

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, can I -- that was
2 for the chief counsel advertisement. You know, the Daily
3 Journal is where we actually advertised other than on the
4 state, and that's what that was for.

5 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Did you have something,
6 Commissioner Fernandez?

7 And then Commissioner Sinay.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Is there a way we can create a
9 budget that's not detailed like that? Because if not,
10 this group is going to get stuck every single time you
11 show a budget and be, like, what's this line item, what's
12 this line item. Maybe just, you know, contractors
13 because we can see the whole thing but I don't think we
14 can go line item by line item. That's why we have staff
15 and that's why I actually would like to see a concrete
16 budget that says this much for contracts, you know, what
17 we predict. Every place I've been involved with projects
18 what their budget's going to be. You're not pulling out
19 of the air the cost for staff because you know what the
20 salary range will be for these staff. And so you say you
21 know, you just make some of these projections. That's
22 what creating an annual budget is about. I don't want us
23 getting stuck in the weeds. We've got to pull out of the
24 weeds and let staff do their job and we focus on vision.

25 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So I can make this a much more

1 less detailed budget. The issue is that the last time we
2 did line drawers with 597,000. Now we're predicting 2
3 million. The number `is going to be somewhere in
4 between. There are just so many imponderables that have
5 to come out of a concrete plan. So if it just were a
6 matter of the operational expenses I could push it out
7 and we'd have a pretty good idea of what our operational
8 expense will be for the year. But for everything else,
9 without a decision by the Commission as to how they want
10 to operate, then I am pulling those numbers out of the
11 air.

12 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez and
13 then Toledo.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Personally, I like the
15 detailed, but I do see the benefit of, like, a one-page
16 summary with the major line items, and if you want the
17 detail you can go to the next page for the detail. But I
18 do appreciate having the detailed information. But a
19 one-page is better in terms of speaking in terms of the
20 big picture. And I agree that at some point in time we
21 really do need to put projected expenditures in there.
22 Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Toledo?

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: This is just a question for
25 Director Claypool in terms of time line for getting the

1 projected negotiation with the state around revisions of
2 the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

3 So at what point do you need the projected budget so
4 you can go to the state and begin the process of
5 negotiating increases to the budget?

6 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: As I had explained earlier, I
7 believe that's February and March so we can be ahead of
8 May revise, so as early as February. Now, we're going to
9 look at some time lines on contracting that are going to
10 come up that are going to go past what I'm looking for,
11 concrete numbers. So for the numbers that we're going to
12 project for our line drawer and for some of these others,
13 they might not be firm numbers but at least once we've
14 gone out we'll have a fairly good idea of the scope of
15 what you're asking for and then the scope of what and
16 then the cost of that ask, if you will.

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And just remind me, because
19 I haven't been in the budget office for a long time: Can
20 you encumber more than your budget?

21 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Because I'm just thinking
23 if we do the line drawer and all of these other contracts
24 and it goes beyond what has been appropriated to us, can
25 we encumber beyond it? Or do we have to wait until the

1 May revise gives us the authority?

2 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: We have to ask we have to have
3 the May revise to give us the authority. We can have a
4 contract in place. I believe that we can even contract
5 for a portion of services so that they can start, but we
6 cannot encumber past what we have.

7 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Carry on.

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Chair?

9 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'm sorry?

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Chair, I'm sorry.

11 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: No, that's okay. So I think
13 I'm understanding the sequencing of some of this budget
14 stuff. But we have the May revision to next year's
15 budget which is when we'll be inserting our ask for
16 additional funds. I guess given that budget negotiations
17 especially in COVID times are going to be pretty
18 cutthroat in the legislature, we won't really know until
19 the legislature sends well, really until the governor
20 signs a budget in, what, late June, early July, correct?

21 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Um-hmm. Very little change is
22 at the May revise so you'll know in May. Some minor
23 changes might be made but we will know when we get into
24 May what our situation is. Okay?

25 So the next thing I'd like to talk to you about is

1 contracts. And the first thing, there is a document I
2 sent Contract Time lines, and I'd like to explain some
3 things about your contracts right now. Right now, we're
4 trying to do an interim contract to cover our videography
5 services, take over from the state auditor's office, and
6 start paying them out of our own funds. Raul has a
7 request for offer on a CMAS contract, and that's at the
8 Department of General Services' review and approval. You
9 can see it there.

10 That amount will cover thirty-eight meetings, the
11 amount that we're asking for. The maximum on that
12 contract is \$250,000. So thirty-eight meetings should
13 give us plenty of time to do the second contract that's
14 below there that says on that list it says RFP and final
15 contracts through 6/30/22. So we're looking to put in a
16 contract that will cover all of your services across for
17 videography for your business meetings and your line
18 drawing meetings, but not your outreach meetings. This
19 is strictly for the services for these meetings and once
20 you sit in one place to draw your lines. That RFP is
21 being created so that we can get it out and we can get
22 offers on it.

23 If you look at this across, this is what I call the
24 worst-case scenario, also called the typical amount of
25 time it takes to go ahead and contract through the state.

1 If you go all the way out to the end, you see that these
2 typical times take us into March to put contracts in
3 place. Part of this is more time around Christmastime
4 and Thanksgiving. If you see the red lines at the top of
5 the on the dates those are times when people take off you
6 know, around the state take off in private industry.
7 Everything slows down around Christmastime. This should
8 only be thirty days and we budgeted forty-two days in it.
9 We're hoping to decrease the amount of time and get
10 special reviews of your contracts because of the critical
11 nature of our work. And so we're going to see how much
12 time we can cut out of there.

13 We're also looking at posting times. All of this
14 assumes that you would want to post for at least thirty
15 days for all of these different contracts. The one thing
16 you're going to notice when you look at these time lines;
17 the state process doesn't change at all. It doesn't
18 matter whether we're contracting for a Voting Rights Act
19 counsel, or for a line drawer; the process remains the
20 same. The only one that's different is for outside
21 litigation and counsel. That's actually a shorter period
22 of time because you can identify who you want and post
23 your RFP and have them answer. I believe that's the way
24 it works. But it is a shorter period of time for
25 lawyers. Everything else, these steps, the five-day

1 protest period, those are just parts of state contract
2 code. So we're going to look to save time on the end.

3 DGS review and approval, that's a thirty-days
4 process. We'd like to get DGS legal services to cut that
5 down to one or two weeks. We're going to look to cut
6 this forty-two-day period down here to about three weeks.
7 And if we can do that, then we can save ourselves five
8 weeks on this process. But I gave you these bars because
9 I want everybody to see the length of time that this
10 takes just to get something to contact if it's done and
11 we get no help at all.

12 So I talked with Commissioner Sadhwani about the
13 Voting Rights Act counsel and the outside counsel for
14 litigation. I also talked with Commissioner Andersen
15 too. And I think that the best for this Commission to do
16 is to advertise for both those positions. They're two
17 different things. Your Voting Right Act counsel, we know
18 what that is. Your outside litigation will be the
19 attorneys that go to the Supreme Court for you. That's
20 not a job for your chief counsel or your assistant,
21 Marian, to the chief counsel. It's a big deal to go to
22 the Supreme Court and that's why the legislature
23 recognized that by setting aside \$4 million for the
24 process.

25 Some of these outside counsel will be willing to

1 wrap a Voting Rights Act counsel into their contract so
2 that you only need one, but it was I think Commissioner
3 Sadhwani and Commissioner Andersen, when I spoke with
4 them, believed that it would be better to go with two
5 different ones to make sure that you get a good idea of
6 who's available individually as a Voting Rights Act. You
7 don't want to miss the best Voting Rights Act counsel
8 available by trying to wrap it into a different contract.
9 But that is a possibility and I imagine that's what
10 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher did last time. They sold
11 themselves on the basis of being able to provide all
12 services under one contract, and there wasn't
13 satisfaction, I believe, with the Voting Rights Act
14 counsel out of that contract. So that's why you see them
15 as two separate contracts that we'll put out an RFP for.

16 So questions?

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Kennedy?

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

19 So if we're looking at the time line for the
20 videography, outreach and public hearings, taking us
21 basically to the end of March I mean, all of these
22 basically take to the end of March. What are we going to
23 be able to do between now and the end of March as far as
24 outreach? I mean, are we limited to things that don't
25 cost anything?

1 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, you're limited to the
2 things that we could put under the operational budget.
3 So we could have outreach come in to your offices.
4 That's a possibility. We're limited to things where we
5 have to get creative. But as far as putting in this
6 massive effort for outreach and engagement and so forth,
7 this is why I'm making the case here that the faster we
8 get these RFPs in, the harder we'll lean on Department of
9 General Services to help us. We might make it so that we
10 can be in at the 1st of February. But January would be a
11 very hard date to make. So yes, Commissioner Kennedy, we
12 are limited to things that we could do creatively through
13 your operational budget and the videography that we'll
14 have in place here until we get these contracts in place.

15 And this goes back to Commissioner Sinay's putting
16 together straw plan. That straw plan is not only
17 necessary for us to go to spring revision, but it's also
18 a hard plan that's necessary for us to be ready to do
19 what you need to do by February.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. But at this point,
21 you know, all of our discussions about splashing the COI
22 tool and so forth, we don't know if we're going to be
23 able to do that.

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, the COI tool, as I
25 understand it, is a tool that's being run on a statewide

1 database, so it could go online without you funding it.

2 Am I correct?

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It could go online, yes, but
4 the issue is the education about it and promotion of it
5 which, unless statewide database has budget for that
6 aspect of it, that falls on us.

7 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Maybe, maybe. And the reason I
8 say that is because perhaps there's a chance to do some
9 type of interagency agreement between us and the
10 statewide database that would fund some of your
11 educational an interagency agreement will move more
12 quickly than and we'll talk about that in a second. But
13 an interagency agreement would move more quickly. Again,
14 that's why we have to know what we want to do so that we
15 can start trying to be as creative as possible on making
16 it happen. And a lot of the creativity is just going to
17 be leaning on people and saying, hey, this needs to
18 happen. But we can't lean on anybody for something that
19 we don't have in play.

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay had a
21 comment?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I hear what you're both saying.
23 And Commissioner Kennedy, I'm a little nervous about that
24 too. But I do hear that within the operation budget if
25 we have staff that knows how to do design work and knows

1 how to create you know, the outreach stuff, a lot of you
2 know, there are things that we can do internally. What I
3 want to make sure, though, is that we keep capturing the
4 other ways of taking input in and make sure that those
5 are in the contracts that are going out for, like, the
6 data and all that, because the COI tool is great but it's
7 a limited audience that will be using that, and we want
8 to be more expansive. And that's where my concern is.

9 We'll talk a little bit about this during the
10 visioning, and hopefully that will give us more of an
11 idea. But if it doesn't, we can just say, hey, I think
12 we all agree that these are the five ways we want input
13 into our process, and that will make sure that it's in
14 some of these other RFPs.

15 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You know, I'll be the first
17 to say: looking at this, we're screwed.

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay? I mean, bluntly,
20 because we can't you know, we're saying can't have a line
21 drawer on board, can't have a Voting Rights counsel on
22 board, none of that until the end of March. When is our,
23 you know, let's jump on this, get on it? That's what
24 we've been saying about can we do something other than
25 different types of RFPs. I mean, to say that this is

1 going on and maybe we can pull stuff out, that's a real
2 problem, a real problem.

3 Unless, you know, we can do stuff in-house, I mean,
4 this puts us back at we don't start doing anything until
5 after the data gets in, and that's too late. You know,
6 our whole ideas of working with the Voting Rights and
7 doing a bit of preliminary on that, we don't have the
8 counsel. I mean, this is why we keep on saying we really
9 want to work staff, we really want to do things, and
10 we've got to shorten these time frames up, however that
11 needs to be. I really want to I understand. I
12 appreciate that you put this out here, and I think this
13 makes us realize just how important it is and how
14 difficult this is using some of these processes. So we
15 need to be creative here because, otherwise, all our
16 "let's do things ahead of time" our hands are tied.

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I think Commissioner Sinay
18 had her hand raised.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: This only buys us two weeks,
20 but where we say that we want the RFP out for thirty
21 days, you know, in most cases we're posting it in
22 January. You know, is there ways that we can start
23 letting people know this is going to be out in January
24 and so they can start prepping, and then it's only a two-
25 week window to submit it? I mean, I know that only buys

1 us two weeks, but I've had many RFPs where I've had to
2 respond within two weeks. That's a silly one, but

3 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Director Claypool?

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It's not silly. It's a good
5 idea. But we have to be very careful that we don't
6 promise anything in this. And to answer Commissioner
7 Andersen, we can make this work, but we can't make it
8 work if we're sitting on RFPs from a month from now. We
9 have to get these things into the hopper. Your RFPs do
10 not have to be exact. You can contract for your services
11 with people, and then you can work out some of the
12 details when you get there. The important thing is to
13 get them in and get moving with them.

14 And so if I'm looking at this, your outside counsel
15 would have been important if we had gone with
16 Commissioner Le Mons' suggestion to get an opinion.
17 That's where we would have gotten it because we'll never
18 get an opinion out of the Supreme Court, according to
19 Marian, who's actually been to the Supreme Court. But
20 right now, the least of our problems are outside counsel.
21 Those line drawer, data management, voting rights, your
22 racially polarized voting consultant, we need to get
23 those moving.

24 The videography for outreach and public hearings, we
25 can put together that straw plan and we can put an RFP

1 out for that. There were some ideas amongst you about
2 doing that regionally. We can put out an RFP that allows
3 some people to bid on more than one region. We have ten
4 regions; pick which ones that you could provide our
5 services. We're going to need this many meetings of this
6 type in them. But if we get started there and then we go
7 to the Office of Legal Services and we can get these
8 things reviewed before we hit Christmas, and we can tell
9 people up front this is coming, particularly line drawers
10 and your data management company and stuff, be ready for
11 it, we're going to require a full response and so forth,
12 that we can get creative that way and we can shave a lot
13 of time.

14 Perhaps we can shave time off of the actual
15 advertisement but remember this about advertising,
16 particularly for your line drawer and your well,
17 actually, for any of these people: The less time you
18 advertise for, the less time they have to put together
19 this document for you and the less time they it makes
20 somebody have to react almost instantaneously if you use
21 the minimum ten days. If you go fifteen days it's
22 better. If you go twenty days it's better. For a big
23 contract like line drawer, they may need a full thirty
24 days to actually put together all the proposals, pull the
25 different people in that they're going to need to have

1 help them. So on big contracts, thirty days is kind of a
2 standard, but we could do twenty-five days. If we do
3 twenty-five days, we've saved ourselves five days. We
4 get them out here very quickly.

5 And so let me say the biggest part of this
6 creativity thing right now is this: For these different
7 contracts, let us try to write those put the whole thing
8 together for you and then you edit the statements of
9 work. You go in and you work on the parts that you care
10 about and not try to write a request for proposal. That
11 will increase our speed as well.

12 Now, the last thing I want to tell you is I asked
13 our representative at the Department of Finance whether
14 or not we had to be bound by state contracting rules
15 because I was going for the ultimate "this would be
16 really creative," but I got a response back that came
17 through their legal counsel that said you are absolutely
18 a member of the state, you are absolutely under state
19 contracting laws because if the citizens of California
20 had intended you to be exempt from contractor rules, they
21 would have given you the same exemption that they gave
22 you for hiring. So this is our game, this is what we
23 have to play with, and we're going to try to condense it
24 as quickly as possible, but it all starts with that
25 product, with that RFP and getting it out.



1 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I appreciate that creative
2 that attempt at being creative with contracting too.
3 Thank you.

4 Commissioner Kennedy?

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

6 I think the subject came up a couple weeks ago, and
7 there's a different term for it in the state parlance
8 than what I'm used to, but essentially is it possible to
9 break these RFPs into a first phase, which is an
10 expression of interest and/or pre-qualification where
11 we're not asking for a cost bid but we're just asking for
12 the qualifications? And I think Commissioner Andersen is
13 familiar with this sort of thing. And then have a second
14 part which is the actual bidding. Is that possible? And
15 could something like that speed us up any? Thank you.

16 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: A request for a qualification
17 cannot be the basis of a contract. It can help you get
18 to who's the most qualified, but what it's going to do is
19 add a step in front of this that I don't believe so the
20 theory might be that we would put out a request for
21 qualifications for fifteen days and see who's qualified
22 and then only give them a ten-day period to get their RFP
23 in.

24 The problem for a major contract like this, the RFP
25 becomes the basis of the contract, and so it's really not

1 just putting together their proposal to you but
2 establishing all the things in that proposal that they
3 will have to live up to when they come out and it becomes
4 the contract. So you just have to give them more time
5 than ten or fifteen days. I don't know that an RFQ or a
6 request for qualifications is going to save us any time,
7 and I could very well see where it might increase the
8 amount of time.

9 I firmly believe that we're best using the RFP and
10 just getting it out quickly, and then if there are gaps
11 in it they're going to call in with questions and they're
12 going to say I have a question about it. I don't see
13 this or I don't see that; what are you expecting? We can
14 fill in those gaps at that time while they're making
15 their consideration on their proposal. So there's a way
16 to clean these up while they're flying, but we need to
17 get them we just simply need to get them moving right
18 now.

19 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I just have one question.
20 I can see what teams are leading the RFPs except for the
21 videography for outreach and public hearings. Is that
22 the Outreach Team that's working that RFP? Or who is
23 going to be working that?

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So it seems to me that we can
25 put together your staff can put together the RFP for

1 that, but the statement of work is where we're going to
2 need Commissioner Sinay and actually this whole
3 Commission because this is a two-part process. And I had
4 kind of broached this in our conversation yesterday where
5 I said: And I'd like to propose a plan for the public
6 meetings.

7 The outreach and the education and so forth, that's
8 critical to our success, and we need to have a plan for
9 that. But the plan for the outreach meetings themselves,
10 you have to do that. You have to do it in some form
11 because it's required by the Constitution that you have
12 public meetings. And so at a minimum we need to have
13 that nailed down, that we'll have a videographer, to have
14 this many meetings, this and this, once we get that
15 information because forbid that something not work with
16 education and outreach, you can still come out of this
17 with a solid set of maps if you have a plan in place to
18 have the public hearings. We want it all to work, but we
19 need that second half to work in order for you to meet
20 your requirements.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I don't know who was first
22 between Commissioner Sinay and Kennedy. Kennedy? Okay.
23 Go ahead, Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thanks. One thing that I'm
25 not seeing on here that I think is particularly after

1 this morning's session our language support services. Is
2 that going to be subject to an RFP? And if so, we need
3 to get that on this time line as well. Thank you.

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

5 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. Do you want to
6 respond to that question?

7 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Only in that it depends on how
8 you contact for those services. If you use some of these
9 outside entities and do it through a grant, then perhaps
10 and didn't do it yourselves you may be able to do it by
11 giving somebody the money to provide the services. But
12 if you decide to have the services yourselves and you're
13 going to take I heard the one individual talking about
14 the census language infrastructure. If you're going to
15 take that census language infrastructure and take it over
16 and save yourself time, you're also going to have to put
17 some money behind it in order to make it work. That will
18 require an RFP. Well, it may even require a competitive
19 bid, but we'll get into that, but that would require we
20 go through the state process.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: All right. So you've said
23 grants twice now.

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: But you haven't really

1 explained them. And I know Commissioner Vázquez and I
2 have been sitting here crazy trying to think about how
3 grants may work. So what do you mean by grants?

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So we talk about what the
5 foundation did last time and how they stepped in for the
6 Commission and they gave individuals grants. Exactly the
7 same thing that you might

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So what's the process we need
9 to do for that and how long does that take?

10 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I would have to look into that.
11 I just know that it was contemplated that a portion of
12 that \$2 million for your outreach was contemplated to be
13 grants. I'll go into this saying that I spoke to the
14 individual about this and I said I didn't even know that
15 a Commission could give grants, and this person said, oh,
16 no, a portion of that money was intended to be let in
17 grants. So if part of your outreach were to be in a
18 region and you said we need to move our message through
19 these people but they need money to stay in place, then
20 perhaps you could do a grant to do that. That's exactly
21 what I'm thinking.

22 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So you have to do some more
23 homework to figure out what that looks like and how we do
24 it?

25 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I do.

1 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So you think you
2 might be able to come back next week or the week after or
3 something?

4 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I absolutely will. I promise
5 you that. Yes, it's a critical piece of but I didn't
6 understand to be honest with you, I didn't understand it
7 because I'd never seen it. And when the person told me
8 that, I asked as many questions as I could, and when I
9 walked away I still didn't really understand it. So I
10 need to just I need to go to our person at Department of
11 Finance and have that person clarify it for me.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner (sic) Claypool, if
13 it's helpful to have any of us who understand grants in
14 the community, you know, what a foundation grant system
15 is like with you on that conversation, let us know,
16 because some of us live off of giving grants and others
17 of us live off of getting grants so

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I appreciate that.

19 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vazquez?

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Super helpful. My question
21 is sort of: What about re-granting? My concern even
22 with the Commission being a grant maker that in order to
23 achieve many of our goals, we could potentially put
24 ourselves in a situation where we are managing or even
25 forget managing we are just issuing dozens of grants, you

1 know, smallish grants to organizations for a part-time
2 volunteer coordinator or for them to print collateral
3 locally to distribute.

4 So if you have an opportunity to ask about the grant
5 process in general, know that at least for myself and
6 probably Commissioner Sinay the idea of the Commission
7 directly managing dozens of grants could be a challenge
8 and probably one we could overcome with, like, a staff
9 person and that's just, like, their job and we can do the
10 steps. But just know that there is in terms of an
11 outreach plan, we're hoping that there's a way to get
12 this outreach money into the hands of several trusted
13 messengers across the state.

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I kind of felt like there
15 were two things in there. And so there's a re-granting
16 or a what's the right term?

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sub-grant. It's a
18 subcontract but

19 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Right, right.

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Right.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I'm going to read into
22 what you're saying. So maybe part of the vision is I
23 give a big nonprofit a bunch of money and then they
24 manage doling it out to the smaller folks. That's
25 probably not the right way to say it but the boots on the

1 ground type folks. Okay, I wasn't exactly clear. I just
2 want to make sure that we're all clear.

3 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, understood.

4 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. And then Commissioner
5 Le Mons?

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I just wanted to say
7 that I'd like to be a part of those conversations. I'm
8 very familiar with these processes, as I mentioned
9 earlier today, as it relates to working at the state
10 level and getting information out across an entire state
11 and using granting process. As a matter of fact, I
12 created a granting process for very similar work,
13 although a decade ago or more. I certainly know how it's
14 done, and I'd like to be included in those conversations
15 early on.

16 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: You're on the list.

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, Commissioner Vazquez?

18 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: It sounds like maybe then I'm
19 not sure how this would work. Either Commissioner Sinay
20 and Commissioner Le Mons or myself and Commissioner Le
21 Mons have -- I don't want -- I would like if there are
22 three people who want to be involved in the same process
23 so just maybe Marian can assist us with how best to
24 accomplish that.

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: We can't hear you, Marian.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: I said it's difficult. I'm not sure
2 three of you could go to a meeting and then report back
3 to the Commission. Is that what you're thinking; a
4 virtual meeting?

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I guess, yeah, then, if
6 that's the solution. I just wanted to make sure there
7 was a way for three to, like, receive information as long
8 as we discuss the information in public. Is that what
9 I'm hearing?

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

11 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez and
12 then Commissioner Le Mons?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So two things. I like the
14 sub-granting, like, to this larger organization, but I
15 want to make sure we do it on a competitive basis
16 because, like, the same names keep coming up all the
17 time, but I'm sure there's other organizations that could
18 do this as well. But I do like sub-granting only because
19 they already know how to do it instead of us having to
20 hire someone that's going to have to learn how to do it
21 and establish it from scratch versus they already have
22 that information.

23 And then I think I'm just going to stop there.

24 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Le Mons? Thank
25 you.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I was going to say I
2 know we'll have to figure that part out that Commissioner
3 Vazquez raised. I'm really waiting for our
4 communications director. The reason I haven't raised
5 this request earlier is I know that there's some
6 foundational work being done, but I don't think that
7 we're doing this in a vacuum. And we're talking about
8 our communications director being -- I'm sorry, not our
9 communications director; our deputy executive director.
10 I mean, I'm really waiting for that person needs to be
11 involved in this process. And the reason I said what I
12 said is because this seems to be very new to Director
13 Claypool, and I think having multiple people with
14 multiple perspectives and varying experience in this
15 process will just be helpful to the Commission because it
16 seems like it's not something that a lot of commissioners
17 do or are familiar with. So I want to make sure that I
18 am plugging in to our process, particularly where I have
19 expertise, and helping to ensure that we move this along.

20 I've expressed earlier today my concerns about the
21 time line and how this all takes even the granting
22 processes take time. So I also want to make sure that if
23 that means having another subcommittee that's subdivided
24 I mean, I think how we solve it we can get to. Right now
25 I'm just asking to participate in the conversations and

1 get the information prior to just in a Commission
2 meeting.

3 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, it sounds like that's
4 doable, that the three of you could meet with
5 Commissioner Claypool and the person he's getting
6 information from and just report back, so I think we're
7 okay there.

8 Any other comments before we move on?

9 Director Claypool?

10 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: The only other document that I
11 wanted to present to you was just the methods of
12 solicitation. We cleaned this up and we added quite a
13 bit of information for state contracting code at the
14 bottom so that if you wanted to actually get into those
15 weeds you could. Two of the changes are most notable.
16 Fair and Reasonable I added under 10,000. This is
17 formerly what a Personal Services Contract was, so I was
18 a little confused when I saw Fair and Reasonable and
19 didn't see Personal Services Contract. That's because
20 they're the same.

21 We also added at the bottom Noncompetitive Bidding.
22 You can go with a noncompetitive bid, but it has to meet
23 the two bullet items that are there. The proposed
24 acquisition of goods or services are the only goods and
25 services that meets the state's need.

1 And emergencies were immediate acquisition is
2 necessary for the protection of public health, welfare,
3 safety. It's a very high bar to cross. Commissioner
4 Fernandez did it because they had prisons and so that was
5 the bar but because it was health and safety, I'm sure.
6 I would take that guess.

7 But having said that, after the statement from the
8 Department of Finance, these are the things that we can
9 use. These are our tools. And when we think about RFP 1
10 or RFP 2, whether we want to bring people in for
11 interviews or just have a closed-bid process, we'll work
12 those details out when we're talking with you. But
13 beyond that, our creativity has to be in shrinking the
14 time lines by getting people to look at our work and to
15 clear it more quickly.

16 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Any questions on this?

17 It was very thorough. Thank you for that.

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: And that is the end of my
19 report. It's like a world record, I hear.

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Very good.

21 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Yee?

22 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, sorry. Commissioner
23 Yee?

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, while we're on the
25 executive director's report, I'm wondering if this is

1 appropriate to bring up. If not, maybe we can defer it
2 to later. But I'm wondering about responding to public
3 comments that come in and whether staff under the
4 executive director should be tasked with at least
5 acknowledging comments that come in? The ones that we
6 got last night are quite substantive and should be
7 acknowledged, if not actually replied to in some detail.
8 And I'm just wondering with the executive director, the
9 current chair, you know, what we should put in place to
10 deal with this, yeah.

11 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Commissioner I mean,
12 Director Claypool?

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So one of the two people that
14 you have that I asked you to consider that we will be
15 bringing aboard, Ms. Sheffield, is an experienced person
16 at doing this. What I've asked Raul to consider and what
17 I want to consider with him is that we will take Ms.
18 Sheffield, she will sit in and do a short minutes of
19 these meetings because that seems to be something that
20 this Commission would like to see. She will respond to
21 the correspondence that comes in and reply to people.
22 She will also be the person that I hope will be able to
23 route different things for the agenda or different things
24 that the commissioners are asking for so that you get a
25 shorter response time and so that our agendas are put

1 together the way they should be put together and that
2 things are posted in the order that they're going to be
3 posted. That's my sense that we need a person that can
4 do all of those things. I don't believe it's too much to
5 ask for one person to do. But I believe it's something
6 that it touches many areas of concern by this Commission,
7 and I'd like all your areas of concerns to be addressed.

8 So she will be here Friday. We're going to talk to
9 her I guess that's tomorrow. And then we're going to
10 bring her on next week to start the process of
11 transitioning her into that role, Commissioner Yee.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Very good. So I'm wondering,
13 then, past and current will she go back and respond to
14 past public comments as well?

15 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm also wondering, you know,
17 acknowledging comments? Absolutely we need to do that.
18 She can do that. Providing substantive responses to the
19 comments? Like, some of the ones we got last night
20 really bear substantive responses, I think. That's
21 probably a different discussion but what would be the
22 best way to approach that?

23 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Part of that routing would be to
24 route those to me. I'd take a look at the types of
25 responses that I would give, and then the Chair and the

1 Vice Chair get to review and edit, and then we make the
2 response. That's what I would suggest to the Commission.
3 If there's a better way you would like to handle it, you
4 tell me, but that's the most rapid. Because many of the
5 responses will simply be: Thank you very much for your
6 comments, you know, they've been received and reviewed.

7 But for the one about having all your interviews be
8 held in public, interviews of prospective staff, then
9 that takes a more substantive response.

10 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Very good. I was just
11 taking a note for later.

12 I believe, Kristian, we came back at 1:36-ish?

13 MR. MANOFF: Yeah, that's right, Chair.

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Is that correct?

15 MR. MANOFF: Yep.

16 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So it's 3:06, so that's an
17 hour and a half by my math. So why don't we come back at
18 3:21?

19 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 3:06 p.m.
20 until 3:24 p.m.)

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, everyone. Welcome
22 back. We are now onto agenda item number 6. And I just
23 want to say that in terms of the key milestones and
24 action steps that we had planned for October through
25 March we did complete the discussion at the meeting last

1 week. We did put this on the agenda in the event that we
2 did not complete the discussion.

3 However, just in terms of going beyond March, I do
4 want to just for clarity, we did not put on the other
5 major milestones that would take us beyond March, which
6 would be the April 1st deadline of when we expect to
7 receive, as far as we know, the census data. And then at
8 which time the next large milestone would be August 15th,
9 when our initial maps are due or our maps are due. So I
10 just wanted to say that out loud that those were not
11 identified on the key milestones, but I wanted to just
12 say that out loud for everybody right now.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: July 1st the draft maps are due and
14 August 15th

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm sorry, yes. July 1st is the
16 draft maps and then our final maps are the August 15th
17 date.

18 Is that correct, Marian? Yes?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So for the purposes of the work
21 that the Commission is doing, we just wanted to make sure
22 that we were conscious of the other big items that we
23 needed to be making sure that we're keeping our focus on
24 prior to the census data coming out on April 1st.

25 With that, let's go on to Subcommittee Reports,

1 agenda item number 7. And let's start with agenda item
2 number 7-A, and that would be Commissioner Sadhwani and
3 Toledo. I know that Commissioner Sadhwani had to step
4 away for a little bit.

5 Is Commissioner Toledo oh, there you are. Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here I am. Can you hear me?

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: In terms of the census and the
9 amicus brief, we've been reaching out to various
10 commissions and organizations to see whether we can
11 partner with them and collaborate on an amicus brief, and
12 so far we've been getting a lot of leads but we haven't
13 committed to anything at this point. We're just in
14 communication with various organizations. I know Marian
15 did have conversations with the Attorney General's Office
16 in an attempt to try to get the Commission to join any
17 amicus brief that they might pursue.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: And we were turned down.

19 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And we were turned down by the
20 Attorney General.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: By the Attorney General's Office.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So at this point we're still
23 working on finding other like-minded commissions and
24 organizations that we might be able to partner with on an
25 amicus brief.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

2 And perhaps just to remind anyone who is listening in or
3 who did not join us last week, would you please clarify
4 what the amicus brief is for?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to go? Do you want me to
6 do it?

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sure, thank you.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: It's the New York v. Trump case
9 that's now pending before the United States Supreme
10 Court. The Court accepted it a week or so ago and has
11 set it for expedited briefing and hearing. The hearing
12 will be held on November 30th. This is on whether or not
13 to count undocumented immigrants in the census.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much. I just want
15 to make sure that we're clear for everybody.

16 Any additional updates, Commissioner Toledo?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No additional updates. We're
18 still working on identifying partners.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much.

20 Also, I guess, just for clarification, I'm sure
21 there may be a question out there: What kind of partners
22 are you looking for? So that if anybody is interested in
23 referring anybody to you that might be helpful for those
24 listening.

25 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. That would be

1 collaborators on an amicus brief.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: We've contacted the redistricting
3 commissions in other states, so far without any lively
4 prospects. And I've contacted the Brennan Center who is
5 coordinating amicus briefs to put us in touch with
6 anyone.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much, just for
8 clarity and transparency.

9 Commissioner Andersen?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So what was the date we need
11 to file that by?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: November 16.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Subcommittee agenda
15 item 7-B, Subcommittee for the Hiring of the deputy
16 executive director, Commissioners Fernandez and Ahmad.

17 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are
18 making progress in establishing the duty statement for
19 the deputy executive director position. It is making its
20 way through the system and we are hopeful that we will
21 have more updates in the weeks to come.

22 Commissioner Fernandez, is there anything else that
23 you would like to add?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. I mean, the latest
25 information that we received yesterday is that it's gone

1 through DGS-HR, human resources. They're the ones that
2 process our personnel items, and it's currently at let's
3 see at the State Controller's Office. So we're waiting
4 for the State Controller's Office to, I guess, establish
5 a position in the system. I really don't know what they
6 do. But normally unfortunately, the State Controller's
7 Office is the one that's the longest in terms of their
8 process, so we're hoping within a couple weeks to get
9 this through the process.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you very much.

11 Subcommittee item number 7-C, the hiring of the
12 chief counsel.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick we have done
14 good progress on this, and this will be part of the on
15 Friday we come out of closed session. All of the closed
16 sessions, there will be an announcement at that time.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then subcommittee report
18 number 7-D, the hiring of the communications director,
19 Commissioners Taylor and Vazquez.

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: We have a verbal acceptance
21 from our candidates, and we will make a public
22 announcement when it is appropriate. But for the rest of
23 the commissioners who are waiting on that, we have a
24 verbal acceptance, so we're in a good position on this
25 one.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, wonderful. Thank you
2 both for your work and thank you to Commissioners
3 Andersen and Toledo for your work on the Chief Counsel,
4 and to Commissioners Fernandez and Ahmad for continuing
5 to usher the deputy executive director position along.
6 That is winding its way through. I'll just say that.

7 Let's go to subcommittee report number 7-E, the
8 finance report with Commissioners Fornaciari and
9 Fernandez.

10 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Want me to go? Okay.

11 So we're now the Finance and Administrative
12 Subcommittee, and so our tasking was to look at the
13 policies -- the policy manual, and review it and put
14 together some revisions and bring it back. So where
15 we're at is, you know, there was 11 policies and policy
16 manuals, thirty pages long. We've reviewed them all.
17 Some need to be revised, but they need to have org chart
18 in place and some of the key hires in place to work those
19 policies. But there are several others that just need to
20 be updated and reviewed.

21 So Commissioner Fernandez and I are meeting
22 tomorrow, I think, with Director Claypool to review a few
23 more of those. And we don't want to inundate you all
24 with forty pages of policies at once, and some are more
25 urgent than others, so we'll bring a few at a time. A

1 few next week because we have an agenda item to approve
2 them. So we've incorporated for instance, in the per
3 diem policy, we've completely revised that based on our
4 prior discussions on how we're going to manage that. In
5 the communications protocol we've added a paragraph in
6 there to talk about the response time that we want to see
7 with regard to public comments and questions, and we're
8 going to clarify how we're going to manage that. So I
9 just want to show you that we're incorporating the work
10 that we're doing now, and we'll bring a few of these
11 forward next week.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez, did you
13 want to say anything?

14 Thank you both for all that work. I did see the
15 previous policies and procedures manual and I am quite so
16 glad that someone else is able to go through all that and
17 help us pull together ours.

18 Any questions from any of the commissioners on any
19 of the items so far from A through E, especially on the
20 one on finance that was just provided?

21 Let's go on to subcommittee report number 7-F,
22 Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just to say that Gantt chart
24 is being updated to include some of the procurement time
25 lines that the executive director has provided us and a

1 few other things and will be posted well in advance of
2 next week's meeting.

3 Commissioner Taylor, anything else?

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, sir. You do the heavy
5 lifting. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you very much to
7 both of you.

8 I know that Commissioner Sadhwani is going to be
9 away for a little bit.

10 So our next one is subcommittee report 7-G,
11 Commissioners Sadhwani and Andersen. Commissioner
12 Andersen, do you want to give the report or do you want
13 to wait? I thought Commissioner Sadhwani is going to be
14 returning soon, but we can have you do it if you want to,
15 or if you want to wait for her and tag team with her,
16 it's up to you.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I can go ahead. We have
18 been doing quite a lot. We've been meeting with
19 prospective line drawers, other areas, getting
20 information about what are qualifications, how they
21 reply, things like that. And basically, without going
22 into a lot of detail, we're getting a lot of good
23 information, getting a lot of different perspectives on
24 things, what did work, what didn't work, and we actually
25 are working on the scope part of the RFP which will be

1 coming to for next meeting.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That's what's going on.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So if I heard you correctly, you
5 will be coming with a draft of the RFP for the
6 commissioners to all review. Okay, wonderful. Thank
7 you. Well, we're making good progress.

8 So let's move on to our next subcommittee report,
9 7-H, VRA Compliance, Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee.
10 Commissioner Yee?

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Sure. Similarly, so we've been
12 meeting with various consultants to just get more of an
13 idea of how to proceed with this. I met again with Matt
14 Barreto and Justin Levitt, chatted about what their
15 advice would be to us. We anticipate bringing some kind
16 of training to you on the meeting November 16 through 18.
17 Commissioner Kennedy, I think you're sharing that. I
18 think Commissioner Sadhwani had already alerted you to
19 that.

20 Between now and then we're hoping to start
21 assembling kind of a briefing book for you, getting you
22 little two-page summaries of what is racially polarized
23 voting analysis, what is coalition voting, and so on,
24 just to get everyone up to speed.

25 And then there's the RFP which I'm very glad to hear

1 staff is helping draft. And so Commissioner Sadhwani and
2 I will need to meet with staff to make progress on that
3 and hopefully also bring drafts to you at the next
4 meeting.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Any questions on either the VRA or
6 the line drawer?

7 (No response)

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. We are just moving
9 along.

10 All right, subcommittee report number 7-I, outreach
11 and engagement, Commissioners Vazquez and Sinay.

12 Oh, Commissioner Andersen, yes?

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Since Commissioner Sadhwani
14 just came back, and I'd just kind of like to give her a
15 shot if she wants to. We just quickly ran through both
16 the line drawing and the VRA.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, good.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Basically said we're doing a
19 lot and, you know, the scope RFP for line drawers next
20 week; the VRA in the 14th, 16th.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perfect, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Anything else you want to
23 add? Please do.

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I would just make
25 sure that we talked about all of the different people

1 that we've been talking to for the VRA subcommittee. I
2 don't know if Commissioner Yee already covered this but

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: I did, yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay, great. Then I'll
5 leave it with that. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, great. Thank you very
7 much.

8 Let's go to subcommittee report 7-I, our Outreach
9 and Engagement Committee, Commissioners Sinay and
10 Vazquez.

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So we will be facilitating
12 the visioning exercise tomorrow after our panel. Was
13 very glad to have the access panel today because that
14 will also that will be serving as sort of grist for the
15 mill for tomorrow as we're thinking through what our
16 vision is for outreach, engagement, educating the public
17 about who we are and what we're asking of them. So all
18 that to say and we sort of previewed this a little bit in
19 the previous discussion, but Commissioner Sinay and I
20 recognize from the start of our work on this committee
21 that outreach and engagement is going to be a big job,
22 and to manage the dozens of grassroots organizations,
23 trusted messengers, volunteers, to really make this come
24 alive in the community, it's going to be a big job. And
25 so we're very eager to have this conversation, not just

1 with Director Claypool but with the deputy executive
2 director and, to some extent, our communications director
3 to figure out how we might be able to fund that boots on
4 the ground work. And so that is what the visioning that
5 is a piece of what is the purpose of the visioning
6 exercise tomorrow.

7 I'm trying to read through my notes. Let's see. So
8 just the rest of the Commission and the public should
9 know that we also are working with this idea that these
10 RFPs are going to take a long time and we need to
11 formulate that plan in short order and also leaving room
12 for the deputy executive director to have a hand in
13 shaping also what that looks like. So more to come, and
14 we're excited for the discussion tomorrow.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, if I can add just two
17 things. I wanted, again, to thank the community network,
18 you know, the community groups for submitting a letter
19 giving us recommendations. That was a lot of good food
20 for thought. Some of it was shared with us this morning,
21 but there's more to the letter, so it would be great I
22 just want to make sure all the commissioners do read it.

23 And then on the Nuroke (ph.) for tomorrow, I know
24 Commissioner Turner said I got stuck because it asked me
25 for my teams and don't worry about all that because it's

1 kind of like Zoom, an email gets sent to you, and you go
2 to the board. So I can't remember what I wrote in for
3 mine so --

4 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I just skipped it. I'm
5 pretty sure I just pushed cancel.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I thought I skipped it,
7 too, so don't let that get you hung up. And the only
8 piece we're going to use tomorrow is the Post-it Notes.
9 So yes, I figured out how to do Post-it Notes virtually.

10 And I think oh, I had a quick question: Do we want
11 to submit to executive director like, when we're meeting
12 with a lot of different community folks, should we be
13 creating a report to the community of who we met in the
14 community? I know I've done that in other commissions
15 and stuff, and so I just wanted to check.

16 The morning report or yesterday, when we started, I
17 forgot to say that Commissioner Vazquez and I met with
18 the head of the San Diego Economic Development Council,
19 and he gave us some really good ideas of how to create
20 economic panels, so we can kind of hear from economic
21 interests as well.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Dr. Claypool, can you answer that?
23 Thank you.

24 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yes. So that's some of the
25 information that you sent forward that we were posting

1 their materials to our website; am I correct?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, no, that's a whole other
3 great question is: Do we want to because we have reports
4 on different regions, and if we want to create, at some
5 point, when we have a good website and stuff, do we want
6 to have the different regions and the different county
7 reports on those things? This is more you know how we
8 said we've been meeting with line drawers, we've been
9 meeting with this person, you know, we've been saying it
10 very broadly? And I didn't know if we wanted just to
11 have a report that we give to the committee that just has
12 the names of who we've been meeting just to be
13 transparent, or if that doesn't matter?

14 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: For practical purpose, it
15 matters how you want to report out this information to
16 each other. I think it would be good to have different
17 categories so we can capture who we're talking to and
18 also some of the results of those meetings. But I hadn't
19 really given a thought as to that capture until you
20 mentioned it right now. Can we meet on that or have a
21 discussion?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, that would be good,
23 because I also want to figure out how we're going to
24 capture people's contact information so we keep them in
25 the loop when we need them later. Capturing people now

1 is important for later, too.

2 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: One preliminary method that we
3 could use for that is to always have them sign up on our
4 website, because at least there we can search through and
5 find them by organization. That's not an ideal method
6 for very specific items like this, but at least we don't
7 lose people, so that might be --

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And then I just wanted to check
9 in to see how many of the region teams did go out and
10 have talked to their census folks.

11 All right, let's get to it because some of them are
12 disbanding. And they do actually what we learned from
13 our conversation because Commissioner Ahmad and I did our
14 conversation is that they have lists of organizations and
15 lists all sorts of stuff that we could use to actually
16 implement at the local level. So it is important to
17 connect with them so we don't lose those opportunities.

18 Thanks, everybody.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, do you want to
20 acknowledge that Commissioner Yee did raise his hand? So
21 I believe he has

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yay.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Only halfway, only halfway.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, and I will admit to being a
25 little I went as far as just initiating the "we need to

1 talk."

2 Commissioner Le Mons?

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was going to say I don't
4 know why Kennedy was being shy, but our team has reached
5 out as well and set our appointments, so I'll say it.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, if I can ask
7 you a question? And then I'll go to Commissioner Turner.
8 Just in terms of the reporting form that you're talking
9 about, is that something similar to the other form that
10 you had given us previously? Is that something that
11 could be repurposed in a way that could be used for what
12 you're suggesting?

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, for which one? For the
14 census or for the people we're talking out in the
15 community?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: The people we're talking out in
17 the community. I thought that that was the form we were
18 supposed to be using anyways.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: You can use it for that, but
20 I'm just saying in some of the let me think about it. I
21 mean, my whole thought was sometimes it's just easy to
22 have a report and it says, you know, the commissioners
23 spoke to over twenty people in the community and the
24 report is just online.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Got it. I see. So something that

1 the staff could compile so then it would be easily
2 captured in one document for anyone, including future
3 commissions and the public could also take a look at.
4 Okay, that makes sense. That way, they're not looking
5 through pages and pages of single sheets, so makes sense.

6 All right, Commissioner Turner?

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I was just going to
8 mention I was out when the assignments were made, but you
9 made it kind of easy for me. I was the selected ACBO for
10 the region. I was chosen Region 6 and so, with my
11 partner Pablo, I've kind of had those answers, but we
12 will reach out and ensure that there is additional and I
13 was also part of the ACBO 4, so I will have it ready when
14 it's time.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: Conflict of interest.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I guess you talked to yourself,
17 then, right? All right, thank you very much.

18 Commissioner Sinay, you're on mute, so I don't know
19 we heard you say or saw you trying to say something.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, I was just thinking, I
21 don't think it's conflict of interest; I think it's
22 overlap of interest which is a good thing.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you.

24 So thank you very much. Again, thank you to our
25 Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee for all the work

1 that you're doing.

2 Let's see. I need to ask a question of Director
3 Claypool on subcommittee report 7-J. Commissioner
4 Kennedy and I had thought that we would just use the
5 previous PowerPoint that was submitted last week as our
6 materials for our report today since the time line was
7 laid out on that PowerPoint, but is this something that
8 Mr. Wagaman and Jaime Clark would like to come and report
9 on? And if so, then I will delay this report until
10 either later today or tomorrow when they can join us.

11 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I would delay the report because
12 I believe that they will want to have the opportunity to
13 speak more to you about COI, and you might get some
14 additional information, so I would delay it. Have they
15 been asked to be here?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, I am only responding to an
17 inquiry that I got from Raul, and so that is the deal.
18 Otherwise, I think Commissioner Kennedy was ready to
19 report on 7-J.

20 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay, I was not aware of that.
21 The message from Raul. I thought that if they had been
22 given an invitation we'd certainly want to hear from
23 them, but if Commissioner Kennedy is ready, then we
24 should do it now.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy?

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, the basic item at this
2 point is, according to the time line set out in the
3 PowerPoint from Ms. Clark and Mr. Wagaman, what we owe
4 the statewide database by the end of tomorrow is feedback
5 on what information to request from users about
6 themselves. So I would just, at this point, open a
7 discussion of what information we want to collect from
8 individual users and we'll try to capture that and come
9 back with a summary of that that we can then provide to
10 the statewide database.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So before we move on to it,
12 because there is a deadline request for those questions
13 and that is one of the actions that was requested of us
14 by tomorrow, is there any additional feedback on other
15 questions that should be included as part of the COI
16 tool? I know we did have a conversation about it last
17 week, but I think this part was pushed off to this week
18 because that was the deadline.

19 Commissioner Andersen?

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, I'm looking at the
21 you know, I printed out the slides. And what they're
22 expected to get from us today is about the users. Like,
23 currently, they ask the name and ZIP code.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And an email authenticated

1 by users. What else do we want? What's option and
2 what's required? That's what they're expecting; not so
3 much the questions. That was basically what we said last
4 time, I think, is what they ran with. And I know that we
5 had discussed they can get the IP addresses. You know,
6 the idea of privacy and sharing you know, they have to
7 get an email for, like, the authenticated users. On the
8 COI tool you can make an account and/or not. You can
9 just be as a guest. And so obviously if someone makes an
10 account they have an email address.

11 Currently, they have a name and a ZIP code. What
12 else would we essentially want, that we want the database
13 to collect, and what do we not want them to collect? I
14 would like as much area as possible in terms of or even
15 well, I don't quite know if the subcommittee could answer
16 this question: Other than the questions, what other
17 information are they implying in this area?

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm not following the
19 implying part.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: What else could we be
21 asking, I guess? I mean, they can get the email, they
22 can get a name, they obviously have the name of the group
23 from the questions we're asking. Basically, I'm
24 wondering what else are we do we want to look at the IP
25 address? Do we want to get the location of where they

1 are submitting from? I mean, I'm assuming that's the
2 kind of information they're looking for. So is that
3 correct?

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No. Actually, Commissioner
5 Andersen, I believe this is also what is the name and I
6 like the way Commissioner Yee said it the last time, I
7 think: What is the name that they would give their
8 community or the name for their community? And then it's
9 also questions like what is the mutual interest and why
10 should it be kept together? And I believe Commissioner
11 Kennedy had also either requested or suggested, you know,
12 what other communities of interest would they want to be
13 affiliated with or something along those lines. I
14 believe these are the questions that they're hoping to
15 have finalized by tomorrow.

16 So Commissioner Turner, I saw you --

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No, actually, that was the
18 older date. It says by the 30th because I'm looking at
19 it. They had by the 21st. That's when they wanted that
20 other information, which is what we did last week.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, you're right,
22 you're right, yes.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 30th is CRC provides
24 feedback on what information to request from users about
25 themselves.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, okay. Yes, you're right.
2 Going back to that PowerPoint, it looks like it's the
3 very last page of the PowerPoint, and there's a section
4 at the top that says About Users, and then below that it
5 says Languages, which is the next deadline that they've
6 requested. So the About Users one, it's some pretty
7 basic things like their name, ZIP code I think we did, I
8 guess email for authentication, and they said that they
9 could also capture IP addresses, and they want to know is
10 there other information we want to collect.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So for example, would we want
12 to ask either required or optional for a person's racial
13 or ethnic identification. I mean, is that something that
14 we want to ask them? And if so, do we want to require it
15 or make it optional? I mean, that's just an example.
16 That's not intended to be a suggestion or an exhaustive
17 list.

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: One of the things that we were
19 supposed to follow up with this particular date was to
20 state which of these did we recommend as required and
21 which was optional. One of them was in regards to the
22 email address, recognizing that everyone may not have an
23 email address. Are we saying that, no, we think that
24 that needs to be required? We were trying to balance
25 between security measures and authenticity. And so the

1 suggestion, you know, if they had to put in address so
2 what we're trying to decide now is what are we saying is
3 definite and what is optional, and that's the feedback
4 for today.

5 And so I'd like to suggest we definitely do want
6 them to track the IP address, that we want to request an
7 email address as not as a required but as a requested
8 item. And I think those would be the two I would want.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was going to suggest very,
11 very basic optional demographic information: race,
12 ethnicity, gender, with options to enter your own. And
13 if we could avoid the use of "other" and just put "submit
14 your own" or just an open text box, that would be great.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee? Commissioner
16 Yee?

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I guess I'm thinking if
18 this were a public hearing what would we require. And we
19 basically require absolutely nothing except that you show
20 up, right? You don't even have to give your real name.
21 You know, not that that's the standard necessarily, but
22 that has been standard in one way, shape, or form.

23 The other question is so we're going to hire a data
24 analysis team and they can give us reports with whatever
25 we want. But the question is: What will actually be

1 helpful to us? If I'm looking at the report, which
2 numbers will there be a metric for anonymous submissions
3 and how will I mentally weigh those versus those that are
4 signed? I don't know. I mean, I think we're going to
5 have to talk about that. I supposed the more information
6 someone gives, the more weight I would give the
7 submission. That's what I'm thinking right now just
8 sitting here. But I kind of don't really know.

9 But the bottom line, I think I would make all the
10 information optional, including email. Yeah, I guess,
11 yeah.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen?

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The IP address, I think that
14 will give us an idea of where they're all coming from.
15 It's certainly like remember we were talking about if
16 they set up, say, at a library or school or something
17 like that, we'll understand how many are coming from a
18 certain location. I think that would help us in terms of
19 understanding particularly blanks. Like, we're not
20 getting anything from this county and we have a station
21 there. You know, what happened, or something like that.

22 In terms of if they make an account, then they have
23 their email, they have to actually do that to have an
24 account. And I think we should if someone wants to go
25 ahead and do that, I think there's no harm in collecting

1 that information.

2 And I like ZIP code because that also, again,
3 collects. And I believe that is required right now.
4 Well, the email, if they make an account, is required. I
5 would like to get the IP address, obviously the email if
6 they make an account, and I would really like the ZIP
7 code. I'd like the name, too, but it doesn't have to be
8 optional that can be optional, in my opinion. Thank you.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Taylor and
10 Commissioner Vazquez?

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I think I hear that people are
12 trying to think of this in terms of verified information.
13 From my standpoint, the only thing that's verified
14 information, to a degree, would be a IP address. That
15 being the case, make all the information optional because
16 there's no way to corroborate any of it to any degree
17 beyond the IP address, and then we're still trusting of a
18 third-party source.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I am fine with that. I just
21 wanted to remind or maybe refresh my memory and our
22 collective memory about the conversation about the ZIP
23 code came from this idea of having a check on potential
24 bots or out-of-state submissions, and that requiring a
25 ZIP code served as an initial check. So again, I'm sort

1 of agnostic, but if I remember the conversation
2 correctly, requiring the ZIP code was a check on the IP
3 address so that we wouldn't have to go we wouldn't have
4 to necessarily go through an entire region's IP address
5 to find if there were any weirdness.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee and Commissioner
7 Fornaciari and then Commissioner Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Hi, Jaime.

9 MS. CLARK: Hi, Commissioners. How are you?

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, hi.

11 MS. CLARK: Thanks for having me today.

12 MR. WAGAMAN: Mr. Wagaman is here as well.

13 MS. CLARK: Just received the Zoom info, so happy to
14 jump on.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for jumping on so
16 quickly and so unexpectedly, so thank you.

17 Commissioner Yee and then Fornaciari and then
18 Commissioner Turner. And this is nice to know that we
19 have Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Clark here with us to chime in
20 if we have questions.

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I was just saying hi to
22 Jaime and Michael.

23 But just to get us up to speed, so we're wondering
24 what information you were looking to us for today. It's
25 precisely I think it was: What do we require from the

1 users and kind of where that is right now.

2 MR. WAGAMAN: So yes, and again we apologize for
3 this being a little disjointed. We'd messaged with staff
4 a couple of times about when they wanted to handle this,
5 and I guess there was a snafu on that communication. But
6 this is really about the user themselves and how much or
7 how little do you want to ask them. I think Commissioner
8 Yee identified do you want to do a more minimalist model
9 where you're just basically getting name and address, or
10 do you want I think as I heard Commissioner -- I think it
11 was, Vazquez, maybe, referring to do you want to gather
12 more information about them so you can sort and organize
13 that data later? And there are two different models,
14 there are different ways of organizing that, so really
15 kind of what information is important to you. So you
16 know, we did hear the conversation about the IP address
17 so we have noted that feedback from the Commission
18 already.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari and
20 then -- Commissioner Fornaciari?

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I was just trying to let you
22 know that they had joined. That's all.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you very much.

24 Commissioner Turner and then Commissioner Kennedy?

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, just to the

1 commissioners, a thought: If indeed we are making
2 everything voluntarily, you know, it's not required and
3 I'm fine with that, but I just want to think, then, do we
4 need to making it optional. I don't know, I feel like if
5 I go through and fill out everything on there, everything
6 you ask, age, date, birth, you know, firstborn, whatever,
7 whatever is on there, if I fill it out and it's not
8 required and others don't have to, number 1, any
9 information we pull from it would not be accurate because
10 it won't reflect everyone's information at all. We
11 wouldn't be able to say if someone did or didn't
12 participate from a certain area because it's not
13 necessarily required information. And we are then, in
14 essence, having some people go through all of the extra
15 steps and others not. So I agree that I like the
16 optional, but if it's not going to give us what we need,
17 why are we asking for it all? Maybe we need to just go
18 back with the IP addresses.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then Commissioner Kennedy and
20 then Commissioner Vazquez?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That's a perfect intro into
22 what I was going to say and also throw this question, in
23 part, to Commissioner Sadhwani. I mean, I think we need
24 and this comes also from what Michael was saying. Part
25 of this is: What do we want or need for immediate use?

1 And the other part can be for permanent record value. So
2 the part that would go to Commissioner Sadhwani is you
3 know, as a researcher, if you were looking twenty years
4 from now, what would you really want to see as far as
5 what's been captured for permanent record value and
6 research value?

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Well, that's an interesting
8 question. Thank you for putting me on the spot like
9 that. I mean, I certainly can envision the value of
10 having geographic, location, racial and ethnic
11 background, gender, age, any of those kinds of general
12 demographic pieces from a research standpoint. I mean, I
13 think that as you're saying it I'm like, whoo, I could
14 write a paper about this. Just to think about, right,
15 the level of involvement and the diversity of involvement
16 that could be potentially captured, I wasn't thinking
17 about it from the perspective in all honesty. I was
18 actually just thinking about it more so from a Commission
19 standpoint. We want the most number of people to
20 participate. And to the extent that any of those
21 questions might be off-putting to someone, I would hate
22 to require it and limit participation if that were to be
23 the case. Certainly from a research standpoint it would
24 be interesting to have, but I don't know that we
25 necessarily need to use that as our guiding principle.

1 But I'll write something about it if we collect it.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So part of the discussion on
3 this has been if we design the input screen in such a way
4 that the required elements are clearly delineated from
5 the optional elements, even looking at the possibility of
6 having the optional elements on a subsequent page so that
7 the input page for the required data only has the input
8 elements that are required, and then we have something on
9 the bottom saying if you'd be willing to share additional
10 information for future research purposes, please go to
11 the next page; otherwise, skip this. You know, something
12 like that.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, so I have Commissioner
14 Vazquez next, Commissioner Fornaciari next, then
15 Commissioner Sadhwani, Yee, and Turner.

16 Commissioner Vazquez, you're next.

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I think more than research
18 purposes if folks are willing to offer that information,
19 I would like to have it to evaluate and weigh their
20 comments within the context in which they're delivering
21 it, which is a person with an identity from a region. So
22 if they want to volunteer that information, I would like
23 to have it. I absolutely don't think it's required, but
24 I would like to see ethnic communities, racial
25 communities, and be able, as I am looking at a map

1 submitted by the tool to be able to put that in context.
2 And even for reporting purposes it would also be nice in
3 terms of tracking the progress on our outreach and
4 engagement to be able to see, like, wow, we are really of
5 those who submitted this kind of information, we're
6 really skewing very young and we need to make sure that
7 we're also in these other tools getting older folks,
8 right? Or we're really missing men or women or what have
9 you. Right? Like, it would just be nice to know of the
10 people who volunteered this information, these are the
11 people we're capturing.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari?

13 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, and I don't know the
14 answer to this question. I'm not sure anyone does at
15 this point. But I kind of wonder what kind of metadata
16 our data mining contractor's going to need to help us
17 work through this? I don't know if Commissioner Ahmad or
18 Commissioner Sadhwani might have some insights into that
19 or anybody, but I'm just throwing it out there.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. I was just going to
22 respond, actually, to Commissioner Kennedy's original
23 idea. I think if it's going to be a subpage and this is
24 going beyond the scope, really, of the COI tool and Jaime
25 and Michael's participation necessarily here but if we're

1 going to have a secondary page in which we begin to
2 collect some of this data, if we feel that there's value
3 to it, which certainly I do, we could actually run a
4 short survey which could at least give us some indication
5 of people's interest, involvement, it could be a test of
6 their knowledge, it could be looking at their various
7 interests within redistricting. I mean, I think there's
8 a whole range of options there if we want to go down that
9 road.

10 Certainly, I would be happy to help put together a
11 survey of that nature if that's what we wanted to do, but
12 I also you know, only if there's a broad sense from the
13 Commission that that would be helpful or that we would
14 utilize that data in our process.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee, then followed by
16 Commissioner Turner, Fernandez, and Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: A question and a thought. The
18 question for Jaime or Michael: It would be nice when
19 someone has a submission to acknowledge the submission
20 and alert them that we won't actually reply personally to
21 this but the Commission will take a look at it, so on and
22 so on. But do we need their email address to do that?
23 We can only acknowledge submissions if they supply an
24 email address?

25 MS. CLARK: When a user submits a community of

1 interest through the COI tool, then a little dialogue box
2 will pop up that says: Congratulations, your community
3 has been submitted to the statewide redistricting
4 process. Don't quote me verbatim on that. So there will
5 be an acknowledgement there inside the tool itself, and
6 users who are logged in will receive a confirmation email
7 to the email address that they provided when they logged
8 in, and I believe that users who are using as a guest
9 account will have an opportunity to provide an email to
10 receive that confirmation, even if they used it as a
11 guest user as opposed to a logged-in user.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Very good. Thank you. Then a
13 comment. And so I'm thinking, okay, as a Commissioner
14 what am I going to look at? What am I going to care
15 about? I like Commissioner Vazquez thoughts of getting
16 data on the way to track our efforts and see what kind of
17 outreach we're getting and penetration. But when it
18 comes to the mapping, I think all I'm going to really
19 care about are the shape and the reasons. Right? I
20 mean, that's what I'm going to look at. And if somebody
21 with a Latino-sounding name is commenting about Koreatown
22 borders, who knows how that could be weighed. You know?
23 I mean, that's not it's the reasons, really, I think,
24 that I'm going to look at and care about and that will
25 actually affect the mapping effort.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

2 Okay, Commissioner Turner next, and Commissioner
3 Andersen will be after Commissioner Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I appreciate, Commissioner
5 Yee, you stating that because I think the importance will
6 be the drawing of the lines, the shape, et cetera, when
7 we started the conversation a little bit earlier and we
8 started talking about waiting in consideration of
9 individuals that are filling out the information and
10 utilizing it to see who's not at the table.

11 And maybe when we get into any of that, I do know, I
12 believe, that there are certain cultures more so than
13 others that are less likely to give more information.
14 And if we're now thinking they're just not at the table
15 because they chose not to, I don't want I guess I'm not
16 comfortable with any of that type of analysis knowing
17 that we made it so open as to whether or not people would
18 or would not give the information.

19 If we were understand analysis when you fill this
20 out and this is what it tells us. But if we're saying
21 you know, this is voluntary information, you know, put it
22 in or don't put it in or whatever the case may be. I
23 want to make sure that we recognize that that's what we
24 received and we're not then extrapolating that
25 information out across a whole group of people as

1 representative of anybody.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

3 Next is Commissioner Fernandez, followed by

4 Commissioner Sinay and then Andersen.

5 Commissioner Fernandez, before you go, Mr. Wagaman,

6 is this in response to the comments that have been made

7 so far?

8 MR. WAGAMAN: I can catch up so the other

9 commissioners can go. I just wanted to make sure I was

10 on your list.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'll definitely add you.

12 Commissioner Fernandez, and then Commissioner Ahmad.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You know you're becoming

14 one of us when you know there's a list and you've got to

15 get in queue.

16 I would be more of the preference of the less

17 questions asked the better. One, even if they put all

18 this information in, we have no way to validate that it's

19 accurate information they're putting in anyway. And if

20 we are going to ask for optional questions, I would

21 prefer that it be at the end and let them submit you can

22 submit now and answer more questions if you want, but I

23 want to make it crystal clear in the tool what's optional

24 versus what's not optional. And again, I would just want

25 to have very minimal in terms of what's required. Maybe

1 a ZIP code. Even then, when they draw their tool, they
2 should know what their ZIP code is or their community of
3 interest because I would have to assume that's where they
4 live is their community of interest. I just don't want
5 anyone to get discouraged or they just lose interest
6 because there's all these questions and they're optional.
7 You know, yeah, they might be optional, but some people
8 might not understand they're optional, and then they're
9 just we're done. So I would just be maybe one question
10 that's required and then the rest I think the objective
11 is for us to get as many communities of interest as
12 possible and not to discourage people.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you Commissioner Fernandez.
14 Commissioner Sinay, followed by Commissioner
15 Andersen, Mr. Wagaman, and Commissioner Ahmad.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I wanted to kind of support
17 exactly what Commissioner Fernandez said. And I felt
18 that's where we ended last time was let's make this
19 accessible as possible, and to make it accessible as
20 possible, it needs to be as simple as possible and fun.
21 It needs to be fun. And so I think -- but the language
22 piece is really important. And one of the things is that
23 this is an opportunity. Again, I do want to capture
24 emails if we can or cell phones. I mean, that's the
25 other thing is people are more willing these days to give

1 their cell phone numbers sometimes than their emails, and
2 text is the number one way to reach a lot of diverse
3 communities. And so it's just something to think about
4 is how do we start -- I forgot what the word is where you
5 capture all this stuff. But anyway because we're going
6 to need to go back to all these individuals and invite
7 them to look at the maps and see if we got it right or
8 not. And so I see two reasons is we want to get their
9 information, and then we want them to share it with
10 others so we get more information from other people. And
11 so part of outreach is always capture the information you
12 can as well as have them touch other people. And so we
13 have talked about, you know, putting it on Facebook or
14 sharing it, you know, just different ways that people can
15 say, hey, I did this and you should do it, too.

16 So I'm of: keep it as simple as possible, as fun as
17 possible, and encourage others to engage.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Andersen, followed by Mr. Wagaman,
20 Commissioner Ahmad, and Commissioner Sadhwani.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. I totally
22 agree with we want to make it simple, we want to get
23 people to participate. One thing I thought of is often,
24 you know, if you do a survey or anything like that, you
25 know, if we have questions, may we contact you? And then

1 there's a name, email, phone number. You know, because
2 that's obviously you know, it's totally optional. So
3 that's an idea in terms of handling any of that stuff.

4 Because the one thing that we aren't getting is
5 we're getting the names of the community of interest; we
6 don't know who is filling it out, which is why that might
7 help. Because we might have a legitimate, like, uh-oh,
8 wait, did you mean this or over here? And it would be
9 nice. And if they don't give it, that's fine. But I am
10 concerned about authentication and particularly like
11 bots.

12 And so I'd like Mr. Wagaman, when he goes next, if
13 he could ask should we I think asking for a ZIP code I
14 mean, if you're drawing a map, you should know what the
15 ZIP code is. You know? I mean, that's or you could
16 quickly look it up. I mean, that's not a hard thing.
17 And you know, I'm thinking in bots. Wow, what's the
18 first thing that they you know, I don't know. I'm not
19 quite clear, but I'd like to put something in that's to
20 prevent us from either getting completely bogged down or
21 overwhelmed by, you know, evildoers. So if you could
22 answer that one? Thank you.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Mr. Wagaman, we've
24 been waiting for you. You're next.

25 MR. WAGAMAN: And I apologize. We could have done a

1 better job framing this discussion at the front end. You
2 know, we tried to schedule a time specific. So again,
3 apologies. It's been a little bit more freewheeling but
4 it's been great in that you are hitting those big issues.

5 To note, the current design does have that "less is
6 more" design. That's in part based on the fact that
7 you're not asking a lot of questions of everybody from
8 all the other data input sources you're getting, right?
9 So if somebody calls in, you're not asking, you know, how
10 old are you, what's your ethnicity. And we were
11 cognizant I'm sure Professor Sadhwani knows about the
12 information bias effect of if you know all this stuff
13 about the COI testimony but you don't know it about the
14 other testimony, does that affect your deliberations? So
15 we were cognizant of that issue and wanted that feedback
16 from you to make sure that was a piece.

17 I think Commissioner Andersen just touched on an
18 important point, and it would apply not only to testimony
19 submitted through the tool but to any testimony you
20 gather where if you did want to gather that demographic
21 information, you could have your data analytics team
22 sending a follow-up email to people who sign up at
23 hearings, people who submit emails saying, here's an
24 optional demographic survey, so then not everyone would
25 reply, but it would give you some of those markers. And

1 we would be, again, capturing and I heard the feedback
2 about potentially emphasizing trying to get contact
3 information for folks, so you would have that feedback.

4 One thing I don't know if we've mentioned or
5 highlighted or if it was a while ago is each of these
6 pieces of testimony will have a unique identifier
7 associated with it. So if somebody does want to submit a
8 geography and then wants to testify at one of your
9 hearings, they would be able to say I'm referring to map
10 96284, and you would be able to look at that geography
11 and see that physical human being now in front of you.

12 The ZIP code information is in there. So previously
13 the Commission did express a concern about were people
14 going to be testifying about their own actual community,
15 and that's why that ZIP code lets you tie those two
16 pieces together.

17 On the bot concern, that's something we can
18 certainly raise with our programmers and people who know
19 more about this. I think off the top of my head, one
20 thing would be remember, they're going to have to
21 interact with the software to draw an actual community of
22 interest before they are able to submit anything at all.
23 So I don't know that that is something that would be a
24 bot-friendly activity of drawing a polygon in a, you
25 know, not Microsoft Word-type software.

1 I just rambled on. I don't know if, Jaime, I
2 misspoke on any of those items. If you have anything to
3 add?

4 MS. CLARK: Yeah. Thank you so much. The only item
5 I have to add is that we'll also implement a reCAPTCHA,
6 "I'm not a robot" checkbox to also minimize any bot
7 activity, should a bot even be able to participate in the
8 redistricting in this way.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. So I have
10 Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Sadhwani. I believe,
11 Commissioner Vazquez, you had your hand up, and now
12 Commissioner Sinay as well.

13 No, okay.

14 So Commissioner Sinay after Commissioner Sadhwani.

15 So Commissioner Ahmad?

16 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
17 think I'm also on the thought process of less is more in
18 this particular tool. We will have many other sources of
19 data. Trying to add in a survey or additional questions
20 on demographics won't do us any help in this process
21 because that data would not be usable to make any
22 generalizations for the population. It would be a biased
23 sample. It wouldn't be random sample which would mean
24 that each person in the population has an equal
25 probability of being selected in the analysis, and that

1 wouldn't be the case with this since it's a self-selected
2 tool that people will choose to participate in. So I
3 would caution against adding any additional questions
4 that I too would be interested in knowing but would not
5 serve our purpose for the tool. And we do have many
6 other sources of data that we will be relying on.

7 And Commissioner Turner and I are tasked with
8 thinking through how are we going to mush all of these
9 data points together to give us some information that we
10 can actually make decisions off of? And so just keeping
11 really focused on the COI tool being a tool in which we
12 can visually see suggested maps for our next steps in the
13 process. Thanks.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani,
15 you're next, and then followed by Commissioner Sinay.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And I agree with
17 you completely, Commissioner Ahmad. In terms of when a
18 map is submitted, I know that we'll get the shape file.
19 Will we get, like, the coordinates of the map that's
20 drawn? Will we have a sense or, like, counties that it
21 touches? Will we be able to search these maps by region
22 and location? And I guess the underlying question there
23 also is: I know that we're ultimately responsible for
24 figuring out how to collect all of these maps, but is
25 there any infrastructure at this point for what we should

1 do with these submissions?

2 So infrastructure for submissions and then to that
3 geo-coded data of the actual map that's drawn. Right?
4 So if we're going to go in and say, hey, today we're
5 looking at San Diego; can we cull all of the San Diego
6 maps that have been submitted? Is that data kind of
7 being exported with a map submission?

8 MS. CLARK: Sure. Thank you, thank you for that
9 question. Certainly, the shape files can be geo-coded to
10 include their FIPS code, the county FIPS code, which
11 basically you can search all of the shape files that have
12 my county code that I'm looking at in. Also, we will
13 send the equivalency file which can be used to integrate
14 all of the COIs into one big layer so that all of the
15 COIs can pop up at once, which of course then you could
16 see all of the COIs in any given area that you're looking
17 at, at the same time.

18 Yeah, and of course your line drawing consultants
19 will be able to also pull up individual COIs that you're
20 interested in seeing. If you remember a specific COI or
21 want to look at a specific COI, then your line drawer
22 will be able to pull them up individually with the shape
23 files as well.

24 MR. WAGAMAN: And I'll just add that if you refer to
25 the PowerPoint that this is not the end of the

1 collaboration between the statewide database and the
2 Commission in that one of the items for throughout 2020
3 is to continue to work with the subcommittee on that
4 backend process as both security and reporting. Right
5 now, the time pressure is to figure out and lock down
6 that frontend user interface so that that design can be
7 completed and so that we can start the many, many, many
8 translations that need to be done.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just to clarify, when it comes
11 to ZIP code, people live, work, and play in different ZIP
12 codes. And some areas have a ZIP code that covers a lot
13 of space, but in places like L.A., every block seems to
14 have a different ZIP code. So I don't want us to feel
15 you know, I just wanted to bring that up so that we
16 didn't have a bias against people submitting multiple
17 different ZIP codes because we are asking them: where do
18 you live, work, and play?

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. All right,
20 I will also just give a comment. I think just given what
21 we also heard about language access, I will also perhaps
22 put out there that the more questions that we ask and the
23 less simple it becomes, the more we have to translate,
24 and then, therefore, I'm also thinking the more
25 complicated and expensive it's going to get.

1 And I think my other thought and I would say this is
2 in agreement with those who said simpler is better in
3 other types of submissions that we would be taking in,
4 the COI tool not being the only one, if somebody mails
5 something, if they hand us a drive as was suggested, if
6 they write one on a paper napkin and send it in to us, or
7 whatever means that they submit their view of what their
8 community of interest would be, my understanding is that
9 we will not have all of this information. And so I also
10 want to just put that out there for all of our
11 consideration.

12 What I think I heard from everybody is that it seems
13 like there seems to be general agreement that and it
14 sounds like you've already taken this into account, the
15 IP address and there's just generally, I think, just a
16 desire for simpler is better. I think if there is the
17 optional questions, I do agree that perhaps from a
18 placement point of view that we consider what
19 Commissioner Fernandez also said and put it at the end,
20 after it's submitted, so that then it's not a requirement
21 to submit it, but after the submission if they choose to
22 want to provide additional information then they could.

23 But I think what Commissioner Yee and I believe
24 let's see, maybe it was Commissioner Sinay and also
25 Commissioner Fernandez and Vazquez and Andersen all said

1 something similar which is: What is the value of all of
2 this information that we're going to be asking for? And
3 if there isn't a value, is it going to be the best use of
4 what we'll be asking everybody to do as well, too.

5 So with that said, I think Mr. Wagaman and Ms.
6 Clark, the question is: What is going to be perhaps most
7 useful given what we've all said? Is it to just collect
8 just the IP addresses? I know that there's some mixed
9 ideas between emails or texts, but it sounds like there
10 are ways that we could, I guess, reach back out to
11 people. Or do we ask people to reach back out to us?

12 MR. WAGAMAN: So what I've heard from the Commission
13 is that the key here is that you want to preserve the
14 option to reach back out to these people and to be able
15 to gather more information. So we'll look at making sure
16 that we are at least encouraging not as a barrier but as
17 an encouragement to try to capture that. So then as your
18 plans for outreach continue to develop, folks who are
19 using the COI tool aren't biased against being able to
20 participate in that follow-up process and, beyond that,
21 trying to keep the tool as simple and user-friendly as
22 possible while still preserving the option to do things
23 like capture that IP address, capture that ZIP code. So
24 if there is testimony that you really want to dig in on
25 and look at its validity, you would have and retain that

1 option. If that's the Commission feedback, we're good to
2 go.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

4 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was just going to say that
5 I think my fellow commissioners made, to me, a fairly
6 convincing argument of why the negatives for collecting
7 demographic information probably outweigh the partial
8 benefits and that we can, I think, still explore reaching
9 back out to folks who have agreed to be reached out to,
10 to collect some of that information if we decide it's
11 meaningful for data collection purposes.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The reaching back to people is
14 not just to collect more information, but also we want
15 you to stay part of this whole process. I mean, we want
16 them to say this is the you know, I go back to my old
17 analogy of this is a piece of the puzzle and we want you
18 to keep seeing how we build the puzzle. So I don't want
19 to lose that because I didn't hear that on your

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think on that note I also wonder
21 and maybe this is more for Director Claypool and the
22 Commission staff would it be appropriate to perhaps I
23 know there's different schools of thought about this but
24 automatically put people onto the Commission mailing list
25 so that, then, they can stay engaged and they can also

1 opt out after they get added? And then that way, then,
2 there's that secondary touch point as well, too, to
3 Commissioner Sinay's point. And I guess that's separate
4 from what the statewide database is doing, but just a
5 thought there. Okay?

6 Commissioner Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just that one last thought,
8 you know, because the 2010 did get inundated with maps
9 which were drawn some people drew it of other areas, you
10 know, essentially false information.

11 In terms of is there a way that we could kind of do
12 some sort of verification without you know, we don't want
13 to without turning people away? Because we want to
14 collect information, we want to collect information, but
15 on the other hand we don't want to be totally naïve. And
16 I'm still kind of wondering: Is there any kind of way we
17 can say, oh, these people are drawing someone else's
18 district because that would benefit them? And I'm just
19 wondering. I see Commissioner Sinay might be able to
20 answer this.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, okay. So Commissioner Sinay?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't think I can answer it,
23 but I wanted clarification. Did 2010 get inundated?
24 Because that's a huge word to say someone got inundated
25 with false information. That's the first time I hear

1 that, so I just wanted to make sure since we're in
2 public. You know, if that's true, I'd like to hear more
3 about that, maybe later. But I just wanted to be clear
4 if they got inundated or not.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Should we hear from the
6 executive director.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm sorry.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mr. Claypool.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: There you are. Mr. Claypool?
10 Sorry about that. You were on another screen. I didn't
11 realize it. I'm like, where did you go?

12 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: First of all, Jaime and Michael,
13 thank you for showing up so quickly. And there was a
14 mistake, but they jumped to it and I appreciate it.

15 I would say that the Commission got inundated with
16 people who came to some of the meetings and would just
17 come up and repeat the same thing over and over and over
18 again, and it caused some of the commissioners on that
19 Commission to believe that there had been coaching.

20 As far as inundated with actual information that was
21 provided to us, I don't remember that being an issue. We
22 coded as much as we could by the assistants that we used;
23 however, a lot of that information just became unusable
24 because we didn't code it well. And so the Commission we
25 had no way to go back to it. Hence, the need to have

1 somebody do it professionally for us rather than trying
2 to just do it ad hoc like we tried to do last time. So
3 yes, there was some inundation, but it was in the public
4 meetings and it was in the public the people who came and
5 spoke. I don't remember it in the documentation itself.

6 MR. WAGAMAN: And I just want to add from the
7 legislative feedback that we've given the database, we
8 are very cognizant of not getting in the middle of those
9 kind of subjective decisions. So the joke I use with
10 Jaime is that we're not the COI cops on this deciding
11 which COI are good and bad. That would put the
12 legislature in an awkward position of trying to set up a
13 tool that was designed to decide if somebody's COI
14 testimony was valid or not.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Taylor?

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And also in listening to our
17 conversation, we can't be totally married to the fact
18 that someone outside of the community doesn't have
19 intimate knowledge about a community. And just to use a
20 police officer, for example, a police officer who doesn't
21 live in a community might know the ins and outs of a
22 particular place because they're working there. So we
23 have people that are outside that can provide a lot of
24 guidance. So even from the standpoint of a IP address,
25 you can have someone outside of that area from a

1 different IP address that's providing relevant
2 information.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And I think one of the
4 thoughts around the IP address is maybe more to ensure
5 that a non-Californian was not submitting versus someone
6 in California. I think this was to Commissioner Sinay's
7 point. We understand that people live, work, and play in
8 different areas and so may want to weigh in on those
9 areas. For example, I do not live very close to where I
10 work, and so people may look at where I'm submitting
11 from, if I'm submitting on behalf of where I work, and
12 might think, well, my map may be not as legitimate
13 because my IP address is not from that area. So I think
14 it was more the concern of anyone outside of California.
15 I think that was the security concern that we had.

16 But thank you for your comment, Commissioner Taylor.
17 I think that's well remembered.

18 Commissioner Vazquez?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Just as a flag, again, I know
20 that we're using this as a piece of information to gauge
21 whether something funny is happening, but IP addresses,
22 if folks are using things like VPNs the IP address is not
23 a perfect tool. So we can collect it. I am fine with
24 collecting it, but just know even as we're evaluating
25 that, it's imperfect.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Good to remember. So
2 may I just ask for Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Clark did we
3 provide you with what you need to move forward? I just
4 want to make sure that we respect the deadline that you
5 need to stay on track.

6 So okay, very good. Thank you very much. I'm also
7 conscious that we're at 4:42. I do know that some of the
8 commissioners need to move on, and I appreciate, Ms.
9 Clark and Mr. Wagaman, for you jumping on very quickly
10 with us. Yes, we had a little bit of a communication
11 breakdown, so thank you for being on with us so that we
12 can have this robust discussion.

13 Okay, so thank you. We are going to go ahead and
14 move on. If we can, maybe in the time that we have, I am
15 hopeful that maybe we can even just whip through some of
16 our other reports. We have next subcommittee 7-K is our
17 next item on our subcommittee list agenda,
18 Troubleshooting, Commissioners Le Mons and Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Le Mons, do you
20 want to start out or

21 We basically have three tasks that we're going to do
22 a quick two are quick; one is not so quick in terms of
23 reporting on. The first one is the website and the
24 minutes. I think Commissioner Le Mons and the last one
25 is the computers.

1 I'll just do a quick you know, trying to get our new
2 computers. We have a list from Raul who basically these
3 are already kind of packaged. We might be able to get
4 them faster, so we're trying to go through that. It's an
5 extremely detailed list, and so we're just trying to go
6 through it and figure out if there is something we could
7 just use.

8 The other item is the COVID policy, and I don't know
9 if we can do that quickly or not.

10 But let's start with the website. So
11 Commissioner Le Mons?

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Sure. So of course we met
13 with Raul and Riana (ph.) to discuss what we had captured
14 in some of the changes. Hopefully, those were reflective
15 in what commissioners saw. She was able to turn those
16 around really quickly. We kept it very high level in
17 terms of making it clear this wasn't a redesign but an
18 opportunity to reorganize the information in a way that
19 was clearer, that created somewhat of a partition or
20 distinction between what was current and related to the
21 2020 Commission versus archived quote/unquote information
22 from last time. So I think at this point we felt that
23 she actually did address she had told us it would take
24 her up to five days, but it looked like she turned around
25 from my estimation, Commissioner Andersen, based on the

1 checklist we gave her, it looked like she actually turned
2 around all of the things that we asked, which I was
3 surprised that she had gotten it done so quickly.

4 So I guess I would just say that if there are other
5 things that commissioners see, little tweaks that you'd
6 like to see, just shoot an email to Raul and we'll work
7 with him to make sure that those adjustments can be made
8 as well.

9 But hopefully the agendas and meetings, as you saw,
10 were condensed into one section of the site so they could
11 be easily accessed. There was a graphic put on the home
12 page so that you could click to that or you could go from
13 the Nav bar. We put the list of the fourteen of us in a
14 column to just shorten the amount of real estate on the
15 home page to prevent unnecessary scrolling. So it was
16 those kinds of things. She was very knowledgeable, very
17 easy to work with, and very open to our feedback.

18 So if you agree, Commissioner Andersen, I think if
19 there's any additional tweaks that the commissioners
20 would like to see, if they'd just shoot an email and cc
21 the subcommittee, we'll facilitate it happening.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see the little clapping
23 from Commissioner Kennedy.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry, go

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Go ahead, Commissioner Andersen.

2 Sorry.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So yes, there are a
4 couple little tweaks that I am actually going to forward,
5 because there were a couple of little things going on,
6 but it was a huge improvement, I think.

7 Next is oh, I'm sorry, did anyone have any
8 questions?

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez had, I think,
10 something that she wanted to say.

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. It's just one of our
12 public comments had very extensive feedback. Some of it
13 might be relevant to incorporate. So if we could just
14 make sure to go through that particular public comment on
15 the website and our number, et cetera, and just see what
16 is doable, that would be great.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Okay, moving on
18 to the COVID policy. You did get a document that we have
19 a look at. Basically, this document Raul essentially
20 helped us. He put this together, combining essentially
21 two documents which was the California Department of
22 Public Health Guidance and there's also essentially the
23 CDC, which is the Center of Communicable Diseases, their
24 guidance as well. He put this together, and it is
25 comprehensive. There are only two areas that we really

1 need to talk about in terms of items that we need to
2 address. And just quickly, one of which is employers
3 must indicate: are we going to do any kind of medical
4 screening? And that would include such as, you know, the
5 temperature, like there's a list of symptoms. Do you
6 have to fill that out every day? Do you not have to fill
7 that out? And also testing protocol. You know, should
8 employees be tested once a week, that sort of thing.
9 That's an item to discuss.

10 The other item to discuss, which might be easier, is
11 the issue of in our offices do people need to be wearing
12 face coverings at all times? And the reason I bring that
13 up is because our office is right now, there's
14 essentially only one actual closed office space,
15 individual office, and the bulk of the office is a large,
16 open area with cubbies, and they're ten by ten, say,
17 something like that. And the California Department of
18 Public Health's guidance document, you could imply the
19 way it's written is that as long as you're more than six
20 feet away from people, you don't have to wear the mask.
21 Now, that is not all common areas, all hallways,
22 elevators, there's no question: everyone has to be masked
23 up. But you could interpret it that way. But that is
24 not consistent with the CDC and everyone else where it
25 clearly says you must wear masks in any room or enclosed

1 area where other people are present. And we need to
2 decide how we will apply that to our facilities, you
3 know, our offices and to our staff.

4 So those are the two items that we need to discuss,
5 and I'd like to have basically input on I think let's do
6 the basically, the subcommittee's recommendation is, yes,
7 you have to have masks on at all times unless there is
8 another way you can address that issue in terms of the
9 adequate ventilation. And you actually have to have a
10 consultant come in and evaluate the space and determine
11 what kind of airflow you have and can you be in certain
12 areas that you do not require them. But that's a whole
13 other step.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez and then
15 Commissioner Fernandez, and then Marian?

16 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Can we hear from Marian
17 first?

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sure.

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: That may impact my comments.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Marian? We can't hear you.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want the required break time?

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Are we at that point now?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: You are.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: If you think it's over shortly, maybe

1 we could ask the interpreters if they could last for
2 another five or ten minutes?

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I get the feeling that it might
4 not happen that way, so I think just yeah, okay, we'll
5 take a break. Fifteen minutes. We'll be back at 5:04 --
6 or 5:06. What is fifteen minutes? 5:06.

7 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 4:51 p.m.
8 until 5:06 p.m.)

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Welcome back. We will
10 continue our conversation on the report just submitted by
11 the Troubleshooting Subcommittee on the COVID policy.
12 And I believe we were about to take comment on that. And
13 I believe I saw

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Can I just say one thing
15 before? Commissioner Turner sent in some nice edits.
16 There were grammatical and she was absolutely correct.
17 She sent them in to the office, and the office had
18 forwarded them to us. It just involves in many instances
19 it says they, they, they. And in this case it should
20 actually say "you," that sort of thing. So that will be
21 cleaned up as well. I just wanted to mention that.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez, I
23 know Commissioner Vazquez had a comment, but Commissioner
24 Fernandez, I think I saw your hand up too.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I mean, there's a few

1 grammatical stuff, too, and I'll just probably just send
2 those to you instead of, like, going through that.

3 But I just wanted to answer your question in terms
4 of or give my feedback in terms of testing. Are we going
5 to test people coming in to the office? I know in our
6 office we just have a sign that says, hey, if you have
7 these symptoms turn around and go home, basically, is
8 what it says. So we kind of do like a self-assessment
9 before we go in, just kind of like a reminder. That
10 might be something that's simple to do. You post on the
11 door. You don't have to worry about somebody doing
12 temperature checks or anything like that. Because then
13 that opens up a whole other what do you do then, I mean,
14 if they do have a fever or something?

15 And then in terms of in the office face coverings at
16 all times, I think I would just I know the state or the
17 governor put out directives for state buildings and state
18 agencies, and I really don't know what the exact language
19 is, but as long as we're in line with that it's
20 unfortunate there is only one there's only, like, a
21 couple offices, hard offices. Everything else is
22 cubicles. But that's the world we live in right now.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And sorry, just to answer
24 that one, this document does include what the governor
25 the California Department of Public Guidance is

1 essentially what the governor said.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I would just suggest we
3 go with that, then.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez, I believe
5 you had wanted to make a comment also? I think you're
6 frozen.

7 Does anybody while we wait for her, does anybody
8 else want to make a comment?

9 Commissioner Vazquez, you're still frozen.
10 Commissioner Fornaciari? You're on mute. Okay.

11 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Marian has a comment.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. My comment is just when
14 it says "employees and other workers." Shouldn't it be
15 "and other people in the office," not just workers?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Are you talking about right at the
17 beginning?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it's several places. It's in
19 the beginning and then it's on page 3 and other places
20 where it says "employees and other workers." But since
21 this is an office where we do have other people come in

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: There is one that says
23 something about in terms of the general public. This is
24 actually, you know, individuals right at the beginning,
25 right at the top, it says the very first line is to

1 "employees, other workers, and members of the public."

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, thank you. For instance, we
3 had the question from an applicant about whether she
4 needed I don't know if it's a he or a she needed to wear
5 a face mask coming in to be interviewed, and our answer
6 was yes, but I'm not sure if that was required or just we
7 did it.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That would be required.
9 What I would suggest in terms of the issue in terms of
10 who wears face coverings and who doesn't, the only issue
11 really is: as long as we are all consistent with
12 basically, if you're inside and you are not in your own
13 enclosed, close-the-door office, you need to have a face
14 covering on. It doesn't matter if you're within six feet
15 or not. You should try to stay away from six feet. We
16 should all and as long as we are a straw pool that that's
17 what we want to say, then I would propose making one
18 change which is on the second page under Social
19 Distancing and eliminate the first two bulletins, and our
20 policy will be totally consistent with that.

21 And so what we would be eliminating is where it says
22 "In any area where social distancing cannot be
23 maintained, a protective face covering such as a cloth is
24 required." And it already says that. The reason why the
25 next bulletin is "The majority of CRC office spaces are

1 of adequate size to promote social distancing." And
2 that's where it implies that as long as you're far enough
3 away you don't have to wear the face covering. If we
4 just take those two bulletins out, it says "At all times
5 try to maintain a distance of at least six feet between
6 yourself and others." And then "Telecommuting and
7 conducting meetings through available technology
8 continues to be encouraged as a method of social
9 distancing." Then everything else is totally consistent
10 about face coverings. It says "In any room or enclosed
11 area where other people are present you must wear a face
12 covering."

13 So that could be as simple as we crossed those out,
14 we're done with that, and then we can just talk about the
15 testing, which I would so propose.

16 Now, Commissioner Vazquez is with us.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: You're back, Commissioner Vazquez.
18 Okay, there you go.

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Having many tech issues
20 today.

21 Yes, I agree with the committee's proposal to
22 eliminate those two. The best way to think about this
23 virus is like smoke. If you could smell someone's
24 cigarette after they walk away, you're breathing in their
25 aerosols. So I do think we should if staff are in the

1 office and there's another person there, you should be
2 wearing masks at all times. And if that's not acceptable
3 to our staff, I would rather work with them to figure out
4 a way for them to work from home rather than expose
5 themselves and others.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Anyone else?

7 (No response)

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, Commissioners Andersen
9 and Le Mons, do you have what you need for right now?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The one other item is in
11 terms of the employer is supposed to come up with and I'm
12 thinking not just we have a few people right now, but
13 we're trying to hire many more people on, so all of these
14 would be applying is we should come up with the actual
15 wording which we can do. We can grab it from another
16 place. Basically, you're supposed to take your
17 temperatures at home, you know, before you come in to the
18 office, and then it complies.

19 And there's also the idea we could do it in a form.
20 You know, like, have you ever gone to the dentist or a
21 doctor's office, there's the four statements or there's
22 all this list of questions. Each employee could fill
23 that out every couple of weeks or something like that. I
24 don't know if we want to do that.

25 Also, the one item is: Should we have an idea of

1 everyone needs to get tested, like, once a month, once a
2 week, that sort of thing actually get tested for COVID.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: I'm not sure you can get tested here
4 in Sacramento, can you? I don't think you can get tested
5 here without a doctor's order.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can get tested at Cal
7 Expo. They're a drive-in.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Drive through?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Drive through, yeah.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, that's something we need to
11 discuss because

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad and then
13 Claypool and then Commissioner Vazquez.

14 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah, thank you to the
15 subcommittee for putting this together. I think my
16 question was just or question/response-ish to
17 Commissioner Andersen's last point where this I'm
18 assuming and please correct me if I'm wrong that this
19 document, although it's a worksite plan, it would travel
20 wherever the Commission travels, correct? And so if at
21 some point, you know, COVID is not 100 percent gone but
22 we are meeting at a location outside of this building,
23 there's other considerations to take into there's other
24 considerations such as who can get tested, ease of access
25 to testing, costs associated, local jurisdiction, health

1 orders, which at this point we're in a hodgepodge across
2 the state. Some counties are more open than others. So
3 reading this and thinking about this particular worksite,
4 it makes sense to me, but if we were having a meeting in
5 San Jose there would be a lot of things that would be a
6 little different. So just wanting to pose that question
7 to the group: Is this worksite plan specific to our
8 meetings here in Sacramento?

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I have Director Claypool,
10 Commissioner Vazquez, and then I saw Commissioner Le Mons
11 and then Commissioner Andersen, and then Commissioner
12 Fernandez.

13 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So on the testing, I think that
14 we need to do a little more investigation as to what's
15 available, particularly given that if we surge I don't
16 know that testing will be available without having a
17 doctor's order. It goes back and forth. So I wouldn't
18 want to have a hard and fast rule that somebody would
19 have to become tested every month if it weren't possible
20 for them to actually get the test. So I think we need to
21 be a little more open on that one and we need to do a
22 little more investigation. That's all.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: This might surprise folks but
25 I'm pretty agnostic as to our testing policy. To be

1 quite honest, the tests are still about thirty percent
2 false and highly dependent on the perfect window of
3 getting tested whether it is positive or not when you
4 actually do have the virus. So I'm okay with a more
5 honor system. You know, if you are having symptoms or if
6 you've been in contact with somebody who has symptoms or
7 has been diagnosed with COVID-19, then you should tell
8 your employer and stay home. But the testing, for me, is
9 a way for testing and temperature checks, to be honest,
10 are a way for people to hygiene meter and not especially
11 useful as a policy, in my opinion.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Le Mons?

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was just going to respond
14 to the question about whether this was a portable policy
15 or it was our office policy. We were approaching it from
16 it being our office workplace policy. Isn't that
17 correct, Commissioner Andersen?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, we were. My question
19 to actually follow was: Why wouldn't this pertain
20 virtually on the road? Are we not being inclusive enough
21 or

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, I thought we were looking
23 at it as when we talked about this, I thought we were
24 approaching this as an employer about our staff and
25 workplace. I think that what's being raised I'm not

1 taking a position on the other thing but again, I'd like
2 to answer the question with the frame that it was. And
3 if we're going to do something for the road, let's make
4 that a separate thing and not

5 Okay, thank you, Commissioner Ahmad, for that
6 support.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Okay, I like that idea.

8 Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner
9 Fernandez and then back to Commissioner Ahmad.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mine was just the
11 Commissioner Le Mons was absolutely correct. This was
12 based on the office, knowing full well that as we travel,
13 you know, there's going to be some tweaking. But the way
14 it's kind of written, I'm not sure there's that much, so
15 when we as we choose to go on the road, I'd like to have
16 a bit more feedback about what do we want to do before we
17 head that way.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Commissioner Fernandez and
19 then Commissioner Ahmad?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I go back to the
21 honor system in terms of requiring employees to test. I
22 don't think that's appropriate. I don't think any
23 agencies are requiring their employees well, I shouldn't
24 say any. Some probably are, but I don't think the
25 majority are.

1 And then, also, I saw this as at the worksite. If
2 at some point we ever travel, it's wherever we're
3 traveling to, we have to adhere to whatever policy they
4 have, if that makes sense, because every place would have
5 their own policy. Every county is going to be at a
6 different level. So we just need to make sure that we
7 adhere to whatever their COVID policy is instead of I
8 mean, it's going to be hard to try to capture one that's
9 going to fit all, so my recommendation would be just
10 whatever that policy is.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad and then back
12 to Commissioner Vazquez and then Commissioner Toledo.

13 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh, I just wanted to say thank
14 you for the clarification. That helps.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

16 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'd actual disagree with
17 Commissioner Fernandez. I think we should at least
18 around the mask policy either whichever is more
19 conservative or this is the policy. If you are on staff
20 time, if you are on CRC staff time, you're adhering even
21 out in the field adhering to our face covering policy.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Toledo?

23 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: As an employer, our
24 responsibility is to ensure that we have a safe
25 environment for our staff. I think the policy does that,

1 I think, and that's what we aim to do. In terms of
2 testing, I don't think the risk is great at this point
3 because there's so few staff, but as we staff up there
4 will be more risk because there will be more folks more
5 people in a crowded environment. And at that point, once
6 we get to a certain threshold and folks if they aren't
7 tabled to socially distance, then that would be that may
8 potentially increase the likelihood that folks might get
9 sick, and so that would be problematic. But as long as
10 folks are able to socially distance, which the policy is
11 very clear about that, and we have a mask policy, I think
12 that would be sufficient.

13 And of course if folks have symptoms, they would be
14 on the honor system and would need to report it to
15 somebody on staff and stay home or quarantine or whatever
16 they need to do, but that would be the that seems
17 perfectly appropriate at this point. Of course, if staff
18 didn't feel safe, then of course that's something we
19 would need to know about.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. We're
22 assuming that more and more people are going to be in the
23 office, but I'd like to hear Director Claypool's thoughts
24 on how many would end up working from the office and how
25 many would end up working from home. Thank you.

1 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I think that we're going to
2 encourage people to do things from home that they can do
3 from home, if they're comfortable with that. Some people
4 like to come in to the office just because they like the
5 social environment and they like to and they feel like
6 they're more productive. However, we're not going to
7 discourage anyone who says I would rather do this from
8 home and work that way. But if they're in the office, I
9 think that Commissioner Vazquez is absolutely right; they
10 have to adhere to our policy or we have to make that
11 arrangement.

12 I don't know how many people will be coming in once
13 we have a more robust outreach policy. Deputy Executive
14 Director Hernandez is going to make some decisions, and
15 those decisions may bring people in to the office just
16 because of the need. I don't know what that plan is.
17 But having said that, that's a possibility.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So if I can just make a
19 suggestion? First off, I think that, one, it does sound
20 like just for the sake of covering all of our bases,
21 could I ask the Troubleshooting Committee to just draft a
22 portable or one in which the Commission will be on the
23 road that will apply to both the staff and the
24 Commission? I think it sounds like we just need to have
25 that written out, and then I think we're following the

1 guidelines as best as we can.

2 So Commissioner Le Mons?

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: We'd love to do that, but I
4 think we should wait until the Outreach Director and that
5 whole team so we're clear on what we're drafting and all
6 of that. I think right now we were trying to solve one
7 very simple issue: our workplace. And I'd like us to
8 table the on-the-road policy for when we're developing
9 what are we doing on the road? We don't even know what
10 we're going to do on the road. Are we even going on the
11 road? I mean, I just don't think that's urgent with all
12 the other stuff that we have to do.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, all right.

14 Commissioner Vazquez?

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I mean, I understand and hear
16 that, Commissioner Le Mons, and for me it seems really
17 simple to just amend the policy to say while on staff
18 time. Because, for me, I will not be voting for an on-
19 the-road policy that is less conservative than what we'd
20 ask of staff in the Sacramento office, to be quite frank.
21 So to me, it seems like a simple amendment.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, this one is built on
23 the state's recommendations, the county, the California
24 Health Department. I mean, all of the restrictive so, I
25 mean, we could just call it "on the road" but if we

1 wanted to really examine what on the road looks like, et
2 cetera and the truth of the matter is we're not on the
3 road. That's really my point. It's not that I don't
4 think we should do it, but we're not even on the road,
5 period.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, Commissioner Fernandez
7 and then Commissioner Andersen?

8 Oh, I'm sorry, also my apologies. Before we go to
9 Commissioner Fernandez and Andersen; Commissioner
10 Kennedy, I apologize.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. I mean, to me,
12 the only thing that we need to perhaps add is that in the
13 instance that commissioners or staff visit a locality
14 that has a more restrictive policy that we will abide by
15 that more restrictive policy and then we're done.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.
17 Commissioner Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm just going to
19 respectfully disagree with Commissioner Vazquez. I still
20 feel that it can be two separate things.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen and then
22 Commissioner Le Mons?

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Le Mons, do you
24 want to quickly say something? Because then I'll

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I guess I was thinking

1 of on the road more comprehensively. There are things
2 about being in closed vehicles with people. I mean, I
3 think there are all kinds of things we might need to
4 consider on the road that is different than our workplace
5 policy. So I would simply suggest being that as we
6 design what on the road looks like, we remember that
7 we're in COVID and make sure that we have a COVID policy
8 that protects people being on the road. But to just
9 assume that it's going to look exactly like our office,
10 it isn't. So that's all I was suggesting. Not that I
11 was anti-on-the-road policy.

12 It's just again, I guess I'm just coming from we
13 convolute everything. We are working on a very simple
14 office policy. We can always do a on-the-road policy,
15 but we're not -- that's not even where we are. We're
16 trying to make sure our staff is safe who are coming in
17 to the workplace. We're not on the road.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So okay, just quickly here,
19 basically what the subcommittee is going to do is we're
20 going to modify the wording for the medical screening
21 based on the sense that we're doing the honor system,
22 putting the proper edits in, and then I will just say

23 Okay, we actually are going to stick with the
24 conservative part of it, and it's not based that it's
25 more conservative. If we're at any kind of and

1 Commissioner Le Mons is correct: As we go on the road
2 there are more specific things that we will need to work
3 out such as in cars, carrying equipment, that kind of
4 thing, which we have not done here because we're not
5 doing that. So yes, we'll do that at a different time.

6 But right now, in terms of our policy, do we need to
7 modify it if we go to different places? No, we don't,
8 because this is also based on above all the system is a
9 group who it's called ASHRAE. And they are the American
10 Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning
11 Engineers. They're the people who write the standards
12 for any indoor space. And basically I'm following their
13 guidelines which building managers are owners have to
14 follow, and the rest of this is all nice and what we talk
15 about over coffee time and stuff. There is one standard
16 and that's what we're sticking with.

17 And we've decided as a group that basically if
18 you're in a building and you are not in your own closed
19 space, it's an open space, you're wearing a face mask.
20 And anyone who comes into our office, that's the way it
21 is because that's

22 If you want to do anything other than that, you
23 actually have to have an expert come in and evaluate your
24 open space to actually indicate where you could be
25 without open masks and that kind of stuff. I don't

1 propose we do that, and I did not include all the
2 documents that involve this, but I will attach I can
3 submit for the public and for everybody just a reference
4 sheet of items to look at so you can see it is airborne
5 as opposed to you know, transmission of coronavirus
6 through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne
7 exposure to the virus needs to be controlled. And there
8 are pictures of what size the, you know, the, all the,
9 you know, microns, and that's where the MERV standards
10 come from, MERV standards for your filters, and these are
11 all the things that we've been looking at putting this
12 in.

13 So got it covered. We're going to make these
14 changes. We'll be there, and the next will be when we go
15 to go on the road, they'll be more specific for on the
16 road and the closed areas, but I think that takes care of
17 it all.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I just wanted to be
20 clear. I was not advocating for I want a single policy
21 for the worksite. If we get to a certain place where we
22 need to revise or add a policy, that makes sense. So
23 yeah, I was not advocating that we go down a separate
24 policy road because I do think this particular piece is
25 simple.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Thank you very much
2 for your work, Commissioner Andersen and Le Mons. I know
3 that we are at 5:30. I'm going to hope if we could just
4 finish up 7-L, Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad, and then
5 perhaps we can then adjourn and finish the rest tomorrow
6 morning.

7 Commissioner Fernandez, yes?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I didn't know it says
9 action. You wanted to take action on the policy or on
10 the COVID or

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Do we need to formally accept it?
12 Is that what you're asking?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I was just looking
14 at the agenda item, and it looked like you wanted us to
15 take action on it. Is that what you

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, yes. I think we were
17 supposed to we'd like to make this policy. Can we do it
18 as the proposed amended? I don't know if we can do that.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think if we're going to formally
20 accept it as policy then I think we do need to actually
21 have a motion and vote on it, and perhaps it is with the
22 caveats based on the edits that have been fed back to the
23 committee.

24 Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just have another option

1 because Commissioner Fornaciari and I are working on the
2 policies, so I don't know if maybe we just incorporate
3 that with our other policies that we're doing, also, and
4 then we kind of approve them all at one time? It's
5 whatever the Commission

6 MS. JOHNSTON: It's never going to happen.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Marian, what do you think? Are
8 you commenting on that?

9 MS. JOHNSTON: I guess the policy package is so big,
10 I can't imagine having one motion to approve it all.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. We're bringing
12 the policies one or two at a time.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, then, let's approve this one
14 while we have it here. I don't know. Whatever.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari, I saw
16 that your hand did go up. Let's have you

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: You've got to love the open
18 mic. No, I was just going to raise I was going to offer
19 that maybe we could they could make the modifications and
20 we could approve it next week when we have the you know,
21 that session. But you know, I kind of agree, you know,
22 we spent all that time talking about it, I think the team
23 knows the changes we want to make, so I move we go ahead
24 and vote and accept the policy.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Is that a formal motion?

1 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Is there a second?

3 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I second.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: That was Ahmad?

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad, okay, thank
6 you.

7 Is there any additional comments? If not

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Public comment.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, that's right. My apologies.
10 Thank you. We do need to go to public comment for this.
11 So Jesse?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
13 transparency and public participation in our process, the
14 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To
15 call in, dial the telephone number provided on the
16 livestream feed. The telephone number is (877) 853-5247.
17 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on
18 the livestream feed. It is 98512592479 for this week's
19 meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
20 press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will be placed
21 in a queue from which the moderator will begin unmuting
22 callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an
23 automated message to press star 9. Please do this to
24 raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. When it
25 is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you, and

1 you will hear an automated message that says: The host
2 would like you to talk and press star 6 to speak. Please
3 make sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to
4 prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.
5 Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it
6 is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the
7 livestream volume. These instructions are also located
8 on the website.

9 The Commission is taking public comment at this
10 time.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: We'll wait a minute or so.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Can I add some trivia while we're
13 waiting? So my wife works at Asian Health Services and I
14 asked her about her colleagues' names, so L-i-o-u, Liou,
15 Liou.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, so I did have it correct?

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: And Thu, she said she actually
20 doesn't know for sure. She hears people in the office
21 saying Quack or Quach, but they're not sure whether to
22 pronounce the c-h or not, so not even she is

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I understand Vietnamese that I
24 know with similar names is they pronounce it Quach.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Cantonese would be Quach, but in

1 Vietnamese, I don't know. The c-h may or may not be

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think they take, like, a
3 translation of the if they're of Chinese heritage the
4 Chinese name and translated into, I guess, Vietnamese.

5 Okay, Jesse, do we have anybody queued up for public
6 comment on this issue?

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no
8 callers in the queue.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, then, I do believe, then, we
10 can move on to a vote. Marian?

11 MS. JOHNSTON: MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioners Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I believe she had to leave.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

9 Commissioner Vazquez?

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee?

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: The motion passes.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much.

15 Let's just finish up our last item, number 7-L,
16 lessons learned, Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad. Do you
17 have anything to report at this time?

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No new information to report.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I was so hoping you would have
20 said that. Thank you. Sorry, it's 5:38.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I do have one thing, though,
22 and this is for the Lessons Learned Committee info. It's
23 been raised to my attention that the state auditors are
24 actually starting work already on the 2030. They're
25 getting their information together for in terms of

1 getting the right counsel involved. And so I would
2 recommend that the subcommittee contact the state
3 auditors to let them know that you guys exist and have
4 ideas coming and so you can make that connection now.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great suggestion. Thank you.

6 I also just want to acknowledge it's not on the
7 agenda but it will be on the agenda, I believe, for the
8 next meeting. And please correct me if I'm wrong, but I
9 just want to acknowledge that we did form a Language
10 Access Committee and a data I'll just call it for right
11 now a data committee because they are currently looking
12 at renaming themselves. And I think I do understand that
13 there is a

14 Director Claypool, I don't know if you made this
15 suggestion, but at the risk of opening up a can of worms
16 and perhaps we can talk about this tomorrow but did you
17 make a suggestion about a legal subcommittee?

18 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I did, and I think the
19 suggestion was that it should probably just be the VRA
20 Committee just expanded because they're handling counsel,
21 and then they can pick it up. Although, can you remind
22 me who is on the VRA Committee? I'm just

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It's Commissioner Yee and
24 Commissioner Sadhwani so

25 DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Sure. Okay? The only reason I

1 mentioned that was because we have one attorney on the
2 Commission and I don't know what the is there, Marian, a
3 prohibition as to three or -- okay, well, then, that's
4 okay. I was just thinking it might be good to have
5 Commissioner Toledo on it, but on the other hand, we
6 already have a committee in place and probably just fold
7 that straight into them.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So just for the sake of recapping
9 what we'll be covering tomorrow, so tomorrow morning when
10 we resume our meeting, we will be looking at what I would
11 like to do is because our first panel agenda item number
12 8 will start at 11 a.m.

13 I am going to start the agenda tomorrow morning with
14 agenda item number 13, which is the discussion about
15 information security concerns. We'll then go to agenda
16 item number 15, agenda item number 16, and then hopefully
17 well, hopefully we will be able to go to agenda item
18 number 8.

19 Commissioner Kennedy, I am going to point this out
20 to you. Perhaps depending on the time that we will be
21 at, we may just decide to discuss agenda item number 17
22 tomorrow morning prior to the panel based on where we
23 will be. And then at that point, after the panel, we'll
24 discuss agenda item number 10. And then we will continue
25 to take public comments on any actions, should we take

1 them. We'll take public comment in the morning, we'll
2 take public comment after lunch, and then we'll take
3 public comment once more before the end of the day.

4 And I think given that we had just called for public
5 comment, I think it may be okay to not take public
6 comment. Am I seeing a thumbs-up from Commissioner
7 Vazquez? Yes, okay.

8 All right, so we can recess for the evening. Thank
9 you very much to everybody for hanging in there, and
10 we'll see you in the morning.

11 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
12 at 5:43 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission.



LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108

May 24, 2022
DATE