

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:

eScribers, LLC



APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

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

STAFF

Marian Johnston, Interim CRC Legal Counsel
Raul Villanueva, Interim Administrator

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

Also PresentPUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Wagaman
Douglas Johnson
Renee Reed
Alejandra Ponce De Leon
Sophia Garcia
Rosalind Gold, NALEO

INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
Call to Order and Roll Call	4
Public Comment	9
Discussion on Conflict of Interest Code	13
Public Comment	18
Report on Commission Staffing	19
Public Comment	92
Motion Pass On Hiring Communications Director Position	94
Motion Pass On Changes To Hiring Chief Counsel	95
Motion Passes On Changes For Hiring Executive Director	96
Public Comment	112
Motion Passes to Recruit RAs	113
Motion passes to request from State Auditor to loan a temporary communications person.	115
Discussion of Key Provisions of Commission Constitutional provisions and Statutes	116
Public Comment	133
Training on State Contracting and Procurement	139
Public Comment	184
Public Comment	222
Public Comment	255

P R O C E E D I N G S

September 3, 2020

9:30 a.m.

CHAIR TURNER: Good morning and welcome back to our public meeting. Today is Thursday -- let's see, September -- I always have to check my phone -- the third. And we're going to begin with roll call, please.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?



1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo? No Commissioner
3 Toledo.

4 Commissioner Turner?

5 CHAIR TURNER: Here.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

7 Commissioner Yee?

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: So we're missing two, but you do have
10 a quorum.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Great. Then we will proceed.
12 I see Commissioner Vazquez will probably join us again in
13 just a moment. And so we'll start our day out with
14 public comment.

15 And so good morning, AT&T operator. We're going to
16 thank you in advance for your services today.

17 Ryan, we'll ask for you to check, please, if we have
18 any public comment waiting. Actually, before we do,
19 let's have the instructions read first, please, Raul.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Ready, Madam
21 Chair.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: In order to --
24 excuse me. In order to maximize transparency and public
25 participation in our process, the commissioners will be

1 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.
2 There will be opportunities to address the commissioners
3 regarding the items on the agenda and the process in
4 general. In addition, for each agenda item that requires
5 a vote, the public may provide comment on that particular
6 item. Each time that the commissioners bring up an
7 action item, the viewing audience will be informed that
8 it is time to call in if they wish to make a public
9 comment. The commissioners will then allow at least
10 three minutes for those who wish to comment to join the
11 public comment queue.

12 So to make a public comment, please dial 877-226-
13 8163. After dialing the number, you will speak to an
14 operator. You will be asked to provide you to the access
15 code for the meeting, which is 5185236, that's 5185236;
16 or the name of the meeting, which is Citizens
17 Redistricting Commission First Commission Meeting.

18 After providing this information, the operator will
19 ask you to provide your name. Now, please note that
20 you're not required to provide your actual name if you
21 don't wish to. You may provide either your own name or a
22 name other than your own. When it's your turn to make a
23 public comment, the moderator will introduce you by the
24 name you provided to the operator. So providing a name
25 helps AT&T, which is hosting this public comment process,



1 to ensure that everyone holding for public comment has a
2 chance to submit their comments. Please be assured that
3 the commission is not maintaining any list of callers by
4 name, and is only asking for some name so that the call
5 moderator can manage multiple calls simultaneously and
6 can let you know when it's your turn to speak.

7 So after providing a name and speaking with the
8 operator, you will be placed in a listening room, which
9 is a virtual waiting room where you will wait until it's
10 your turn to speak. You'll be able to listen to the live
11 audio of the meeting, so please remember to mute your
12 computer livestream audio, because the online video and
13 audio will be approximately sixty seconds behind the live
14 audio that you are hearing on your telephone. Now, if
15 you fail to mute your computer livestream audio, it will
16 be extremely difficult for you to follow the meeting and
17 difficult for anyone to hear your comment due to the
18 feedback issues that will occur; therefore, once you are
19 waiting in the queue, be alert for when you may be called
20 upon to speak, and please turn down the livestream
21 volume.

22 From the listening room, listen to the meeting and
23 the call moderator. When you decide that you want to
24 make a comment about the agenda item currently being
25 discussed, you can press 1-0, that's 1-0. Then you will



1 be placed in the queue to make a public comment. When
2 joining the queue to make a public comment, you should
3 hear an automatic recording informing you that you have
4 been placed in the queue. You will not receive any
5 further instruction until the moderator brings you in to
6 make your public comment. The moderator will open your
7 line and introduce you by name that you provided to the
8 operator. Once again, make sure that you have muted any
9 background noise from your computer. Please, do not use
10 a speakerphone, but rather speak directly into your
11 phone.

12 After the moderator introduces you, please state the
13 name you provided to the operator, and then state your
14 comment clearly and concisely. After you finish making
15 your comment, commissioners will move on to the next
16 caller, and you may hang up the call. So if you would
17 like to comment on another agenda item at a later time,
18 please call back when the commissioners open up public
19 comment for that item, and you can repeat this process.
20 If you are disconnected for any reason, please call back
21 and explain the issue to the operator, then repeat this
22 process and rejoin the public comment queue by pressing
23 1-0.

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



1 stream, public comments will be solicited, and that is
2 the time to call in. The process for making a comment
3 will be the same each time; begin by dialing 877-226-8163
4 and following the steps that I just described. These
5 steps are also located on the website. There's a link on
6 the home page. Thank you.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Raul.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Ryan, please check to see if we have
10 anyone waiting for public comment.

11 AT&T OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would like to
12 make a public comment, please press 1 then 0 at this
13 time. 1-0. And we have no one in queue for a public
14 comment.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much.
16 Today commissioners, we're going to take our remaining
17 agenda items in order.

18 So we have agenda items 13, which Marian will be --
19 the Discussion of Conflict of Interest Code.

20 We'll go to agenda item 14, which will be a Report
21 on Commission Staffing and a report from the
22 subcommittees.

23 Agenda item 15, Raul, Training on the State
24 Contracting and Procurement.

25 We'll move to agenda item 16, which will be the

1 RFPs, and then 18.

2 Marian, we will still do our agenda item 18,
3 Discussion of Key Provisions, since it's on the agenda,
4 and conclude our day with discussion of future meeting
5 dates and agenda items.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: And if I may, I think you should also
7 go back to agenda item 5. I believe there's a
8 recommendation as to how to proceed with the Chairs and
9 Vice-Chair rotation.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So what we'll do, under agenda
12 item 5, when we have our report out -- no; we won't
13 combine agenda items. Thank you. We'll add that in at
14 some point.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: So would you like --

16 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sadhwani?

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think -- and Commissioner
18 Toledo can correct me if I'm wrong. I think we're ready
19 to prepare -- we're prepared to share with you all for
20 agenda item, I believe it's 9 on the census.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to go back to
23 public comments for a second. And I don't think
24 yesterday -- we were kind of in a hurry, and after
25 Rosalind Gold spoke we didn't hear back from Dr. Barreto,

1 if he had any response to what she had said. So I don't
2 know if we want to ask him if he had any response. And I
3 do believe we -- if it's an agenda item, we can engage
4 with the public comments that come in. We don't just
5 have to accept them, but we can ask for clarification and
6 engage if it's a public comment during the general. I
7 feel like sometimes we just say thank you, but we don't
8 say -- people are calling saying -- giving us their input
9 on a map, it's not the right agenda time, but they
10 probably don't know how we're working. And so maybe just
11 to invite them to go online and give us their email so we
12 can let them know when we're in their community or follow
13 us online. Just so it feels like we're hearing them, and
14 we're also connecting them to the process; because I know
15 for some folks, they know how to do the public comment,
16 but for a lot of people, they'll just walk away saying
17 okay, once again government didn't hear me. And so I
18 just want us to be able to -- I really like the way you
19 make people feel very comfortable. We've all made them
20 feel very comfortable when they call, but just if we can
21 direct them to the right place --

22 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Um hum.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- it could be helpful. Thank
24 you so much.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Just one clarification on that --

1 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: -- if it's an item on the agenda,
3 then the commissioners can engage with the caller and
4 discuss and give feedback. If it's under the general
5 comment -- it's not related to an item on the agenda, all
6 you can do is say thank you very much, we'll consider
7 that at a future meeting.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Kennedy?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Counsel, can't we ask for
11 clarification? We don't have to just say thank you; we
12 can ask them for clarification, can't we?

13 MS. JOHNSTON: No, because it's -- any discussion
14 should come up during -- when it's on an item on the
15 agenda. So you will be, hopefully, putting it on your
16 agenda for a future matter. If you don't understand what
17 they're saying, yes; but you can't engage into a do you
18 mean this or this.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay?

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just in case it's helpful, when
21 I was on the school board, I finally had an aha moment on
22 why that happens, and it's so that no one takes over our
23 agenda -- hijacks the agenda with what they want. And so
24 that's why we can't engage with anyone who's talking
25 about something that's not on the agenda.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

2 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Okay. We have someone
3 that needs to mute as well.

4 Okay. And as I'm learning the permission of a Chair
5 role, so please, do join in if you feel like there's
6 something, just step right on in. I may not know where
7 to direct them other than saying okay, so I appreciate
8 the support of all of my fellow commissioners as I,
9 perhaps, conclude this role for this meeting. Let's see
10 how this works.

11 Okay. Perfect. We'll make all of that happen. Can
12 we start -- and we will get a report, Commissioner
13 Sadhwani, from all of the subcommittees as well. I'll do
14 that under agenda item 14, and so everyone will be
15 prepared for that.

16 So we'll start the day with Marian you're your
17 report, agenda item 13, under Discussion of Conflict of
18 Interest Code.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. The first provision you
20 need to consider is Constitution Section XXI Section
21 2(c)(6) which says that you need to apply the article in
22 a manner than is impartial, that reinforces public
23 confidence.

24 CHAIR TURNER: I'm sorry, Marian. Marian, I'm
25 sorry. Commissioners, I know I just kind of threw the

1 order on you today, but has everyone prepared and have
2 your sheet or know where to find it on the screen? It's
3 the conflict of interest code for Citizens Redistricting,
4 and we actually got a handout on this.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. There are a couple of handouts.
6 A commission member is ineligible while you're serving
7 for your ten-year term after appointment to hold an
8 elective public office at any level; and you're
9 ineligible for five years beginning from your date of
10 appointment to hold a appointive state, federal, or local
11 public office, to serve a paid staff or a paid consultant
12 to any of the groups that you do the line drawing for; or
13 to register as a state, federal, or local lobbyist. So
14 that's specific to the commission.

15 Other than that, there's a general conflict of
16 interest rules about not having any financial interest or
17 not having a member of your family have any financial
18 interest in anything that the commission does. And we'll
19 be talking about this more thoroughly when we get around
20 to doing contracts, when they actually come before the
21 commission. But for example, if your son owned a
22 building, and the commission was going to be holding a
23 meeting there, you couldn't charge rent for it, because
24 that would be your immediate family profiting. Or if
25 your spouse were a lawyer, you couldn't vote on hiring

1 that person as the general counsel for the commission.

2 So generally, that kind of conflict of interest is linked
3 to financial benefit.

4 There was a question that came up earlier about if
5 you know someone who may want to influence the
6 commission, just knowing someone, as long as you don't
7 have any financial contact, is not a prohibiting conflict
8 of interest. The prohibition there would be make sure
9 that you don't receive any comments or input from that
10 person outside of the public meeting. So if that were to
11 come up, you would have to say please, send it writing or
12 testify at a public meeting. But other than that, just
13 knowing somebody is not any kind of a conflict.

14 As to the Form 700 and the conflict of interest
15 code, you all have thirty days from your date of
16 appointment. Hopefully, the first eight -- I believe
17 your time has just run out. When is it?

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I have those.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Everyone has submitted one. Great.
20 For the new commissioners, you were sworn in last
21 Wednesday; so thirty days from that is when yours would
22 be due. And you're assuming office statement is fairly
23 directly -- regulations of FPPC, Fair Political Practices
24 Commission tell you what you're required to provide.
25 You'd report investments, interests in real property, and

1 business positions held on the date you assumed the
2 office or position. In addition, income including loans,
3 gifts, and travel payments received during the twelve
4 months prior have to be reported. And that is in the
5 instructions for the Form 700 that I believe you were all
6 sent.

7 As to the conflict of interest, after the initial
8 form and what you have to provide, there were actually
9 two different conflict of interest codes that the last
10 commission adopted. The current one is much abbreviated.
11 It was when the commission lost most of its staff, and it
12 only lists a very few positions: commissioners, the
13 senior operations manager, and consultants and new
14 positions. That it is the code currently in effect. You
15 also got a copy of the code that was in effect prior to
16 that, which was much more in depth about what types of --
17 what types of employees you had and what category of
18 disclosure they fell under. What I would like to do,
19 with your approval, is after you set up who you're going
20 to have -- what categories of employees you're going to
21 have, I would redraft a new conflict of interest code for
22 you that reflects those positions and go through the
23 process of adopting that as your new conflict of interest
24 code; because the one currently in effect doesn't cover
25 all the positions that I think you're going to be having.



1 And finally, on the training, you have to do the
2 training within six months of your date of appointment.
3 You've gotten the website, and if anyone doesn't have
4 that -- I think it was one of the handouts that Raul did
5 about training. If you need that again, it is on the
6 California Attorney General's website, or we can send you
7 the link to it again. It's very user-friendly, walking
8 you through different situations, telling you what your
9 answer is -- telling you what the right answer is, then
10 having you go through a series of questions after you
11 read a section. And when you complete it, you get a
12 certificate of completion, which then you submit to Raul
13 so that we can keep those on file. And then after that,
14 you have to do it every year -- you have to do it by
15 April 1st of every year. So after everybody has done
16 their conflicts of interest training, then we can have
17 more discussion about the specifics, but I don't think
18 you need to know that at the present time.

19 Any questions? Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Marian.

21 Commissioner Sinay, did you have any additional
22 questions, or were you able to get your questions
23 answered off-line? Because I know there were some things
24 that we deferred to the conflict of interest time on the
25 agenda? Okay. So she's good. Awesome.

1 Commissioners, any other comments, questions on
2 these codes or training for the conflict of interest?
3 Okay. So what we're going to do is to open it for public
4 comment before we conclude this agenda item.

5 Ryan, would you please check the line to see if
6 there's any public on?

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Certainly. Ladies and gentlemen,
8 please press 1 then 0 if you wish to make a comment.
9 1-0. And we have no one in queue.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. We'll move to agenda item 14.
11 And on our original agenda, it read Report of Commission
12 Staffing: The General Procedures. We've done some of
13 this - Status Decision on Recruitment, Executive
14 Director, Chief Counsel, Communications Director,
15 discussion of possible actions. And so what we'd like to
16 do is to hear feedback from -- let's go with the
17 subcommittees that actually working (sic) on the
18 application review.

19 That subcommittee, please, if you can give us a
20 report at this time on the various positions.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: There are three different
22 subcommittees, one for each position.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Commissioner Fernandez?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. So Commissioner
25 Kennedy and I, we've reviewed the sixteen applications

1 that we received. And we were fortunate to have some
2 good candidates, and we were able to narrow it down to
3 five that we believe we could interview at that level.
4 But obviously, we can't discuss the specific people, so
5 we just -- that would be our recommendation is to move
6 forward with interviewing the five that we screened.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Any comments or questions from the
8 commissioners?

9 Commissioner Fornaciari?

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Executive Director?

11 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. This is for Executive Director.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, and I'm sorry; it's
13 Executive Director. I'm sorry. And then also, if we do
14 agree to move forward, then we would need to set up
15 meetings for that, which would be closed session.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Forn -- excuse me,
17 Sadhwani, and then Vazquez.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just really quickly, I
19 forgot how many applications were received again?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sixteen.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Sixteen. Sixteen.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sixteen, yeah.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez?

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Of those you narrowed down to
25 five. Did you have a sense of how many were screened out

1 because they didn't meet the minimum? I'm trying to
2 figure out who was sort of in the middle, maybe not
3 interview caliber but met the minimum requirement. I'm
4 curious.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I would say -- and
6 Commissioner Kennedy, correct me if I'm wrong -- I would
7 say we probably had -- of the sixteen, I would say at
8 least -- the majority of them met the minimum, so I would
9 say thirteen/fourteen met the minimum -- what I would
10 consider the minimum.

11 Commissioner Kennedy, do you have any -- okay.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: When you meet in closed session, you
13 could review the applications of those who were not
14 recommended for interview at that time. And if you want
15 to have the further interviews, you could do that.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So there is the recommendation
17 of moving forward with five and discussion in closed
18 session. Do we need a motion on -- Commissioner
19 Andersen?

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I have a question in terms
21 of just the process of how we're doing this. If we move
22 ahead, when is the time that we put together -- does the
23 subcommittee put together, like, interview questions, or
24 is that in the next step?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's what Commissioner

1 Kennedy and I were discussing today is -- obviously,
2 coming up with questions we don't want to do it in open
3 form, because it is a confidential process, so it'd have
4 to be done in closed session. And I'm not sure in terms
5 of the requirements that -- Commissioner Kennedy and I
6 could come up with some draft questions, but obviously,
7 we would want there to be consensus in terms of what we
8 want to ask the candidates. And I was -- we were
9 thinking of two different options. One of the options
10 could -- and I don't know if this is feasible or not
11 is -- we could receive input individually from each
12 commissioner. I'm not sure if that's allowed; and if
13 that's not allowed, when we schedule the interviews in
14 two weeks, I would suggest the first day would not be
15 interviews; it would be to come up with questions in
16 closed session.

17 So it's one of two options, and I'd have to defer to
18 legal as to whether our first option would be feasible,
19 because we couldn't go back and forth in terms of you
20 submit me the -- what you want the questions to be, and
21 then I respond back, because then you run into potential
22 issues there. So that's --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: But you would also have issues if --

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- my recommendation at
25 this point.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: You would have to do it by the second
2 method. If you did the first method, you would be taking
3 action outside of the public meeting.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. And that's what I
5 thought. That's what I thought.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Marian, would it
7 be appropriate for them to send me the questions? I can
8 put those together, and then when they have the first
9 closed session, I could present the compiled questions
10 for the group to look at.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Exactly. And in fact, those could be
12 sent to the commissioners ahead of time, as long as they
13 don't discuss it with each other.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. That would be --
15 that would probably be a more efficient way to do it,
16 instead of starting from scratch the first day, and it'll
17 give everyone an idea of what type of questions they may
18 want.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And Commissioner Taylor?

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Just as a point of
21 clarification, why do the questions that we develop have
22 to be done in closed session? Because I remember the
23 review committee, they developed their questions in an
24 open forum for us.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: The concern would be if you're trying

1 to come up with questions, you would give the applicants
2 a heads up ahead of time about what you're going to be
3 asking.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Though the process -- and I'm
5 assuming this will be a process that we're trying to
6 adopt that will follow through with each of the positions
7 that are open. Right now we're discussing, perhaps, each
8 of the commissioners sending in suggested questions to
9 Raul to have him compile them, and then send all of those
10 questions back out to the commissioners in advance of a
11 closed session meeting where we would narrow down the
12 questions.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Is that a -- Commissioner
15 Sinay?

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think Commissioner Taylor
17 asks a good question. I'll be honest, I wish I didn't
18 know the questions when we had the interview. It would
19 have been easier not to have to prepare for specific
20 questions. But especially, because I'm concerned that
21 some of our questions may not have been exactly in the
22 job postings. The way it was put in, we had some issues
23 about -- anyway, so I'm wondering if legally we have to
24 do it in closed session, or it's just that for the
25 majority of us, it feels better to do it closed session.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Legally, you may do it in closed
2 session, and I think it feels better to do it in closed
3 session.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, I'm going to defer to
5 Commissioner Kennedy, but let me just put -- I'm just
6 going to put my two cents in. I'm not exactly sure what
7 was discussed prior to our interviews, and I believe that
8 although they decided on -- I think it was four or five
9 questions that everyone would be asked, there were also
10 some questions that were specific to the individual
11 candidate that were not discussed in open session, I
12 believe, correct? I wasn't online when they were
13 discussing the questions, but I do know that we did have
14 standard questions, but then we also had individual
15 questions that were tailored to our --

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- specific situations.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: If I may? With the ARP,
19 which is what you're describing now, there were standard
20 questions across the applicants and then follow-up
21 questions that each of the ARP members developed
22 specifically for -- and that's why you had the variance
23 in questions, because different things needed to be asked
24 for different candidates. If I may, that's not strictly
25 speaking, a personnel selection process. What you will

1 be engaging in is a personnel selection process. So
2 there will be some differences in the approach and the
3 process.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Commissioners Vazquez and
5 Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I guess I would like
7 to know exactly if we have to do it in closed session,
8 only because I know for interviewing -- and I get that
9 there are different rules -- but when I interviewed for
10 public position, there had been a couple cases where I
11 have received questions somewhat in advance, whether it
12 was an hour or a day before. And I say this also to
13 Commissioner Sinay's point, that I think we had started a
14 discussion about wanting to see things in particular
15 positions that weren't maybe necessarily reflected in the
16 posting. And for me, I still would like someone to bring
17 their A-game, because they know that I am going to be --
18 or we, as a commission, are going to be asking for
19 particular things that maybe aren't explicit in the
20 posting. So that would be, at least for maybe a subset
21 of questions -- I would like someone to come explicitly
22 prepared to address issues that aren't explicit in the
23 posting.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Kennedy,
25 Turner, Lee, and Ahmad?

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, I'm fine.

2 Commissioner Fernandez made the point that I was going to
3 make. Thank you.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: If I may just answer the question
6 about what's required? It says nothing in this article
7 shall be construed to prevent a public body from holding
8 closed sessions to consider the appointment employment
9 evaluation of performance or dismissal of public
10 employee. So that's why I was saying it's permitted to
11 hold it in closed session; nothing prevents you from
12 holding a closed session, but it really is up to you
13 whether you want to do it or not.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, that's
15 Bagley-Keene. When you look at personnel practice, the
16 deliberative process for developing the selection
17 instrument is typically done in private. And that is
18 because -- it does tend then to do two things. And the
19 major one is to queue then the candidates in terms of
20 what you're looking for and therefore, then slant their
21 responses in that direction. And that's pretty typical.
22 So when you start looking at Freedom of Information Act,
23 that's typically not a disclosable item because of the
24 fact of the impact on the selection process.

25 If I may also, as far as your selection process, you

1 are permitted to engage in questions that do look at
2 things like organizational fit, desired qualifications;
3 and that's why it's important, I think, that you be able
4 to take this time, develop your questions, let's
5 amalgamate them, and have a discussion then as you
6 prepare what your final questions are going to be.
7 Because I know that there has been a lot of concern about
8 what you can and can't ask.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: And you're not limited to the job
10 announcement.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Understood. I think it's
13 more -- I think I maybe have a different perspective on
14 how best to get at interview candidates' qualifications
15 via an interview, that are maybe different from some, if
16 not all, of the commissioners; and how interviews are
17 generally conducted.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, for one thing, you're exempt
19 from civil service rules, so you don't have to worry
20 about the technicalities, but it really is up to you if
21 you want to develop your questions in public or in a
22 closed session. It's just you're not prohibited from
23 holding a closed session.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: But I would
25 recommend not to develop your -- I'm sorry. I can't

1 support that. Sorry. There may not be a law about it,
2 but as far as personnel practice and the way the law
3 applies to it, that's not what you do. Now, that being
4 said, if you wanted to develop your questions and then
5 provide them to the candidates half an hour before they
6 go online, that's appropriate, and that's common
7 practice.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: But that's
10 different than the deliberative process.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Right. And I'd like to thank counsel
12 and staff. We appreciate your comments and are certainly
13 taking them under advisement. The queue that I have
14 it -- I'm going to -- I have a couple of comments I'd
15 like to make. Yee, Ahmad -- Yee, I see you again, and
16 Kennedy, that will go next.

17 The thing that I wanted to say and especially in
18 response to Commissioner Vazquez -- I appreciate all the
19 comments that's been said. One of the things that I
20 believe we could do, is to be able to develop the
21 questions that we're, like, wanting to use in closed
22 session and at that time, also identify questions that
23 may get at things that was not on our original job
24 posting. And at that point, if indeed we determine that
25 we should release some piece of some of the questions --

1 some core questions that would ask everyone, based on the
2 particular job type, we can choose then to release those
3 early, and then have the others that we want to ask that
4 we did not disclose in advance. And so that's something
5 that I would be really comfortable with, and I think that
6 there is advantage to be able to ensure that -- we are
7 ensuring that all of our questions are appropriate and
8 that we are all in agreement before we do it in public
9 comment.

10 So for me, I'd like to definitely develop them in
11 closed session, identify which ones that may be outside
12 of what we've communicated, and then provide those in
13 advance -- or anything else we determine -- but at that
14 point, make a determination of what we want to post prior
15 to people coming into their interview.

16 Commissioner Yee?

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: I really like that idea,
18 Commissioner Turner. I would support that. I think part
19 of it is the difference between slow processors and fast
20 processors. As a slow processor myself, I loved having
21 the ARP questions beforehand, and it really made a
22 difference for me. I think also posting questions would
23 provide some assurance to candidates that we're asking
24 the same questions of different candidates, which would
25 be a positive thing, too, I think.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad?

2 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I have thoughts on the interview
3 process as well, but I was wondering if we can go back to
4 just the three positions themselves and see if the other
5 two positions had any viable candidates to move forward
6 on. It would just help me to try to formulize how many
7 positions are we talking about in terms of the interview
8 process itself at this point.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you for that call.
10 Commissioner Kennedy?

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
12 with Commissioner Yee in supporting your proposal. Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. And in light of
15 Commissioner Ahmad's -- the process will, I'm hoping, be
16 the same for all of our positions. And so we can come
17 back and finalize that, but I do want to also be
18 responsive to a commissioner's desire to get back to the
19 positions. So we've heard just from the Executive
20 Director Subcommittee, with sixteen applications
21 received, narrow it down to five, and there were not a
22 lot of other questions about their process. So yeah.
23 Let's go ahead and hear from the next subcommittee,
24 Counsel.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chief counsel.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Please.

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes. This is Commissioner
3 Toledo, and Commissioner Andersen and I met, and we
4 reviewed the -- and you have a memo in your -- that was
5 sent to you. We met and we reviewed the bulletin as well
6 as the application packages, and reviewed the packages
7 thoroughly. And given the high likelihood of litigation
8 and the commissions' need for a strong legal guidance,
9 we're recommending reposting an updated advertisement for
10 the position. And if resources allow, contracting with a
11 private search firm to help us secure a larger pool of
12 qualified candidates. The background for this is, is we
13 only received four candidates for the counsel position,
14 and the candidates had varying levels of legal
15 experience, all of whom demonstrated very strong
16 knowledge of the state government; most of whom have
17 worked for the State government for quite some time and
18 have extensive experience in that area. None of the
19 candidates demonstrated a significant or -- significant
20 experience with the Voting Rights and Federal Voting
21 Rights Act, whether it's implementation, litigation, or
22 enforcement which was one of the items that went in the
23 bulletin as being a requirement. Although I did have
24 some good experience -- some good legal experience, most
25 have not served as Chief Counsel in the past, so this



1 would -- and this would be an opportunity for a
2 promotion, but certainly, they didn't have that
3 experience -- or most don't have that experience, except
4 for I believe one person in the pool.

5 And given all of this, we thought that it -- the
6 limited pool suggests that perhaps this position needs
7 further search. So conduct a more extensive executive
8 search and a more widespread search; maybe just posting
9 it in some of the different venues for a certain amount
10 of time. And we do know that this may delay the hiring
11 of the counsel, which is a very important position for
12 the commission, but given the need for -- given the very
13 high chance of litigation and the need for a strong
14 counsel -- and experienced counsel, I should say, and the
15 feedback we're getting from the lead stakeholders about
16 ensuring that we have a diverse and also just an
17 experienced pool of individuals, this -- we thought it
18 also gives us an opportunity to try to obtain a bigger
19 pool, while at the same time -- given that most of the
20 legal -- more complex legal issues will occur once we
21 start delving into the data, which won't happen until
22 later this year, early next year. We do have a little
23 bit of time, not too much, but a little bit more time
24 than perhaps the other positions to do a reposting of the
25 position. So that was our recommendation. I don't know

1 if Commissioner Andersen would like to add anything else.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. We really felt that
3 there was more to be gained than there is to be lost just
4 going ahead. And just before -- it just wasn't robust of
5 a pool enough. And unfortunately, it was a very, sort
6 of, obviously narrowly -- the group who saw this posting
7 was obviously rather narrow, because they were just large
8 sections of attorneys who are experienced that we just
9 didn't see. So it was just -- the group was just -- it
10 wasn't specifically that oh, they really weren't
11 qualified, it was just too narrow of a group to say okay,
12 it's this. And we felt that there were experiences that
13 the just didn't quite have, that we really need. And we
14 need a good, strong counsel who can help the group. And
15 at this point, we really need to go back. There was much
16 more to be gained than the amount of time that we're
17 going to lose a little bit; we thought that was more
18 worth it. And we both independently came upon that.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa,
20 Ahmad, and Fernandez?

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: First off, I want to thank
22 Commissioners Toledo and Andersen for the work that you
23 did and for the memo. That was really helpful to have
24 just read through this morning. Just a comment that, I
25 guess -- a comment, maybe question. I hear what you are

1 saying, and I whole-heartedly agree with your
2 recommendation, particularly given the lack of VRA
3 experience. And it does get me thinking that perhaps,
4 like some of the other prioritization that we've been
5 learning about in terms of how we think about the map
6 drawing -- perhaps we also need to take that into account
7 in terms of the Chief Counsel that we're looking to hire;
8 and specifically highlight that. That VRA experience is
9 probably going to be more important than, say, the state
10 government/Bagley-Keene experience. Because frankly, I
11 think people can learn that part, but I think the VRA
12 experience and knowledge of is going to just -- would
13 just take somebody much longer. And I think having
14 somebody who comes in and has a much more intimate
15 knowledge of that, I think is going to be much more
16 useful for all of us in terms of the kind of counsel that
17 we're going to be needing.

18 And then I will also say that -- and I think maybe
19 this is clarity that I'm going to need from both Marian
20 and also from Raul -- but I'm also thinking that the two
21 of them are also going to continue on with us in
22 supporting us as well, too?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: That's up to you, but I'm certainly
24 willing on a half-time basis. That's what an RA does.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And that's where I'm

1 thinking that with their help, they can also help advise
2 staff in terms of the Bagley-Keene and some of the other
3 state government ins and outs. For me, my preference
4 would be to see somebody who has the stronger VRA
5 experience.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Madam Commissioner
7 Akutagawa, if I might address that directly? Our feeling
8 was exactly -- it was like we're picking someone who only
9 has one type of experience, and in a more robust pool,
10 you should have both. And we really thought there are
11 people out there who definitely have both. And we just
12 didn't get them. So that actually kind of really hits on
13 our point that we need a person who has -- and there are
14 people out there. It's not like this is oh, there's
15 only -- there's no one out there that has that kind of
16 experience. There are, but we need -- it is a sort of
17 specialized thing, which is why we did recommend let's go
18 with an actual recruiter. And that is a bit more how you
19 would typically find a person of this position.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad and
21 Fernandez? Oh, sorry. Could Commissioner Toledo also
22 say something, because --

23 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I was just going to add -- and
24 I think one of the reasons we were able to get to this
25 recommendation is because we do have strong confidence in

1 Raul and Marian to continue to provide us with support on
2 the government issues, and also with open meetings and
3 all of the support that they've been providing us, and
4 hopefully will continue to provide us.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad?

6 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Quick question. Do you all --
7 obviously, I haven't seen anything -- any of the
8 applications related to this position -- do you all think
9 that this an issue related to the language in the job
10 posting, or the outreach and the recruitment and where
11 the job posting was shared? Because I do see that the
12 job posting itself does have VRA listed as some of the
13 knowledge and abilities that the candidate should have.
14 So I'm just trying to get a clarification on whether you
15 are recommending we edit the job posting and then go back
16 out there, or just go back out there over all in general?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think it's a little bit of
18 both. So yes, I agree -- especially the VRA piece. It
19 is in the job posting. It's in the bulletin. And it may
20 be that the job posting may need to be placed in --
21 because it's a very specialized position. It's a legal
22 position. And different avenues where lawyers with this
23 type of experience would see it or their colleague might
24 see it and refer it to them. So it may not have gotten
25 to the appropriate -- it may not have had as big of a

1 dissemination as we would have -- as would have been
2 helpful to getting a larger pool --

3 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- was the thinking.

5 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. Thank you.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez and
7 Sinay?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. And I'm wondering --
9 and I agree -- I support both Commissioners Toledo and
10 Andersen in their recommendations. And I'm wondering if
11 the limited pool also has to do with -- the positions are
12 advertised as limited term. They're not permanent full-
13 time positions, so that in itself, decreases your
14 candidate base -- or potential base. And then so I was
15 trying to think, like, outside of the box, is it a
16 possibility to maybe instead of hiring a Chief Counsel,
17 we also contract with some legal firm that specializes in
18 VRA and have them be our Chief Counsel in that kind of
19 general type of area; because I don't know if we'll be
20 able to find someone who has that VRA experience that --
21 I agree; we really do need someone that has that legal
22 background in that area. And maybe if we try to think
23 outside the box and maybe contract for it versus just
24 hire someone for it. I'm not sure if this limited term
25 advertisement actually hinders us in some areas. So I'm

1 just trying to throw out suggestions to try to get that
2 VRA experience that we all agree we need. But thank you
3 both.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

5 Commissioners Fernandez, Vazquez, Sadhwani, Kennedy,
6 and Raul?

7 Commissioner Fernandez? Oh, no --

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just went, and I think
9 Commissioner Sinay also wanted to go.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think that you meant me
12 versus Fernandez.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, I wrote the wrong name. Okay,
14 go. Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, it's okay. We Latinos. So
16 I wanted some clarification, because I feel like the last
17 commission -- well first, the whole what does the general
18 counsel do -- Chief Counsel do? I know I read the job
19 description, but how does that differ than what we're
20 getting right now from Marian? Because I've been on
21 different commissions, and there'll be a counsel that
22 kind of comes in when we're having meetings to make sure
23 we're following everything and is there when we need
24 information. So what does this person do when we're not
25 meeting?

1 Second of all, didn't the other commission
2 actually -- they hired a whole different firm -- they
3 hired a firm for the litigation part that wasn't the
4 Chief Counsel. That's what I thought I heard, that the
5 litigation was separate. And then also, didn't they have
6 a Chief Counsel and a VRA counsel? So they actually
7 had -- what we're looking for in one person, they
8 actually had in three separate entities, if I'm not
9 mistaken from the reports I've read.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Can I jump in on this,
11 because I think everyone's kind of addressing this? We
12 will still need a VRA expert -- a legal VRA expert. But
13 that person is not going to be there all the time. We
14 need a counsel who has enough of that background, to stop
15 us before we get into it and oops, we should have had
16 counsel. We need a stronger counsel who doesn't just
17 wait for us to oops, well you know what you guys should
18 have done. We need someone who could say, that's a
19 question for later, Commissioners. Who has enough
20 authority and experience in the Voting Rights, in the
21 Bagley-Keene, and the government running of the group to
22 jump in and help us as we go along. We'll still need --
23 it doesn't have to be the total expert but has enough
24 experience in all those areas. And we just didn't quite
25 have that. We had a lot of up and coming who will be

1 there in a few years, but maybe not. And so they need
2 that variety, which is why we talked about a recruiter.
3 Because they need that variety. So I wanted to jump in,
4 because I think that might help for a lot of people.

5 CHAIR TURNER: That is helpful, thank you. That did
6 help.

7 Commissioner Vazquez?

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I just was wondering
9 how much is also, maybe, due to the fact that we heard of
10 several community-based organizations and partners say
11 that they had been waiting to distribute their postings
12 to their networks based on the decisions we would make
13 about possibly editing. So -- yeah. Well, I should talk
14 more about that in our subcommittee update, but that was
15 a question for this subcommittee.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Certainly, I think that played
18 a part a little bit into it and that if we can get wider
19 distribution. And there was comments that potentially
20 there are -- at least a couple of stakeholders have said
21 that they'd help in distributing the job description. Or
22 that they hadn't yet fully distributed. This presents as
23 an opportunity to see if we're able to get a wider
24 distribution and a more qualified pool.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

1 Commissioner Sadhwani?

2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: All right. Thank you. Some
3 of my comments have already been said, so I'll leave
4 them. Agreed with what's been said. I think agreeing
5 with Commissioner Andersen. We need a Chief Counsel and
6 probably multiple other components there, as the need
7 arises. The VRA component, I think we're California. If
8 we want a top-notch VRA attorney, we need to go after it.
9 I don't think there's a ton of people that are going to
10 fit that bill necessarily. I absolutely agree with the
11 idea of using a recruiter, relying on the community
12 organizations that are clearly tracking this process and
13 really concerned about ensuring VRA compliance.

14 And then I would also just add, we've had some
15 really top-notch presentations from Prof. Levitt, who is
16 national VRA scholar -- legal scholar. Perhaps
17 soliciting him to help with this outreach. Perhaps there
18 are people within his network that could -- that should
19 be applying. Even former commissioners from the 2010
20 commission. We've had Angelo Ancheta present to us. I
21 know Maria Blanco on the previous commission had a VRA
22 background as well. Perhaps involving some of them --
23 they're going to know very well the kinds of capacities
24 that we would need from a Chief Counsel. So I would just
25 add that to this conversation.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you.

2 Commissioner Kennedy and then Raul?

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
4 think it was Professor Barreto yesterday who commented
5 that we're coming into redistricting season nationwide,
6 and we're trying to find a Chief Counsel when fifty
7 states and all sorts of other jurisdictions are also
8 looking. So I think that probably has also played into
9 the thin pool that we have at this point, and I would
10 agree that we need to go out much more robustly with the
11 announcement on this one. Thank you.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And Raul?

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I was just going
14 to describe the thought process last time, if that would
15 be helpful.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So the general
18 counsel that was hired had a very broad government
19 background. The thought being then that they could bring
20 in a VRA counsel, which they did, Gibson Dunn, and then
21 during litigation, went ahead and got additional counsel
22 that specialized with the litigation. At a certain
23 point, I think we had what, three different law firms
24 working. That's why also the 4.3 million dollars that's
25 specifically allocated for legal counsel. Because at a

1 certain point as you go through different processes, that
2 need will be there. And Gibson Dunn was there in
3 assisting the commission while they were drawing the
4 lines. So the consideration about having a VRA
5 specialist or a counsel while you're drawing the lines,
6 that's what happened last time. Anyway, I offer that if
7 it may be of assistance while you're looking at things.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And that did really help us in
9 thinking through this as well, because we did hear that.
10 I think a part of some of our thinking was that we are in
11 a different environment right now given what's happening
12 with the census, given what's happening with some of the
13 changes that have happened, and really trying to prevent
14 some of the -- we'll likely end up in litigation but
15 making sure that -- and we'll need the firms and -- we'll
16 like need representation from outside firm anyway. But
17 trying to have enough -- general counsel that has both --
18 that has enough voting rights and electoral -- federal
19 electoral knowledge to keep us from making any
20 preventable issues and identifying them early so that we
21 can address them before they -- so that when we are in
22 litigation, we aren't caught off guard or on something
23 that we missed inadvertently. And that may so happen,
24 but we're trying to reduce the chances of that happening.
25 And so having a more -- a general counsel with this type

1 of knowledge would be helpful with the federal
2 constitutional, the state constitution, and obviously the
3 VRA and electoral background.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa?

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Hearing what
6 everybody's been talking about and what's been said, I do
7 wonder if it is possible to also make known that while we
8 would like to identify and perhaps hire somebody, we will
9 also have some flexibility over the next, let's say, two
10 to three months where we may not require a full-time
11 commitment just yet. And I'm saying this mainly because
12 of the census lawsuits that are out there. We're also in
13 the middle of what is going to be a very heated
14 presidential campaign. And given all of these kind of
15 other factors taken together, there may be qualified
16 candidates that are essentially busy with other things
17 and just thinking, I don't have time to apply for this
18 right now. I can't commit to this right now. But
19 perhaps after the election, after these -- I don't know.
20 I'm assuming that the census lawsuits are going to need
21 to be resolved sooner rather than later, that we then may
22 have a more open pool.

23 But if we can try to get somebody identified and
24 make a tentative hire, even if it's to say, look, we want
25 you to start full time but we're willing to wait until

1 after the November election or into December, which is
2 when we expect that we'll need more of the full-time
3 commitment.

4 That may -- I'm just kind of putting that out there
5 as a possibility of maybe expanding our pool, given some
6 of the comments that have been put out there already by
7 the Commissioners.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So what I'd like -- so we've
9 had some really good, healthy discussion on it. The
10 proposal from the subcommittee is to repost and contract
11 with a private firm.

12 We've heard from a few others. I'd like -- let's
13 hear from the last committee before we determine what
14 we're dealing with and make decisions on all three of
15 them based on the proposals. So if we can hear from the
16 Communications Subcommittee, please.

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sure. I will -- we reviewed
18 the applications we received. We received twenty-two
19 total applications. We eliminated two based on them not
20 meeting the qualifications. The remaining twenty we
21 looked over. They were good but not -- not especially
22 given we had a much more robust discussion on what we
23 need at the Commission for communications capacity.

24 And based on our conversation, we didn't find more
25 than a couple that maybe fit what we were looking for.

1 There were a lot of folks -- a lot -- most of the -- the
2 vast majority of the applications are state -- current
3 state employees who do have a wealth of communications
4 background in state government.

5 And our concern there, potentially, with having such
6 a -- having a pool that was largely state employees, that
7 we may be losing folks in the private sector, both
8 private for-profit and private nonprofit, who, while
9 maybe not have experience working in government of
10 staffing public commissions, may have sort of the clip --
11 be able to work at the clip and the speed and the
12 savviness that we will need for this time-limited
13 position.

14 And so our recommendation is that we keep the
15 posting as is. We thought the posting was fine. But
16 that we would like to repost, hopefully encourage our
17 community-based partners to advertise it heavily to their
18 networks to ensure a greater pool from which to draw
19 interview candidates. Commissioner Taylor, did I miss
20 anything?

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, I think you hit it on the
22 nose, and I think it sort of addressed with some of the
23 other discussions we had with the positions. We wanted
24 to make sure that there was a robust job search, and if
25 we can put it out there one more time, especially in



1 light of the public comment, that would be great. And we
2 would choose from those applicant panels.

3 Those that have qualified we don't want to
4 eliminate. We just want to reach out further, just to
5 make sure that we have all possible candidates.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Kennedy, Le Mons, Fernandez,
7 Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam chair. If
9 we are going to repost this or extend the search, I do
10 have three things that I would propose to change. I
11 mean, there are some other minor issues, but on the
12 knowledge and abilities, and/or desirable qualifications
13 for this type of position for the work that we're doing,
14 I would say master's preferred. That could go under
15 desirable.

16 Minimum professional experience, I would up that
17 from five to seven. I mean, my experience in the UN
18 system when I'm looking for someone to do this work at
19 this level, I'm looking for someone with at least seven
20 years of experience.

21 I don't know that we really need our Communications
22 Director to know Robert's Rules of Order. That seemed a
23 little extraneous to me. Those are the most important
24 changes that I would propose to this. Thank you.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Le Mons?

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I don't -- I support whatever
2 decision we make on the repost of the communication in
3 support of the subcommittee. I do want to make a
4 comment, though. I feel like when gatekeepers withhold
5 an announcement to the community, to make that decision,
6 to deny the opportunity to the community, I don't have a
7 lot of respect for that.

8 Whatever our decision ended up being ultimately was
9 our decision to make. And whether the person applied,
10 and we changed it subsequently, all fine, well, and good.
11 But to come on and make public comment about refusing to
12 distribute the announcement to the community, to me that
13 is an abuse of gatekeeper power and I needed to go on the
14 record and say that.

15 And I hope that was not the weighted element that is
16 asking us to repost this position. If you feel like the
17 22 or 20 people that applied are not what we're looking
18 for, great. But if this is more about because some
19 organization has decided that they were not going to
20 distribute the announcement because of whatever position
21 they were taking, that's a very different story.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Understood. I'll have Commissioner
23 Taylor just so that -- I'm sure he wants to respond to
24 the comment, and then we will go to Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, that was part of our

1 discussion. We did discuss whether or not that was
2 intentionally withheld and the impact that would have on
3 our selection process.

4 We also don't want that to work out to our
5 detriment. So although we don't agree that gatekeepers
6 should intentionally withhold an application, we don't
7 want that to work to our detriment.

8 So on a personal level, Commissioner Le Mons, I can
9 agree with what you said. I just don't want that act,
10 whether intentional or not, to work to our detriment. So
11 we want to increase the pool so that it benefits us.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner, thank you.
13 Commissioner Fernandez and Toledo.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Now, just quickly.

15 CHAIR TURNER: And Akutagawa.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Just quickly, I
17 agree completely with Commissioner Le Mons. And I was
18 holding back whether or not to say something, but I
19 agree. I was very disappointed that some may not have
20 forwarded the announcements that we had. But on a second
21 level, if we do decide to go out for the Chief Counsel
22 and the Communications Director -- excuse me. I would
23 recommend that maybe we put something in the announcement
24 saying, if you've already applied you don't need to apply
25 again, only so we can keep the initial ones.

1 But of course, if they've already applied and now
2 they want to change their application, that's fine, too.
3 But I'm just wondering if that's something -- although
4 you've already said you didn't really have what -- it
5 doesn't appear that you've received what you wanted. I
6 would just want to keep the initial ones, also because
7 the ones that initially applied did make a good-faith
8 effort and submit their application.

9 So that's just FYI. But thank you both for the --
10 for the work you did redoing those applications.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Toledo and then
12 Akutagawa.

13 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I would agree with
14 Commissioner Le Mons as well in terms of the community
15 organizations potentially not disseminating the
16 announcements. And my question to the committee is, in
17 terms of timeline, we do have -- and just thinking around
18 this. Communication issues are occurring all the time in
19 terms of the census response, additional things that are
20 going to come up.

21 And so timing on this position seems like a position
22 we would need sooner rather than later. And just your
23 thoughts around timing and -- timing for the position and
24 whether the delay might impact our ability to respond or
25 to -- especially when it comes to outreach, if we're

1 going to start outreach sooner rather than later and how
2 we might be able to deal with that with current staffing
3 or whatnot, if we decide to repost.

4 CHAIR TURNER: I'll ask, please, Commissioner
5 Vazquez to answer in response and then we'll go to
6 Commissioner Akutagawa.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, to respond to
8 Commissioner Toledo, the hope was that we not -- we would
9 not revise the job description so that we could both
10 preserve the current applicant pool. Because there were
11 some candidates that might be worth interviewing, but
12 that hopefully, you know, maybe by a couple of weeks
13 while we are engaging in the Executive Director interview
14 process, with a couple of weeks, a few weeks of
15 additional outreach we would then get a broader pool from
16 which to choose a large handful of applicants to
17 interview. That was the thinking there.

18 And if I could also respond to the comment about
19 gatekeeping. I can't testify to any organization's
20 intentions or -- nefarious or otherwise. I will say that
21 for me, to Commissioner Taylor's point that it was
22 about -- our decision was about impact and the impact
23 that community, the potential broader network of
24 potential applicants wasn't reached for whatever reason,
25 that we needed to make sure that those potential

1 applicants at least saw the posting in order for us to
2 have a good applicant pool.

3 So yes, to echo Commissioner Taylor, the impact that
4 it had, we are trying to mitigate so that we have a
5 quality Communications Director. Which is also why our
6 recommendation was also to not change the job
7 description.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa, Le Mons, and
9 Sadhwani.

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, and to a degree
11 my comment or -- is following what Commissioner Vazquez
12 just says. In some ways my comment is perhaps not as
13 relevant, but I do just want to just say it for the
14 record, perhaps, in case there is a further discussion
15 about this, is around the recommendation to require a
16 master's degree, frankly, for a Communications Director
17 position, I don't believe that a master's degree is going
18 to be a needed requirement to be able to have somebody
19 who is going to be savvy around communications.

20 I think there's a lot of on-the-job experience that
21 qualified candidates will bring. Also, I want to also
22 just say that not everybody can afford to go and get a
23 master's degree. And that that could unintentionally
24 exclude some very qualified candidates from perhaps more
25 underrepresented communities, but they have the kind of

1 needed savvy that we're looking for. So I just wanted to
2 say that.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Yes, Commissioner Le
4 Mons?

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I just wanted to make a
6 clarification point. I don't feel like my comments were
7 based on any interpretation but explicit expressions from
8 at least two public commenters that represented
9 organizations that said that they specifically did not
10 distribute it. And they said why.

11 So my point is based on that. Not an
12 interpretation, not me assuming anyone's intent. The
13 intent was made crystal clear. At least it was crystal
14 clear to me.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy and
16 Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
18 think I was pretty explicit last week in my remarks on
19 this, but in case I wasn't, in case there's any doubt, I
20 think that part of the auditor's office support to
21 getting this commission up and running should have
22 included, and so here forward should include
23 communications support.

24 So I think we would be well within our rights to go
25 back to the Office of the State Auditor and say, we need

1 interim support in the communications area until such
2 time and we are able to hire our own.

3 Second of all, in response to Commissioner
4 Akutagawa, I really embrace what you've said, and
5 thinking further about it, you know, another thing that's
6 often done is offering two options.

7 You can say, master's degree preferred or and then
8 have, instead of five years' experience, seven years'
9 experience with the additional experience compensating
10 for not having the degree.

11 I think -- I think, you know, I think that we need
12 something to bump up the quality of the field, but I
13 really do embrace what you're saying about possible
14 barriers to getting a degree and I'm perfectly happy to
15 have kind of an either/or on this. Okay?

16 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay and Turner in the
17 point.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Madam Chair, I wanted to
19 clarify, you know, having worked in the community for a
20 long time, there is a difference between a communications
21 expert and an outreach expert. And a lot of times in the
22 nonprofit field, because of lack of money we throw them
23 together.

24 But in this case, I would say that I mushed them
25 together when I first read this job description, because

1 what was really missing in this is the community
2 engagement piece. We don't say experience in -- we say
3 diverse stakeholders, but diverse stakeholders can mean
4 government, administrative, commissioners. We don't say
5 diverse communities. It was never clear. So I highly
6 recommend keeping the job posting the way it is,
7 especially since we have some in the pool that we will be
8 looking at, versus asking them to resubmit.

9 But we need to have a much broader conversation, and
10 I have this for future agendas -- around outreach.
11 Because outreach was done by community partners last time
12 and funded externally by the Irvine Foundation. And so I
13 would love -- if it's okay with all of us, to kind of put
14 that outreach piece and that engagement piece separate
15 from this communications position, and maybe that will
16 help us kind of just move forward on that communications.

17 And having said that, would that change Commissioner
18 Vazquez and Commissioner Taylor's review of the
19 applications that we did receive, if we pulled out that
20 outreach piece and said, you know what? We need to
21 really talk about this and it's a different skill set
22 completely.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sadhwani.

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 First, I just want to thank the subcommittee for you work

1 on this issue. I am happy to accept the recommendation
2 of the subcommittee as is, to the extent that we have a
3 conversation about whether or not the job description is
4 changed.

5 I would just offer to the committee, and I very much
6 appreciate Commissioner Kennedy's thoughtfulness around
7 adding things around master's degree and/or additional
8 experience preferred. If we were to go down the road of
9 making a change, I would also just put out there, in the
10 spirit of concern of community outreach and also, media
11 outreach, right? Remembering that forty percent of our
12 state is Latino and that Spanish language media plays a
13 very large role in California.

14 That is not to negate Asian-American media, it's
15 just a far more complicated process because there are so
16 many different languages involved there. For me
17 personally, I would like to see us -- if we were to make
18 changes, to have a conversation about including Spanish
19 language preferred, simply because I think when we're
20 talking about a skilled communications person in
21 California, often that -- it doesn't have to, but often
22 it does require engagement with Spanish language press.

23 So I would just put that out there. I'm happy,
24 though, if we keep it as is, but maybe that's just in the
25 back of our minds as we're moving forward.

1 I think we need to still discuss what exactly we see
2 the Communications Director doing, and the level of
3 engagement that they're going to have, both with
4 communities and with media. But I think that's an
5 important consideration for us moving forward.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. The comment I want to make, and
7 then we'll go Commissioners Le Mons and Ahmad. Yes, and
8 I keep putting myself back because I'm still thinking it
9 through, but I'm going to think out loud with you right
10 now.

11 Part of the, I guess, challenge that I'm having even
12 with the seven years masters' degree. I went back and
13 I'm looking at the product description. There is
14 something to be said about freshness. Someone that's
15 been in a role that long, for sure there are some very
16 valuable things and experiences that they've gained but
17 we're also looking for people that are creative. I'm
18 thinking cutting edge when we start talking about some of
19 the new social networking sites.

20 And some of the young people that I'm exposed to
21 just do amazing work at being able to communicate and get
22 things out into the community, things I never would have
23 considered or knew was available. And I'm weighing in my
24 mind, yes, they need to be skilled in all these other
25 piece parts but are we -- are we losing an edge when

1 we're looking for someone that's been also in a role for
2 a really long time.

3 Five and seven years in communications and when you
4 start talking technology, for sure there are people that
5 will stay on top of the leading edge of what's going on,
6 but I just needed to think that out loud. It's kind of
7 how I'm thinking through freshness, approach, ability to
8 be relevant today, reach all markets, and have that level
9 of experience. So that's what's running around in my
10 thoughts right now. Commissioners -- who did I say? Le
11 Mons and Ahmad?

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I was going to -- I
13 wanted to say that I support what you just said,
14 Commissioner Turner, as well as what you said,
15 Commissioner Sadhwani. I've been thinking about this in
16 probably a little bit different way.

17 And I don't know why I was thinking about it this
18 way, but I was seeing the Communication Director as
19 driving a team, and not that all of this was going to lie
20 with one person.

21 I think it's kind of similar to what we're facing
22 with general counsel. That yes, you need to have a broad
23 depth and breadth, but you're bringing the direction.
24 You're driving the communication and underneath you are
25 individuals that have relationships with the press, and I

1 think beyond Spanish, quite frankly.

2 That has outreach -- has an outreach team, like,
3 they're all part of a unit that could conceive -- maybe
4 we don't have the budget for all of this. But I'm seeing
5 a robust team of people that's led by the Communications
6 Director.

7 So again, I don't know why I was thinking about it
8 that way or -- but I think we should be if we aren't
9 thinking about it that way. And that might be looking at
10 our org chart. I know the org chart we reviewed earlier
11 in the week didn't identify all of those positions, but
12 because they weren't there, I didn't assume that that
13 wouldn't be something that we would be expecting that
14 Communications Director to build, as far as a team in
15 concerned.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. That's very helpful
17 because I kept looking at the title "Director", but as I
18 read through the description, nothing really points to a
19 team of support. So I kept oscillating back and forth
20 between, do they need to be able to do it or are they
21 going to be able to hire into hire in for someone. So
22 yeah, good distinction.

23 Commissioner Ahmad? And then Commissioner
24 Fornaciari and Akutagawa.

25 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Just before I go, I think Raul

1 had his hand up. Did you want to respond to anything?

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to
3 respond that you have a \$2.1 million allocation for the
4 outreach. And so the idea of having a Communication
5 Director during the time of the outreach process is
6 staffed with a variety of disciplines and skills, is very
7 possible. I mean, that's up to you as you design your
8 plan and work with those folks. Anyway, just wanted to
9 say that that is possible.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Good, thank you. Commissioner Ahmad.

11 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons took all of
12 my thoughts. So I also, you know, with the discussion
13 about master's degree or bachelor's degree, and my mind
14 immediately went to, yeah, someone from the K-Pop fandom.
15 Have you seen their outreach skills?

16 And of course, you know, that would be difficult to
17 have a communications direction overlap with the K-Pop
18 fandom. But that doesn't mean that we can't have
19 interns, or we can't have other staff in the team.

20 So with the census work that I'm working on locally,
21 it's not just on one person to do census outreach. We
22 have people in language, in a variety of different
23 languages. We have staff at all different levels of the
24 ladder. But I think the position that we are looking at
25 here, is the person who's going to be steering the ship

1 and what qualifications we want that person to have in
2 order to lead that team however we decide that structure
3 to be.

4 And I would imagine that even once we bring on a
5 Communications Director, that person would take part in
6 deciding how that team structure would look like. Same
7 goes for Chief Counsel and Executive Director, that we
8 should be involving those people since they would be the
9 ones working with each other more closely and have the
10 ability to work outside Bagley-Keene requirements and
11 such. Those were just my thoughts. Just echoing what
12 Commissioner Le Mons stated as well.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Fornaciari.

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. And I just agree
15 with Commissioner Ahmad -- Ahmed. I'm going to get it.
16 I'm sorry. I will get it right at some point -- and Le
17 Mons.

18 I was just writing down, you know, in my mind this
19 is a coordinator role. Right? I mean, Commissioner
20 Sadhwani said at our last meeting, you know, we ought to
21 think about hiring a PR firm, right? Because there's so
22 much that needs to be done, we can't envision that one
23 person is going to be able to do all this. But I do
24 think we need to step back at a little bit higher level
25 and make sure that the person that we are hiring has the

1 capability to be the coordinator of all of this.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa
3 and Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

5 CHAIR TURNER: And Vazquez.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I do like where we're going
7 in this conversation. Commissioner Le Mons I think you
8 really said it very well and then further added on by
9 Commissioner Ahmed and Fornaciari.

10 I actually want to build on something Commissioner
11 Fornaciari said about coordinator, and I would actually
12 like to use a different word. I think whoever this --
13 our Comms Director is going to be, that person has to be
14 more of a strategic overseer. Someone who's going to
15 be -- whether it's in the hiring of a PR firm, whether
16 it's in the hiring of the fresh ideas or the fresh kind
17 of people who are going to be up on certain things.

18 Whether it's someone who is versed in media
19 relations with the various different communities. And I
20 completely agree in terms of Spanish language, Asian-
21 America media is kind of like a complication in its own
22 self.

23 And I would say it exists for, you know, the black
24 community as well as, you know, other different smaller
25 communities as well, too. And so those, I think, can be

1 perhaps delegated out to specialists, but I think we need
2 somebody who is going to be a strategic partner to the
3 Commission.

4 And I'll just comment, then, in terms of the other
5 positions, and I think someone else said this, too.
6 That's how I see the Chief Counsel, is someone who is
7 going to be a strategic partner to us and then the work
8 may be delegated out to other people. And the same with
9 the Executive Director. I think that's what we need, and
10 I think that that could be also helpful.

11 And then within that kind of comms role, as part of
12 it, the subset would be somebody who was going to be able
13 to focus on outreach and engagement as well, too, as a
14 separate subset of the work, so.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Kennedy,
16 Vazquez and Toledo.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
18 just want to take off a little bit on what Commissioner
19 Sinay was saying. I had similar qualms about the title
20 itself, because I see us having a need for not just
21 communications, but outreach in a broader sense. I had
22 asked the other day for further information on the
23 funding that Statewide Database is getting for
24 educational work, because my sense is that one of the
25 first things that we should be turning our attention to

1 is educating the people of California to what it is that
2 we're doing, what is redistricting. They may have had
3 some of this, but I think it's incumbent on us to ensure
4 that the public is as well-educated on the topic as
5 possible. And so this -- we need to have that discussion
6 of how we need to broaden or what additional skill sets
7 we need. And again, I look forward to receiving the
8 information about the funding that went to Statewide
9 Database for educational outreach. Thank you.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Vazquez,
11 Toledo, and Turner.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I want to thank all of
13 the Commissioners for their thoughts and feedback. I
14 think without realizing it I was also -- in reviewing the
15 application -- I think I was channeling a lot of the idea
16 that the Communications Director would at least have a
17 project assistant or an outreach specialist, someone who
18 would be much more in the execution and perhaps maybe
19 supplementing some additional skills that we had also
20 identified. And I think, primarily, I was looking for
21 someone really, again, who could drive the ship at the
22 cliff at the speed, at the responsiveness, that we need
23 as a Commission, given how short of a time line we have.
24 And unfortunately, I just didn't really see that in most
25 of the current applicant pool.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Toledo, Turner, and then
2 Taylor.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I just wanted to
4 just to make a comment. I think, given the high-risk
5 nature of the work that we're doing, given all of the
6 feedback and the potential -- when I talk about risk,
7 just the election issues, redistricting issues, a lot of
8 uncertainties. It reminds me of disaster communications,
9 right? When there's a wildfire or.

10 And those types of issues will arise, and it's
11 important to have someone that has the experience with
12 crisis communication, especially because, given the -- at
13 the national level, the work that we're doing is so
14 important, and at the national level, there's been a lot
15 of concern with -- I mean, all sorts of concerns. But
16 one of them is international intervention in --
17 inappropriate intervention into our -- into our electoral
18 system.

19 And given the high visibility of what we're doing,
20 I'm -- not that I was thinking that something like that
21 would happen to us, but potentially, we could be a target
22 for -- in terms of some of the forums, online forums,
23 social media forums, where -- and just having someone
24 that has the savvy and the crisis communication-type
25 knowledge and to be able to help us through any type of

1 wildfire -- type fire that might arise.

2 CHAIR TURNER: I wanted to say thank you, and I am
3 in total support of the crisis communication.

4 I'm going back to what was said. Looking at the
5 actual description -- and I support not redoing it
6 totally, but I want to say looking at it, the fact that
7 this individual will have a team could be inferred or
8 assumed by the title, but I also want to point out that
9 in our other postings, Executive Director, for example,
10 it explicitly states that they're going to be providing
11 leadership in the development of such and such, providing
12 leadership in the execution of plans, et cetera. And
13 that just is absent from this job posting. And so again,
14 I'm feeling like perhaps inferred, assumed, et cetera,
15 but it doesn't state it here.

16 And I also want to ensure that no one else is
17 reading the posting and thinking, I need to do this, be
18 all, do all. It's saying a Director position, but it's
19 not in here at all. I wanted to call that to our
20 attention.

21 Commissioner Taylor, I know that you are on the
22 team, and you will have a lot of responses, but we'll go
23 to our required break, and start with you when we come
24 back, if that's okay.

25 Okay. So let's be back at 11:15, please.

1 (Whereupon, a recess was held.)

2 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you and welcome back.
3 Commissioner Taylor, your comment, please.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just
5 to mimic again the comments of my subcommittee partner, I
6 think we did look at our applicants through the lens of a
7 leader or a director. We just wanted to see a more
8 demonstrated community outreach effort. And it's not to
9 say that our applicant isn't in the pool that we have.
10 Again, we just want to maximize our net to get the best-
11 qualified candidate to suit the Commission's needs.

12 Raul and Counsel, I have a question. Are we able to
13 ask the Auditor for communication support for a period of
14 time as we go through this process, or are we without
15 that function until we make a hire?

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So the support is
17 pretty much completed as far as those types of things.
18 At the same time, the Commission can make a formal
19 request. I guess that's the best way I can say it
20 succinctly.

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Got it. And just in -- as
22 this is not normal, might be the first time that it's
23 happened -- how long do you think it would take if we
24 made a formal request to have a -- I guess the title
25 might be a public information officer for a period of

1 time -- how long do you think it would take before we
2 have an answer, or have use of that position?

3 MS. JOHNSTON: I am not familiar with the Auditor's
4 office enough.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I think you would
6 get an answer fairly quickly. I'm really not in a
7 position to be able to speak for them and say how --

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I got it.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- if it was
10 accepted, how quick that would occur.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I understand. Thank you.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Okay, so the initial recommendation
13 coming out of the communications job description -- out
14 of the subcommittee, would be to keep the posting as is,
15 but repost the broader advertisement. And we also have
16 some suggestions about changes being made to the post.

17 And so at this point, what I'd like to do is to take
18 them backwards, so that you can make a decision on the
19 Communications, and then on Chief Counsel, and then
20 Executive Director, seeing as how we kind of know the
21 discussion and what the recommendations were. So for our
22 Communications, the recommendation from the
23 Communications subcommittee, is there a motion to change,
24 adjust, accept the recommendation, or any further
25 questions needed from the Commissioners?

1 Commissioner Ahmad?

2 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I have a quick question -- and I
3 think this is for Counsel and Raul. If we were to change
4 the description, would that mean we would also have to
5 allot time for the applicants who have already submitted
6 to adjust their applications?

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It would be part
8 of the recruitment process.

9 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I mean, you don't
11 have to increase the time, but that would be -- in
12 determining the length of time, that would be one of the
13 things, that if they chose to reapply, then that would be
14 the time to do it. And that is if you had a substantive
15 change in the recruitment.

16 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I just made -- a slew of more
17 questions. My bad.

18 CHAIR TURNER: I saw your face. I'm like, I don't
19 know if she still has questions about that or what, so I
20 was kind of paused to see if you were going to continue.

21 I see Fernandez, Fornaciari, and Yee.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I'm just going
23 to try to clarify, maybe, what Commissioner Ahmad was
24 trying to ask. If we do make some changes to the
25 recruitment, can we still keep the applications we have?

1 Or would those individuals that submitted applications to
2 the old recruitment at that point need to reapply?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you. I
4 misunderstood your question, Commissioner Ahmad. It
5 really depends on how much you change the recruitment. I
6 haven't heard anything really that substantially changes
7 the minimum qualifications. The additional requirements
8 could, so if I was a candidate and you're asking now for
9 some information about my experience leading teams, that
10 wasn't part of the former, and so I would want to go
11 ahead and reapply with that information now.

12 Did I answer it right this time? Did I hear the
13 question right?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. So I'm going to
15 follow up to that, then, because I can't remember -- were
16 there twenty-two applications?

17 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, so if they have to
19 reapply, is there any way for us to contact those twenty-
20 two and let them know that we're going back out? Here's
21 the new advertisement, and then they can decide whether
22 to reapply or not. Because I would hate for those
23 twenty-two to lose the opportunity again. I'm just
24 trying to be fair to whoever applied initially, and then
25 if they want to reapply, here's the new recruitment and

1 here are the deadlines for that. I mean is that
2 something that --

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: That's a proper
4 courtesy.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, right, exactly.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right. It's a
7 proper courtesy to send directly to them, say these
8 changes have been made, and to make a decision on if they
9 want to reapply or not.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Fornaciari?

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. So I -- you kind of
12 answered my question. I mean, to me, we're making a new
13 recruitment, if we change the requirements and -- in that
14 those folks should apply to the new recruitment. But I
15 agree that as a courtesy, we should let them know.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Yee?

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: I support that as well. Had a
18 question, though. So in the interim, basically the only
19 communication we have, I think, is our website, right,
20 wedrawthelines.ca.gov? And who -- is anyone maintaining
21 that at the moment and for now until we get somebody on
22 board?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. So I get
24 the communications from the link where people provide
25 public comment, I get that. I also get the information

1 if individuals want to be added to the mailing list.

2 Right now, Auditor IT is providing the posting, and Cal
3 Department of Technology is hosting it. We have -- it's
4 not out there by itself.

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

6 CHAIR TURNER: That's it. Okay. Is there a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: Could the subcommittee repeat
8 their recommendation?

9 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So --

10 CHAIR TURNER: So --

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, go ahead, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIR TURNER: No, please go. Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Our recommendation was to
14 post the job description -- or the recruitment as is for
15 an additional two weeks and broadly re-disseminate it to
16 increase the current applicant pool.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Fernandez and
18 Fornaciari.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I do agree with your
20 recommendation. I'm just wondering if -- I think it was
21 Chair Turner. Did you mention that maybe we should add
22 some leadership language to it?

23 CHAIR TURNER: I did. However, if I'm the only one
24 that thought down that path, then I can certainly release
25 on that. I just was concerned about -- not so much about

1 how we thought of the actual applicants, those that
2 submitted -- but more of a concern of -- did it exclude
3 people that did not apply based on the way it was
4 written?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. I like the
6 leadership piece of it, because I do think that you might
7 have excluded people thinking that they were going to
8 have to be the ones that are rolling up their sleeves and
9 doing everything. I mean, they're going to have to roll
10 up their sleeves and do some of it, but I think that we
11 might have a wider candidate pool if we do include the
12 leadership.

13 So I just put it out to the rest of the
14 Commissioners. I would be fine with going out with the
15 same recruitment, just if we could add a leadership line
16 to it, that would be great.

17 CHAIR TURNER: I lost you all for a minute. I
18 thought you froze, Commissioner Fernandez, and I'm like,
19 oh, everybody's frozen -- I think it's me.

20 Commissioner Fornaciari and then Akutagawa.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I mean, I think, for
22 me, in light of the discussion, especially where we wound
23 up, and Commissioner Akutagawa's kind of summary of it, I
24 think what we're looking for is a partner to help us
25 strategically develop and execute on a communications and

1 outreach plan, and I'd like see that be explicitly in the
2 job posting.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Yee, did you have your
4 hand up as well? No?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: If that's --

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Akutagawa and Andersen.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: If that's a proposed amendment, you
8 should find out if Commissioner -- is it Fernandez who
9 made the motion -- would like to accept that.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, I guess I made the
11 motion, but I was actually putting it out to the rest of
12 the Commissioners. I don't want to put a motion I'm the
13 only one on the train, but I mean if that's my --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Or it could be a motion --

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'd like to have some
16 feedback before I make a formal.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Okay, so let's hear -- let's hear the
18 other couple of Commissioners and then we'll see.
19 Akutagawa and Andersen.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So I do want to support,
21 Chair Turner, what you said and what Commissioner
22 Fernandez said. I do agree in what Commissioner
23 Fornaciari also said about the strategic partner again,
24 too.

25 I do think it's important to have that leadership

1 language in there. I also believe that not only may it
2 have excluded people, but what it may do going forward is
3 perhaps cull down the -- kind of make the pool a little
4 bit more specific.

5 So even those who may have applied, may have applied
6 because perhaps they thought that, since we're not
7 looking for a certain kind of leadership role, that they
8 felt that they would be capable of doing the job. But
9 now I think this is further clarifying, I think, what we
10 want, so I think that that may also change up the pool of
11 who's going to both apply and reapply.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Andersen,
13 Vazquez, and Le Mons.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Basically, that pretty much
15 covers what I was going to say, almost. The other
16 exception is, if we do make a modification -- which I
17 believe the whole group, from what I heard, was indeed
18 saying this is a leadership role. And to have that in,
19 that is indeed a doctor then, that you go back to the
20 people who've applied and say, thank you for applying,
21 these are a couple of additions -- if we realize we have
22 to revise our, basically, our appeal -- not our appeal,
23 but what we're asking for -- so would you consider
24 reapplying?

25 Because that might even, when we get down to the

1 next group, we also have a couple of things, like, we
2 would like to tailor it because we like the people for
3 the counsel, but there are a few things that sort of --
4 it didn't hit the right group. And I think that if we
5 emphasize something slightly differently, that would help
6 us in getting the right people to apply.

7 But for the Counsel it's slightly different, because
8 we really needed a different --

9 But that's what -- I just want to add in that I
10 agree with what people have said.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Vazquez, Le Mons, and
12 Sinay.

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I want to
14 acknowledge -- we seem to be back at the place where it's
15 like -- Commissioner Andersen had suggested, I think,
16 last week, the process of potentially going back to a
17 group of applicants and asking them for potential
18 additional qualifications based on an addition to the
19 recruitment. And so I -- I lost my question, so I will
20 cede the floor.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Le Mons and Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So I have a comment and a
23 question. My comment is, if we're going to move in the
24 direction and change, I just -- I think that the crisis
25 communication piece, I mean, if we're redoing it, I would

1 recommend that that also be included.

2 And then my question is to Raul as it relates to --
3 is there a distinction? Meaning, if the first twenty-two
4 people who applied the first time, we send them the new
5 announcement and say -- can we just ask them to submit an
6 addendum if they want to, or do they have to submit -- I
7 don't know what all was submitted. Do they have to
8 submit everything over? So that's my question.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, the
10 Commission can't ask them to -- okay, so here's the
11 thing. You can offer them the choice to either resubmit
12 in total or to amend and include, based on --

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- based on the
15 new recruitment, and then it would be up to them to
16 determine what they're going to amend and include.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay, then I would also want
18 to support that option -- of what Raul just said.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay, and
20 then Vazquez.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was wondering if we make a
22 motion. We've given a lot of input, and I think we're
23 watching each other well enough -- that's one of the good
24 things about Zoom is you can see each other. Can we give
25 this back to the subcommittee? Say we agree with the

1 subcommittee to repost this with -- when we trust you
2 that you will include our comments -- and let them move
3 forward, versus trying to wordsmith it?

4 Having said that, I do have one addition, and I
5 think you would have caught it, but where it says,
6 "expand the -- have experience with diverse
7 stakeholders", that we could include "diverse
8 stakeholders and communities or ethnic groups" or
9 whatever, just to be more explicit that this is about
10 communication and engagement.

11 So I just wanted to see, with the group, if we could
12 just make a motion and trust each of the subcommittees to
13 take what we had said, so that it can get posted and go
14 up instead of trying to wordsmith it as a group.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: You could accomplish much of the same
16 thing, but not exactly that way. They are just advisory
17 subcommittees. But you could ask the subcommittees to
18 revise it and submit it to the Chair, and then have the
19 Chair decide to post it. You can entrust the Chair with
20 making an individual decision. That does not have to be
21 a group meeting.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez and Kennedy.
23 And then Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So two things, since we're
25 engaged in this discussion. I just wanted to let the

1 rest of the Commissioners know that I have also written
2 down what I heard previously is potentially a language
3 component, so language proficiency, in Spanish but also
4 potentially other Asian language, but specifically
5 Spanish. And then, maybe, possibly, ethnic media
6 relations experience under desirable.

7 And then a question for the group. For me, when I
8 was reviewing applications, we have in our minimum
9 qualifications a bachelor's in communications and
10 journalism. I will say I saw some good applications who
11 didn't have a formal education in communications. So I,
12 again, in terms of expanding our pool, I might recommend
13 that we remove the education specificity. So maybe
14 requiring a bachelor's degree, but not specify
15 communications or journalism, or other related. Because
16 I think there were English majors, there were folks who
17 are much further along in their career, seemed like
18 seasoned communications professionals, but were not
19 formally educated in such.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I bet people with political
21 science degrees would be great.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez.
23 Yes. And as Commissioners responded, again, as they
24 raised their hands, I saw a lot of heads nod.

25 Commissioners Kennedy and Fernandez.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Just a couple of other points for the subcommittee
3 to consider. I think the second bullet point, "consults
4 with and advises Commission and Director on all issues
5 which may be of interest to the media", I would add "and
6 the general public". I mean, to me, it's things that are
7 of interest to the general public that are more
8 important. Media is the channel for getting them to the
9 general public.

10 The next bullet -- I think Commissioner Vazquez may
11 have been the one to mention this last one -- drop the
12 word "web" and just have "develop campaigns to
13 communicate Commission's messages through a variety of
14 channels".

15 And then the last bullet point under "knowledge and
16 abilities", I think we may also have been the one who
17 mentioned "emerging technology", so I would say, "current
18 and emerging technologies".

19 Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner, thank you.

21 Commissioner Fernandez?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was just going to make a
23 motion now. And move forward. I move that we go forward
24 with the recommendations of the subcommittee of
25 Commissioners Taylor and Vazquez, and that they draft the

1 changes that have been agreed upon, and then I would say
2 we give the Chair the final approval to send it forward.
3 I think I captured everything. That's my motion.

4 But I would like to have a copy of the final one.
5 That'd be great. I think all of us would like to have a
6 copy.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Taylor.

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. In our recommendation,
9 we had proposed extending it for a two-week period. Does
10 that need to be mentioned? And for how long do we want
11 the new posting?

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So Raul, correct me
13 if I'm wrong, but it normally is posted for two weeks
14 minimum; is that correct? Most recruitments?

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Up to you.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So what about -- okay, so
17 Commissioner Taylor, when you said an additional two
18 weeks, is that -- do you want a month recruitment? Or do
19 you just want a two-weeks? I guess --

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I would think two, three weeks
21 at the most. I don't think that we need a month. It's
22 not a particularly cumbersome application. I think it
23 can be filled out in a short span of time, so where if we
24 had that interesting candidate, he can get it -- he or
25 she can get to it rather quickly.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So -- and I think it
2 would be important to not make it too long, only because
3 if we're going to have another meeting in two or three
4 weeks, hopefully we have the applications by then. And
5 then we can review them and provide a recommendation at
6 that point. And then maybe two weeks, later -- so I'm
7 really not sure what that means with my comment. But
8 Raul has his hand up, so maybe he can simplify it for me.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: In your planning
10 you have to consider the time it's going to take to
11 prepare it, to go ahead and disseminate it. At the point
12 where you disseminate it, then, when you say I'm going to
13 recruit for two weeks, that's when your two weeks starts.
14 But in addition to that two weeks then, though, is the
15 preparation and actually getting it disseminated, which
16 may take an additional week.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, so by the time -- and
18 I'm sorry. I just have, like, all these weird questions.
19 But it kind of sounds like Commissioners Taylor and
20 Vazquez might be able to turn that around pretty
21 quickly -- not that I'm putting any pressure on you. And
22 then it would go to Chair Turner.

23 So at that point, when Chair Turner forwards it to
24 you, Raul, how long will you need to package it and then
25 send it out to the stakeholders and everyone else that

1 you send it to?

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, I would
3 want to go ahead and touch base with the subcommittee,
4 find out what they're thinking in terms of a widened
5 recruitment. I can start working now in terms of where
6 it went before and have that ready, so maybe -- I'm still
7 going to say a week and try for a day or two.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Well, and with that, Raul, and with
9 that -- part of what the conversation was is that the
10 first twenty-two would be contacted. and so who would be
11 contacting the twenty-two, and in what time line?

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You have the --
13 here's your staff. I'm happy to do it. One of the first
14 things that I'll need to do, like I say, is get with the
15 subcommittee, make sure I understand -- I haven't seen
16 the applications -- so to make sure that I have that
17 information and -- yeah, I can go ahead and start
18 preparing all of that in a form letter, work with the
19 subcommittee, so that they look at the form letter and
20 approve it. So all of that behind-the-scenes work. I --

21 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Yee, and then Vazquez.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll second the motion, and --
23 but want to ask that we list out what we think we've
24 agreed on. Because I think a lot of good things have
25 been mentioned, and there has been general consensus.

1 And I liked everything I've heard, but I don't know if,
2 Commissioner Vazquez, maybe you made a list, a punch
3 list, that you can read what changes you heard and intend
4 to incorporate.

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, I can do that, and also
6 Raul, I'm happy to help draft whatever communication you
7 will need, as part of my subcommittee duties.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Very good. Thank
9 you.

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So I heard: adding crisis
11 management experience, adding diverse stakeholders and
12 communities. I had --

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: So did you include whether it is
14 desirable versus required?

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, yes. I'm not sure
16 that -- so I didn't write that piece down, so I can tell
17 you my best guess of where that fits. Okay, so I heard:
18 add crisis management as desirable --

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Crisis communication, not --

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Crisis -- sorry -- yes --
21 crisis communication as desirable.

22 Adding diverse stakeholders and communities under
23 minimum -- I'm not sure what that is. Sorry, I'm not
24 looking at the posting as we chat.

25 So adding language proficiency in Spanish or other

1 Asian languages under desirable.

2 Adding relationship with ethnic media outlets as
3 desirable.

4 Adding "and general public" to the media component.
5 That was from Commissioner Kennedy.

6 Remove the word "web" in relation to developing
7 campaigns.

8 I wrote down -- sorry, I'm going to need
9 clarification from Commissioner Kennedy on his "emerging
10 technologies", because my note is not clear.

11 And also Commissioner Kennedy suggested to remove --
12 or I guess I inferred removing of the Bagley-Keene --

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Robert's Rules of
14 Order.

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Bagley-Keene -- or sorry,
16 Robert's Rules of Orders, thank you.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: I think there was leadership
19 language we wanted to add, too.

20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, sorry. Thank you.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And I have that
22 under required.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Required, yes.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So I was taking
25 notes also, and my notes -- they mirror exactly

1 Commissioner Vazquez's. Good job.

2 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, sorry. And I missed -- I
3 missed my own recommendation, which was to broaden the
4 education requirements to include a bachelor's degree,
5 but not specify what the degree should be in.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just responding to
8 Commissioner Vazquez' request for clarification. The
9 last bullet point under knowledge and abilities, my
10 suggestion was on the second line of that to add "or
11 emerging" so that that second line reads -- or the end of
12 that bullet point reads, "using legacy and current or
13 emerging technology".

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Got it.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: And Madam Chair, we need to ask for
16 public comment before the motion.

17 CHAIR TURNER: So it's -- we had a -- Commissioner
18 Le Mons.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Is it possible for us to kind
20 of bundle these so we don't have to go to public comment
21 after each subcommittee?

22 MS. JOHNSTON: You could do that.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'd recommend we do that,
24 like, we'll just do all of the motions at the same time.
25 I mean, go to public comment, then come back and do the

1 motions if possible. Because otherwise we're going to
2 have to go to public comment just on the Communications
3 Director, come back, do a motion, do a vote, then
4 whatever ensues about the next two that we do. So we
5 have to keep going through that process. I think if we
6 could potentially talk about it all.

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: But we're dealing with it one
8 motion at a time.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: But you -- well, you could have
10 public comment after all the motions are made, before you
11 have a vote, on each motion.

12 CHAIR TURNER: So we can have all the motions on the
13 floor.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

15 CHAIR TURNER: And I don't understand the sweeping
16 vote. Does that mean all of them moving forward at one
17 time? Okay.

18 Okay, so we have -- I was going to say we have a
19 motion, but did we have a second as to all of the
20 changes? Was there a second? Commissioner Yee?

21 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Commissioner Yee.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, I did. Yeah. Just a
23 comment on the language line. How about "bilingual
24 ability, especially in Spanish", I mean, that would be
25 better.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So we have a motion and a
2 second. And so we have a direction, and we will move to
3 the next -- Commissioner Sadhwani?

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I just wanted to put out
5 there, we had discussed having a broader outreach. I
6 know that that includes our community partners and such,
7 and that's great. For all of the positions, if we're
8 doing additional recruitment, we might just want to
9 discuss that. I do not exactly know where people go
10 looking for communications jobs, but we might just want
11 to think about that. I'm just Googling, and it seems
12 like there are some particular websites that we might
13 want to post this on. I saw like a public relations
14 society with a posting, and if we're looking for top
15 candidates, then we might just want to discuss that
16 generally, both for Communications as well as for the
17 Chief Counsel position.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, there are a couple of
20 nonprofit websites that I can offer that will host.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So we'll go the dissemination.
22 Let's continue to our more pointed motion. For those
23 that we do want to disseminate, we'll just make sure that
24 we're all clear on how they're going to be disseminated.

25 On Chief Counsel, Commissioners Toledo and Andersen

1 worked on that. They had a recommendation that we would
2 repost and contract with a private firm.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Repost and update it. So we
4 would make minor changes to the bulletin. Repost an
5 updated advertisement, and if resources allow,
6 contracting with a recruiting firm to search for a larger
7 pool of candidates.

8 CHAIR TURNER: And Commissioner Toledo, could you
9 add in a time frame for yours, too? You were looking to
10 repost and have it advertised for how long?

11 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We haven't thought about time
12 frame, but I think -- I would say up to 30 days would
13 be -- just because it is a more lengthy application and
14 we'd be looking out for candidates -- but potentially up
15 to -- I mean -- and of course we would work through the
16 issue of timing. We do understand the urgency of
17 bringing somebody on. We would want to do it as quickly
18 as possible.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So we have their
20 recommendation on the floor. Is there a motion and
21 second?

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I motion to accept the
23 subcommittee's recommendation on securing legal counsel
24 as purposed.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Fernandez?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I will second that but --
2 I'm sorry, I think I caught the tail end -- my internet
3 goes in and out all the time. Commissioner Toledo, did
4 you say that we're going to contract with the recruiting
5 firm, or potentially?

6 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: If resources allow. So it
7 depends on how the contract -- I'm not so sure about
8 procurement in the process for that. Raul will have to
9 help the committee on that, and the Chair. But if
10 resources allow we would, but we would be doing a wider
11 dissemination and working with our stakeholders and
12 potentially our former contracts and former connections
13 to ensure wider dissemination. At minimum, but the goal
14 would be -- a search.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And I think the wording on
16 that might have to be not necessarily up to, but that it
17 should be put in to potentially cut it off sooner than
18 what someone expected, so we'd probably say like the 30
19 days or just have some set number of days.

20 And so we have our motion and a second on the floor.
21 Motion by Commissioner Le Mons, second by Commissioner
22 Fernandez.

23 And so we'll move to our last position, which was
24 Chief Counsel. Toledo and Andersen, and they're
25 recommending reposting.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'm sorry, Madam Chair.

2 CHAIR TURNER: I'm sorry.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, okay. I was going to
4 say that was Chief Counsel.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Executive Director. Thank you.
6 Executive Director. Appreciated.

7 Let's see, and their --- let's see -- I've got too
8 much writing around it. What was the recommendation on
9 the Executive Director? You had six -- oh, that you were
10 going to interview to narrow down to five, and wanted to
11 move forward in interviewing the five.

12 So is there a --

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Motion that we accept the
14 Executive committee -- I mean, the Executive Director
15 subcommittee's recommendation to move forward with the
16 five from the pool that we currently have.

17 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I second.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Who was the -- oh, Commissioner
19 Ahmad?

20 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Ahmad seconds. Thank you.

22 Commissioner Sinay, you raised your hand. Was it
23 for the second, or --

24 Okay, perfect. Okay, so we have three motions for
25 the issue or for the hiring of executive -- the process

1 of how we'll forward with the Executive Director, Chief
2 Counsel and Communications.

3 And so at this time, Ryan, we'd like to move to
4 public comment, please, so if you would give instructions
5 just how to dial in, Ryan, and see if we have any public
6 comment waiting.

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Okay. Once again, if you do wish to
8 make a public comment, please press 1, then 0, at this
9 time. 1, 0.

10 And we have no one in queue for comment.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. We will wait a couple of
12 minutes to see if someone will dial in.

13 AT&T OPERATOR: Okay.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: While we wait,
16 Madam Chair, I just wanted to say that I'll provide the
17 same support for the Executive Director subcommittee in
18 terms of getting those letters out. So I'll be touching
19 base with them.

20 CHAIR TURNER: How are we looking Ryan? Anyone
21 holding?

22 AT&T OPERATOR: We do not have anyone in queue.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Then we'll call for a vote for
24 our Communications subcommittee recommendations. This is
25 on the Communications recommendation.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want me to do it, or do you
2 want to do it?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Go ahead, because
4 I'm going to take a look at my notes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: This is the motion on the
6 Communications Director?

7 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

9 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

6 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee?

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: The motion passes.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Okay. The second vote would be on
14 the Chief Counsel position. Commissioner Ahmad?

15 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

12 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee?

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: And finally, but not last, on the

18 Executive Director. Commissioner Ahmad?

19 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

16 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

18 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. Sorry, Zoom is not my
19 friend today.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee?

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: All three motions pass.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Right. Good job, Commissioners.

24 I'm still -- on agenda item 14, there was additional
25 discussion and a decision that needed to be made on the

1 interim staff. Raul, I believe that we still have some
2 additional things there.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. I would
4 like to request the Commission to consider to let me
5 bring in a couple of RAs to help me. That would be a
6 great thing. So what I'm looking at, specifically at
7 this point, is an IT person to start taking over the
8 posting, to help with that Google cloud account, increase
9 your access. There's some clean-up that needs to be done
10 there.

11 As well as bringing in a fiscal person to provide
12 support in terms of the invoices and per diems, TCs. As
13 that ramps up and the 2010 process ends, that would just
14 be really nice to have.

15 Asterisk on a budget person. I think I'm okay right
16 now, but I want to put that on the table in case I do
17 need to bring someone in with that expertise.

18 And again, these are -- what I'm looking at
19 primarily is retired annuitants or individuals on a
20 short-form -- what's known as a personal services
21 contract. It's a limitation of \$5,000 so it's very
22 short-term.

23 The whole goal is to keep your operations moving
24 while we get that Executive Director in place. And as
25 soon as the Executive Director comes in to meet with them

1 and have a plan for releasing those staff and bringing on
2 your regular staff.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: If they're going to be hired as
4 employees, even though temporary, they'll need to have a
5 special vote.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. Yes. Thank
7 you, Marian. So what would happen is I would do the
8 search, find the folks, present them to you, and then,
9 yes, it requires a special vote, yea or nay.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Fornaciari and Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I make a motion that we
12 allow Raul to hire whatever temporary staff he needs for
13 the support that he needs to execute all the work in the
14 interim until we hire an Executive Director.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Excuse me, but Raul cannot hire. The
16 hiring decision has to be done by the Commission with a
17 special --

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Oh. Okay.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: -- vote of three additional
20 subgroups.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: To do the recruiting.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Second.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And Commissioners Sinay
24 and Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to check. Is it

1 possible to get an RA to do the communications piece if
2 we can't get that support from the Audit? Would that be
3 on your list of people?

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I can certainly
5 look. The answer is yes. There's a lot of different
6 ways to do it, and if that's something you want me to
7 look into, I certainly can, and what I would be looking
8 at then is, based on the recommendations of your
9 subcommittee, to find temporary help in an expeditious
10 manner.

11 CHAIR TURNER: And the next Commissioner?

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It was going to be me, but
13 I think Commissioner Andersen seconded it. Correct?

14 CHAIR TURNER: I think it was -- was it Le Mons, I
15 think?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, it was Le Mons. Sorry.
17 I apologize. That's okay. I agree.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Question for Raul. For the
20 IT support, would that also include IT support for
21 Commissioners?

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh, absolutely.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: My computer. Okay. My
24 computer is -- my computer is being less than awesome the
25 last few days. I may need someone to remote in at some

1 point and figure things out because I -- well, the
2 computer is locked down from the Auditor's office, so.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: -- even though I know what's
5 wrong, I need someone else to do it.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Let me reach out
7 to you outside of the meeting and find out -- there's a
8 couple of issues -- but yes, ninety-nine percent of this
9 is not just help me, but to help me help you with the
10 different needs that are arising -- multiple
11 Commissioners have asked for things. I don't have some
12 of those skills, and so to get you folks who do while we
13 wait to get your regular staff.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So the motion that we have
15 right now is to allow Raul to move forward with the
16 process of the team searching for an IT person, fiscal
17 person, a comms person, and perhaps at some point, a
18 budget person, but he's okay for now. And that motion
19 has been made. It has been seconded.

20 Raul, before we go to vote, is there anything else
21 on 14?

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I just wanted
23 to -- go ahead and vote. It's a totally different topic.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: We need --

1 CHAIR TURNER: We will have -- yes?

2 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sorry. Apologies, Madam
3 Chair. Do we need public comment for this motion?

4 CHAIR TURNER: Yes, right. That's what I was going
5 to say. We're going to have to go to public comments
6 first. That's why I was asking is there anything else on
7 14, because if we can go to public comment before a vote
8 and then vote for the -- also let that be public -- I'm
9 trying to figure out how we don't have to come back to
10 the end of 14 with more public comment.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Is your other item an action item?

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, it's an
13 informational item.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: If it's information, then you can do
15 that later.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: The only thing that I think
18 might be outstanding, and maybe we don't even have to do
19 a motion, would be if we want to formally request that
20 communications support from the State Auditor. So I
21 don't know if that has to be formally a motion, or is it
22 just something we just ask Raul to draft something up and
23 then maybe give Chair Turner the opportunity to just sign
24 it and forward it? So that's the only thing I have
25 showing that's outstanding. I just want to make sure we

1 kind of -- close the loop on --

2 CHAIR TURNER: And what I'm thinking on that is that
3 we've actually pivoted somewhat and we were going to have
4 Raul pull in a -- you're saying for the communications,
5 right? And then so my thinking is that we may not still
6 need that from the State Auditor. Raul had said that
7 that was kind of ended and so it would be almost like a
8 special consideration. And if he's going to be able to
9 bring in someone for comms temporarily until we get our
10 comms person hired, then that would take care of it.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Chair Turner, I
12 didn't want to give the impression that it's over. It is
13 ending, because this is -- really we're in a transition
14 process now. The Commission first became a full
15 Commission here just last Tuesday, and so -- I say it's a
16 transition process. So to give the Commission the
17 opportunity to ramp up its operations. But it's not like
18 it's a shut door, and if I gave that impression, I
19 apologize. That was not the intent.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. And I'd just like to agree
21 with this, and we'll all be gone.

22 Okay. Commissioner Vazquez.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. My understanding, and
24 my personal hope is that maybe we could pursue both on
25 parallel tracks. That we could both ask the State

1 Auditor's office and also, simultaneously, ask Raul, as
2 he is looking -- what I think probably for his -- his
3 needs, looking at retired annuitants, to include in his
4 search, communications, but that we'd also be pursuing
5 the ask of the Auditor.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Fernandez and then Yee.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. That's what I was
8 hoping also, Commissioner Vazquez.

9 And again, what Raul mentioned was that, for this
10 RA, it's a \$5,000 limit. So theoretically, that could go
11 really quickly, and we don't know how quickly we can do
12 the recruitment and the advertising and interviewing for
13 the Communications Director.

14 So I think there might be a lapse, or there's going
15 to be some time when we might need that support. So it
16 would be nice to have, like, a backup plan. So I would
17 recommend what Commissioner Vazquez said and try to do a
18 dual.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Yee?

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Let's hear from Raul first.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to
22 draw a distinction. A retired annuitant, the limit is
23 960 hours per fiscal year. It's the personal services
24 contract that has a limit of \$5,000. They are two
25 different type approaches to obtaining assistance for it.

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: So for the communications --
2 these internal communications. We said we'd be
3 comfortable letting Raul make that call whether to ask
4 the Auditor's office for further help or to proceed with
5 the RA recruitment as he is able. I mean, he knows
6 better than we do who's available, timing for that, and
7 what he needs.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: If you're going
9 to reach out to the Auditor, if I might suggest it would
10 probably better be served as a formal request from the
11 Commission, rather than a suggestion from me.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Then can I make a motion
13 to --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, there's a motion on the table.

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh. All right.

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Has it been
17 seconded?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Did you want to --

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You could have two motions.
20 That way we're not doing public comment like we did with
21 the position so --

22 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Right. That was sort of my
23 thoughts.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I'll second your
25 motion, Commissioner Vazquez.

1 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'm motioning that we ask the
2 State Auditor for communications support in the interim
3 of hiring our Communications Director.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Counsel? Were you speaking?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: That's okay. Go ahead with public
6 comment, if you wish now.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Le Mons?

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Just a quick question. I'm
9 not sure if the motion alone handles the process, if you
10 will. Is this something the subcommittee is going to
11 work with Raul to draft the official letter from the
12 Commission to -- like, how is all that going to work, I
13 guess? Can we just amend the -- I don't know. What's --
14 bad -- I think you guys know what I -- Commissioner
15 Sadhwani, I think knows where I'm going with this.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. Like, I love the idea
17 of getting communications support. I like even the idea
18 of, like, hiring that out. But at the same time, that's
19 its own process in and of itself, I mean, you have to do
20 bidding and there's a whole bunch of communication from
21 the other. And then whatever they set up -- our
22 Communications Director, which we're trying -- it sounds
23 like we're trying to fast track as much as possible, is
24 going to have to start that whole process again. So
25 while I theoretically love the idea of hiring someone in

1 the interim, I'm just not sure how that works. And I
2 would need additional clarity on what that's going to
3 look like, what's the timeline for that?

4 And in thinking through that process, I'm kind of
5 wondering if this is our best strategy at this point in
6 time.

7 I think Commissioner Kennedy made a really great
8 point. I believe it was last week. And correct me if
9 I'm wrong. In the future, I think that our best advice,
10 right, moving out of this process is that, on day one,
11 when the first eight are selected in 2030, ten years from
12 now, there needs to be communications staffing or a firm
13 or something put in place, and a contract secured for
14 that. I question, as much as I want that -- that support
15 right now, I question how we would actually do it while
16 at the same time looking for that Communications Director
17 and --

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Unfortunately, the first eight, the
19 only authority they have is to select the next six.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Correct. But I think if the
21 State auditor's office --

22 MS. JOHNSTON: They could request a state auditor.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Or it can change. Right?
24 And so just as the State auditor is required to provide
25 legal counsel, right, to the first eight, perhaps they

1 can also be required to provide communications support.

2 Right? I'm talking about a broader change in terms of --

3 CHAIR TURNER: Absolutely.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: That would be included, among -- if
5 you wanted to propose an amendment once this process is
6 over.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. And then something we
8 can think about in the future.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Absolutely. And I see you,
10 Commissioner Vazquez. The thing that I wanted to totally
11 agree with, Commissioners Le Mons and Sadhwani on is --
12 and add the tail end to that to not be repetitive. My
13 other belief is that, in hiring someone now, I'm good
14 with that because of the urgency and needs of
15 communication. And then when we start layering in two
16 different entities of communications and pathways that
17 we're hiring on, there's an amount of time to pull that
18 together -- number 1, as far as drain on resources.

19 And beyond that, once you have those people in
20 place, for certain, our new, permanent hire will be able
21 to set their own path agenda to create and design it in
22 the way they want. But they also will need to take that
23 in consideration of these other people that already have
24 started creating and building and doing something and
25 make a determination. Do I just throw that out and start

1 over or did that now kind of direct the area? So I just
2 want to be really cautious about that, too. Because it's
3 so close in time frame about how many cooks we have in
4 the kitchen leading some things.

5 Commissioner Vazquez.

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I hear all of that.
7 And I am as well concerned about, you know, starting on
8 one path and then changing courses midstream, I guess.
9 And maybe this is partially a question for Raul. What I
10 was hoping is that, in conversation with the auditors, we
11 could just do a quick, almost temperature check, even
12 with -- in a formal request to say, is there someone
13 existing? I don't even know if this is possible, that,
14 like, could be reassigned to temporarily access in a more
15 reactive fashion.

16 So they are not building anything. They are not,
17 you know, for me, they're not doing anything long term.
18 They're merely responding to time-sensitive requests and
19 actions that we need from a communications standpoint.

20 So if suddenly we wake up Monday morning, and the
21 census question has been resolved, like, it would be nice
22 for us to be able to draft a response to the Commission
23 and have that go out. Right?

24 So that, for me, that is my hope in talking with the
25 auditor's office through a formal request is, hey, is

1 their existing staff that maybe we can take as other
2 duties as assigned and use their capacity on a limited
3 basis for our purposes. That's the question I would ask
4 the auditors.

5 Because I agree. I don't think it makes sense to
6 have them go through a full recruitment hiring process.
7 Give us someone maybe three or four weeks from now when
8 we're already pursuing another thing. So I'm looking for
9 somebody temp and quick.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And that's, you
11 know, and we should have talked about it a little bit
12 more in detail. That's really what I was understanding.
13 Somebody who would come in and deal with emergent or
14 immediate issues, not someone who would come in and do
15 any type of planning or development. That basically
16 you're putting that in abeyance until you actually have
17 the staff to do that. But to have somebody kind of in
18 your pocket to where if something happens, you have that
19 support.

20 Also, too, with the temporary staff that I was
21 talking about -- that you ask, could I look for one?
22 Sure, I can look for one. Again, it'd be somebody
23 looking at, strictly speaking, those types of duties.
24 That's about all you're going to get, too, on a short-
25 term basis.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Le Mons?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: This is a question to Raul.
3 Were you making a distinction between what you would
4 supply in your search versus what we would be asking for
5 from the auditors -- from The State auditor's office? So
6 that's one question. Yeah. Let me stop -- stop there,
7 and have you answer that. And then I have a follow up.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I think the way
9 Commissioner Vazquez described it is how I was thinking
10 about it. And I'm glad this discussion is happening.
11 Because it needed to be put on the table. But yes, I was
12 looking at it as just the emergent need, and not someone
13 who's going to work with you on any kind of planning.

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, I understand that
15 portion.

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh. I'm sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: What I'm asking is, in terms
18 of securing this person. Were you suggesting that that's
19 something that you could potentially secure outside of
20 this formal request to the State auditor's office? Or it
21 is contingent upon us making this formal request to the
22 State auditor's office to secure something like that?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: As I understood
24 it, the discussion right now is for me to pursue both.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes, I understand that. But

1 I'm asking a -- I guess --

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- a very specific
4 question --

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- about the pathways. And
7 so it sounds like they mirror. It doesn't matter whether
8 this is something you pursue. Based on what we just
9 discussed about you pursuing support staff versus us
10 reaching out formally to the State auditor's office. The
11 end result will be the same.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: The State -- if the State auditor
13 were to loan you someone temporarily, that could be done
14 immediately.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Uh-huh.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: If we were to recruit an RA, that
17 would have to come back before the Commission for a
18 hiring decision.

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. That's what I'm
21 looking for. Those distinctions.

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay, perfect. Okay. I'm
24 clear.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And we have both motions on

1 the floor, and both motions were to formally submit a
2 request to the State auditor for someone loaned. And
3 also, the motion has been made and seconded to allow Raul
4 also to move forward in getting someone temporarily.
5 That will, then, of course, have to come back here for a
6 vote. But just allow him to start that process. Okay.

7 So we have -- Ryan, we all need to go to public
8 comments, please.

9 AT&T OPERATOR: And as a reminder, if you do wish to
10 make a comment, please press 1, then 0 at this time.

11 1-0. And we have no one queuing up at this time.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. We'll got to vote,
13 please.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: So the first motion is to have Raul
15 recruit retired annuitants to fill in on IT finance,
16 perhaps communication, and budget. And to bring it back
17 before the Commission at their next meeting.

18 Commissioner Ahmad?

19 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner.

16 CHAIR TURNER : Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez.

18 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: The motion passes.

22 The next one is to have -- would be that Madam Chair
23 send a letter which she could draft with the assistance
24 of Raul or myself to request the State auditor to loan
25 you temporary assistance as a communications person.

1 CHAIR TURNER: That request, I thought, was coming
2 from the subcommittee based on information that they had.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the subcommittee can't take any
4 action.

5 CHAIR TURNER: I got it.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: It's just advisory.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

9 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner.

6 CHAIR TURNER : Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez.

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: That motion also passes.

12 CHAIR TURNER: So we'll move to agenda item number
13 15, Raul, which is the training on state contracting and
14 procurement.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. So I've
16 got quarter after 12. I can start the presentation.

17 CHAIR TURNER: I think we have 30 -- it'll be longer
18 than thirty minutes?

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: The latter part
20 of it. It segues into number 16.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Okay, so then, can we do this? Can
22 we go to item 18 and complete that at least? Marion?
23 Because I think you mentioned before, most of this one
24 has been covered. That is the discussion of key
25 provisions of Commission constitutional provisions.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Sure. There's been a lot of
2 discussion already about Elections Code 21003 on the
3 Commission having the discretion to decide if you want to
4 have prisoners counted where they used to live before
5 they were incarcerated. Unless there's any further
6 questions about that, I won't continue it.

7 On the amendment process, I wanted to -- the reason
8 to bring this up now, even though it won't happen for a
9 while, is that you can make notes as we go along of
10 issues that you see coming up that you would like to have
11 changes made in the law. For instance, if you wanted to
12 have the auditor provide communication support as well as
13 staff support while you're doing it.

14 The provisions for amending -- the way an initiative
15 works is that normally, an initiative cannot be amended
16 by the Legislature unless in the initiative itself, it
17 provides that the Legislature may amend the initiative.

18 And in this case, it is said,

19 "The Legislature may not amend this chapter
20 unless all of the following are made. This
21 means that the amendment has to start with the
22 Commission. By the same vote required for the
23 adoption of the final set of maps, the
24 Commission recommends amendments to this
25 chapter to carry out its purpose of intent to

1 the exact language of the amendments provided
2 by the Commission must be enacted by the
3 Legislature by two thirds vote of each House of
4 the Legislature and signed by the Governor.
5 The bill must be in print for at least twelve
6 days before final passage. The amendments must
7 further the purposes of the Act, and the
8 amendments may not be passed in a year ending
9 in nine, zero, or one",

10 which means the earliest it could be done is in year
11 2022.

12 The two significant amendments that were made during
13 the last -- by the last Commission, proposed by the last
14 Commission and adopted by the Legislature, one was to
15 extend the time four months earlier to give the
16 Commission more time to do its work. And the second was
17 to change the process for the getting the Commission
18 going. The way it was originally drafted, it was first
19 started with the selection of the applicants by the State
20 auditor. And then, it switched to the Secretary of
21 State's office to get the Commission rolling.

22 And the thought of the past Commissioners was that
23 that was rather cumbersome. So they proposed the
24 amendment that, again, the Legislature Select
25 suggested -- agreed to -- to have the State auditor do it

1 all.

2 So it's those types of amendments that really do
3 make the work of the Commission easier that you are to
4 keep in mind.

5 Any questions about that process?

6 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Ahmad?

7 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I just want to put this on
8 everyone's radar. I would like to meet in 2023. I have
9 some thoughts already. In three years from now, let's
10 chat about these amendments.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: But just keep a note of them as
12 you're going along of things that you think would make
13 the process work smoother. That's it.

14 CHAIR TURNER: And is it that it can't be done in
15 years zero and one? So it could be done as soon as 2022?

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct. Cannot be done years ending
17 in nine, zero, or one.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So Commissioner Ahmad, can we
19 have your discussion in '22?

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Meet at the top of the Empire
21 State Building.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: If this -- is it the whole
24 process? I mean, I think that there's definitely -- we
25 don't want to lose what we may be thinking right now

1 about the application process. And is it possible, does
2 that have -- I mean, I don't know if everything's going
3 to be an amendment or some things are going to be a
4 recommendation.

5 But I do think it's important for us to debrief on
6 the application process now versus try to wait till 2022,
7 and remember at all. I mean, I've taken notes as well.
8 I've got some notes for 2022 as well. But I -- I don't
9 want to lose -- yeah, the application process is the
10 beginning of how you engage with the community.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: I would suggest you start a running
12 list that you could provide to staff of items you'd like
13 to take up as potential amendments.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I'm kind of
15 curious. What you were thinking about is on the front
16 end with the selection, or --

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. It was more on the front
18 end. And that's why I don't know if it needs to be an
19 amendment or it's just thinking things through.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: It depends on whether it's something
21 that's in statute or not. I don't know what you're
22 referring to specifically.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Right.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: The initiative spelled out in pretty
25 significant detail the process for selection, what was to

1 be done by the State auditor.

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. So what I'm hearing is,
4 the best step is just to start sending our thoughts to
5 the staff. There will be a running list that will be
6 kept. And then, in 2022, we'll come back to organize the
7 list in a way that we can have a conversation and know
8 what are amendments, and what is just suggestions that we
9 put in a report like the 2010 group did.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: That's what I would suggest. Yes.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa.

12 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: You could go just for the
13 clarity of process. Should we send our suggestions for
14 future agenda items in 2022 and there's a running list?
15 Is that something that needs to be made public or is that
16 just kind of an administrative list that, for example,
17 that the staff will be keeping track of in that, when
18 appropriate, the list will be publicized or agendized as
19 appropriate in 2022.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: It depends on whether you want to
21 discuss it ahead of time. You can't take any action on
22 it until then. So if you don't want to discuss it, then
23 you could just send your suggestions to me. And I can
24 pass them on to whoever is the Chief Counsel who'd be the
25 one working with Legislature on drafting the legislation.

1 So it depends on whether you want to use your time before
2 2022 to discuss things.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. We're go to public
4 comment so that we can close out agenda item 18 before
5 lunch.

6 Oh. Commissioner Le Mons?

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: My apologies, but I have a
8 recommendation I want to make as it relates to public
9 comment. And this is based upon us having had people
10 call in and talk about challenges with getting through.
11 And I'm wondering if our internal team -- maybe the video
12 team or someone on that side of the shop, can test the
13 line each time we go, like, to see if someone actually
14 gets through to the AT&T operator. So when the person
15 says no one's in queue, we at least know that it's
16 functioning properly. Because there's no real way for us
17 to know whether it is or isn't. So I've been kind of
18 contemplating that, going like --

19 CHAIR TURNER: Understood.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- how could we kind of be
21 aware. So I don't know if that's possible. If there's
22 somebody who can do that.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Kristian, are you aware when there's
24 someone in queue.

25 MR. MANOFF: We test the call and public comment

1 call-in system from end to end. So that includes calling
2 in, talk back with AT&T and so forth. And sometimes
3 issues do occur. And we try to troubleshoot those as
4 best we can. We do have a little bit of ability. They
5 can communicate directly with us, AT&T can, if they have
6 any problems. And for the most part, like, we can check
7 and see if there's -- we have the ability to communicate
8 with them from staff. If we get a note from staff, we
9 can check the queue for you at any time.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: But I thought you had some indication
11 when someone was in queue, you could tell.

12 MR. MANOFF: We don't know. We get some data from
13 AT&T, but it's not in real time. It's not as good as
14 theirs. So that's why we always ask the AT&T operator to
15 just request and you know, see if there's anybody on the
16 line. Because the information that we're getting is --

17 MS. JOHNSTON: And the other thing is if you think
18 this process is cumbersome, we're using the process that
19 the State auditor selected as what they thought would
20 work the best. But we're not wedded to stick to it if
21 you think there's a better system than AT&T.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I'm not raising that at
23 this point. I guess what I am asking is, I understand
24 what you're -- it sounds like what you're capable of
25 doing, but I guess, does it happen, like, every time we

1 go to public comment, does someone from your team attempt
2 to actually call in, not on a special line, just on a
3 regular phone and can go through that whole process and
4 get in queue?

5 MR. MANOFF: Not every time. But if that's
6 something that the Commission wanted to do -- you know,
7 what was happening at the auditor's office, just in
8 context, was they had quite a few auditors that were
9 watching the live meetings every day and were testing the
10 line because they have the people internally to do that.
11 So it is possible. Right now, what we're doing is we're,
12 you know, we have a way of, you know, making sure that
13 AT&T is logged in. We have, like, an interface that they
14 provide to us.

15 And I'm also on the phone with them right now as we
16 speak. I'm logged into the host line of the call. And I
17 can see that I'm in the call. So that's what we're doing
18 right now.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Could we test this? I
20 mean, if other Commissioners are comfortable with it, if
21 we could actually test it to see if it reveals any
22 problems at our current assessment and evaluation may not
23 reveal.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, perhaps one of you could try
25 calling in on the line. It's hard for us to do it from

1 here.

2 CHAIR TURNER: What's the number? What's the
3 telephone number?

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: We can -- or we
5 can certainly do it from this end.

6 MR. MANOFF: Yeah. I mean, any time anybody wants
7 to try calling in -- again, that number is 877-226-8163.
8 And the code is 5185236. And for any of the
9 Commissioners, you can also watch the live feed that
10 we're doing at any time at wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Someone is trying to call in right
12 now to test it.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay, that would be great. I
14 would rather the Commissioners not be burdened with
15 trying to call in and test it.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Right. But we can't do it, either.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I would rather we identify
18 somebody to do that.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: We just don't have any staff.

20 MR. MANOFF: Well, we're doing it now.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Andersen.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: One thing I was told by --
23 back when I was chairing at the auditor's office is
24 that's why every single time we had -- we went to public
25 comment, we actually had the instructions read and were

1 told to wait at least a couple of minutes because there
2 is the -- when somebody, oh, it's public comment time.
3 It gave them enough time to actually physically get to
4 the phone, dial in all the numbers, have their tablet
5 work, have it ring, have it be answered. So that was
6 what we were doing.

7 Every single time we went to public comments, we
8 would we re-read the instructions. And then we would
9 talk. We would ask if there was any anyone in queue.
10 And then wait for a couple of minutes. And that gave --
11 I do understand. We're actually checking to see how
12 things are going. So the recommendation was that we
13 pause for two minutes; sometimes three minutes, to allow
14 people the time to get in -- get in on the line.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you for that. The thing that I
16 have, I guess I was not feeling beholden to was that when
17 we announced public comment is going to be at the
18 beginning of lunch, or at the beginning of the meeting,
19 and when we actually are able to adhere to that. And so
20 then, we would call for public comment, if there's no one
21 there, it doesn't seem to me it has an -- it seems to
22 me -- I don't know, be so moved to wait additional
23 minutes, you know.

24 But I do want to hear what you're saying and be
25 reminded when we are having public comment like now to

1 wait a little bit longer. And I try to do that.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. It was really
3 particularly when, like, after an action item, when it
4 comes at different times, when we switch to -- they
5 expect it in the morning. They expect it after lunch.
6 That again, we didn't have to go for pause, but it was
7 after action items in the middle of the day.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Le Mons.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I appreciate what
10 Commissioner Andersen is saying. I think I'm speaking to
11 something a little bit different. Never once when we
12 heard from the public that they had problems getting in,
13 have we heard from the AT&T operator, the State auditor's
14 office, or anyone else that there is a problem with the
15 public getting in. So to me, it's like, I don't know,
16 whatever it was we were doing -- and I'm not trying to
17 troubleshoot what we were doing -- I thought that the
18 simplest way is that somebody try to call in each time.
19 And not one of us, but somebody try to call in each time
20 we go to public comment. Because to me that's the point
21 that, if you're the outside caller, you know, whether
22 there's a problem that maybe they don't see yet or maybe
23 hasn't been revealed. It may be burdensome. It may not
24 be a direction that we want to go. But I want to
25 distinguish that from the waiting part, because that's

1 not what I'm really talking about.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: One of the videographers just tried
3 doing it and says it's working fine.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And are they prepared to do
5 that each time we go to public comment through the rest
6 of this meeting today and tomorrow?

7 MR. MANOFF: No. I would say -- I would say that
8 right now, I've got, you know -- right now, we're focused
9 on making sure your broadcast is working. It would be --
10 I'm going to defer to staff on that. And I would direct
11 that request to staff. And we can talk about options on
12 how to do that. You know, because right now, with the
13 team that I have in the room, quite honestly, we are
14 busy, but we can apply resources to that at the direction
15 of staff. Is that fair?

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I don't really know what that
17 means, to be honest with you.

18 MR. MANOFF: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Does that mean, Raul, that we
20 bring somebody else in who can handle the phones?

21 MR. MANOFF: Yeah. It means that -- we can discuss
22 options on how to do that with Raul basically. If we
23 need to make sure that there's somebody that calls that
24 number every single time, then we will task that to
25 somebody on our team. But it won't be somebody that's in

1 the room right here. It will probably be somebody on
2 remote.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So that would be my
4 recommendation, fellow commissioners, if you're open to
5 that or if you guys feel that that's too cumbersome, you
6 know, that's fine, too, but --

7 CHAIR TURNER: Right. I think we heard the comment
8 a couple of times through public comment and we really
9 would have nothing to come back with. And so we -- I
10 appreciate the thoroughness of the team in the room
11 testing what they can, however, if public comment is
12 still saying they've had trouble. So I think it just is
13 the due diligence that we should.

14 Commissioners Vazquez and Akutagawa.

15 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: You made my comments, Madam
16 Chair.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you. Commissioner
18 Akutagawa.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I know in previous
20 conversations there was a recommendation to ensure that
21 on the instructions on the We Draw the lines website
22 that, in addition to the call and phone number and
23 password, that there also be a line that says make sure
24 that you press 1-0 to be put into the queue. And I don't
25 see that. And I think that that's perhaps one of the

1 challenges that could be occurring.

2 I definitely hear what Commissioner Le Mons is
3 saying because I do recall hearing from at least more
4 than two and over the space of more than one day that
5 there was problems getting on the line. I'll just make
6 this recommendation. I don't know if this is viable.
7 You know, if somebody cannot get in through the phone
8 line, there is no other option to just text or email and
9 say, hey, I'm trying to make a comment, but I'm not
10 having success in getting through.

11 We're not getting a lot of comments right now. I'm
12 just wondering if it makes sense to perhaps offer some
13 type of cell phone line where somebody could text and
14 say, I'm trying to get through, I'm having problems, or
15 even just to email someone saying, I'm trying to get
16 through, I'm having problems. Just so that, then, this
17 kind of process of trying to call in, you know, and
18 someone testing to call in doesn't become so cumbersome.

19 And actually, real time, it -- you know, someone
20 else from either staff or the video team may be able to
21 get in, but for whatever reason, someone else is not able
22 to. And perhaps if somebody just alerts us that there's
23 a problem going on with the line, then at least then some
24 troubleshooting can take place.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Raul and then Commissioner Andersen.

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to
3 note, so I do receive communications from the Auditor's
4 Office if they're getting any communications. It only
5 happened that one day, and what we ascertained was that
6 the callers weren't receiving the instructions from the
7 operator to dial the 1-0. There hasn't been any other
8 issues communicated to me since then.

9 That being said, what I'm hearing is that there's a
10 concern that because there's not much public comment so
11 far that maybe there's something wrong with the telephone
12 system. That's kind of what I'm hearing. So we can
13 certainly go ahead and figure out a way to keep that
14 tested. The videography here -- the videographer staff,
15 they keep an eye on it but we can add something periodic
16 to maintain that alertness.

17 CHAIR TURNER: And Raul, add that line that
18 Commissioner Akutagawa talked about, the instructions --

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh.

20 CHAIR TURNER: -- online as well.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So I was going
22 say, there's a link to the instructions right there on
23 the home page. And so all someone has to do is click
24 that and it takes them -- I mean, well, no. The
25 instructions on the website are the ones that I read

1 verbatim.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa, where are you
3 at?

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'm going to say, I've seen
5 those instructions and they're really long. I think it's
6 just a very simple just underneath the phone number just
7 put, be sure to press 1-0. And I think they could read
8 the rest of it, but I think that that's the one important
9 instruction that's missing that some people, I think,
10 might not realize that -- or they think that they are,
11 but they just need to be reminded.

12 And putting it on the website may also remind them
13 to make sure that if they haven't pressed 1-0, they need
14 to do that. And to be paying attention because if they
15 press 1-0 again if they've already pressed it, it takes
16 them out of queue also.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, I can send
18 that communication over to --

19 CHAIR TURNER: I see you.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- Auditor IT.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. Can I just say
23 there -- these issues did, indeed, come up the first time
24 around. There was a lot of stuff going on in the
25 background. The Auditor staff was very involved. There

1 were extra people making sure this aspect was working.
2 And what I would actually say is can we just ask the
3 staff, especially Raul and Marian and Kristian to please
4 just coordinate back with State Auditors and find out
5 exactly how they were doing it because they did have --
6 if we need to -- then if we need to add, like, another
7 line onto the website to say, please do this, this, this,
8 we can at that point do it.

9 And we will probably need another person, but at
10 this point, I think we've all said exactly what -- you
11 know, Commissioner Le Mons brought up a really good
12 point. We need that extra help, and we don't have that
13 right now. We did have that with the auditors.

14 And if they could just get back with the auditors,
15 find out exactly what we need, and then go ahead, and
16 then, you know, bring it back to us and say, hey, this is
17 what we're doing, we've got it covered, as opposed to us
18 actually having to spell out exactly what we need to do.
19 I think they're -- if we just say, guys, this is the
20 issue, and then we'll go ahead and we'll figure out what
21 to do. It will probably involve at least another person.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was just going to say at
24 the risk of belaboring this point, I'm on the livestream
25 right now. To everyone's point, it can be helpful to

1 include the 1-0 note because when you're on, if you're
2 watching this from home, all you see is the phone number
3 and the code. You don't see instruction about zero-one.

4 I'm sure people can figure out the part about say
5 which meeting you want to want to comment on, but the 1-0
6 piece. If you just have this video stream bookmarked,
7 you're not going to see the instructions.

8 CHAIR TURNER: So like a running banner that's
9 there? Um-hum. Okay. We have five minutes before we
10 have to break. Ryan, is there anyone waiting for public
11 comment?

12 AT&T OPERATOR: We do have one person that's in
13 queue. Please spell your first and last name for the
14 record. I'm opening the line of Michael Wagner (sic).
15 Please go ahead. Your line is open.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

17 MR. WAGAMAN: Hi. This is Michael Wagaman,
18 W-A-G-A-M-A-N. I spoke to you previously about the
19 budget allocation issue. Two things. One, on the
20 negotiations on the statutory amendment process, just to
21 kind of clarify how things were done last time, there was
22 actually a subcommittee of the Commission that was
23 appointed to work with the Legislature to try to work
24 some of those issues out.

25 So it wasn't a process of the Commission coming up

1 with a set of amendments and then forwarding to the
2 Legislature. There was a much more collaborative process
3 because it does require both the supermajority votes of
4 the Commission and the Legislature, and we have to be
5 very precise on that language because of the way it is
6 written. Even if there's a comma difference between the
7 two versions, it wouldn't go into effect. So that is how
8 that worked.

9 And I would highlight in the recommendations from
10 the last Commission, one of the things they did talk
11 about is potentially starting that process earlier and be
12 getting those interactions earlier so that things weren't
13 lost as was discussed. So just to put that on your list
14 as you move forward.

15 And as one of the commissioners mentioned, just so
16 you know, we have already reached out to the Auditor's
17 Office to request any feedback of any potential statutory
18 amendments they may be looking for relative to the
19 application phase. So I wanted to highlight that.

20 And then on your discussion on public testimony, one
21 thing just to mention, in your instructions, it talks
22 about how there is sometimes a lag between the video
23 stream and your actual discussions. So what that means
24 as a practical matter is if a member of the public is --
25 if you all are talking and you say, please dial in now

1 for public comment, by the time the public actually hears
2 that instructions it may be thirty seconds later. So you
3 may be like, oh, we've been waiting a long time, and they
4 may just be hearing that instruction that they need to
5 dial number, dial a code, give their name, dial 1-0.

6 So just keep that in mind and figure out how long
7 you -- of that pause, maybe, is -- you got to add in an
8 extra 30 seconds just to allow the video to catch up with
9 the public -- what the public is actually hearing. Thank
10 you very much.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. That's very helpful about
12 the lag. And thank you so much for all of your comments.
13 We appreciate that. Is there another caller?

14 AT&T OPERATOR: As a reminder, it is 1-0 if you'd
15 like to make a comment. One-zero. Right now we have no
16 one in queue.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. I was just looking -- I
19 didn't quite understand the last caller's comments about
20 looking for input -- that the State Auditor's Office was
21 looking for input. And so I was just -- I wanted
22 clarification, but I don't think he's there any longer,
23 so we'll just have to --

24 MS. JOHNSTON: I think what he was saying is that
25 they have also asked the State Auditor if there are

1 any -- now that they've been given additional duties that
2 used to belong to the Secretary of State, if there's
3 anything that they would like to change. Even so, if
4 they had a change that they would like, it would have to
5 come through the Commission first.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Raul?

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So just a quick
9 update maybe to assist with this discussion. If you go
10 on to the live stream now, it has underneath the Brady
11 Bunch pictures --

12 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- it's -- it
14 says public comment, gives the help number or the code,
15 and then it says press 1 and 0 to queue.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Wonderful. Thank you.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So if you'll go
18 on there, you'll be able to see that.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Great.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And we'll see.

21 CHAIR TURNER: And thank you. Appreciate that.
22 Good job.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: We'll still
24 figure out -- thank you. We'll still figure out some
25 additional things we can do. So if you don't see me

1 here, maybe I'm testing the thing.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Okay.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I laugh, but you
4 know, I don't want you to think that any of us here in
5 this room don't take it seriously the responsibility for
6 transparency. We take that very, very seriously, and so
7 we're here. We'll figure it out on our end what else we
8 can do to help support the effort on your behalf.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Outstanding. At this time, I think
10 it's time for lunch. And so we'll recess for lunch until
11 2:15.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: 2:15.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. Do you mean 1:45?

14 MS. JOHNSTON: 1:45.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, I wanted a longer lunch today.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Oh, do you?

17 CHAIR TURNER: Well, apparently.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: All those in favor?

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: All in favor?

20 CHAIR TURNER: No, Mary. No, Mary, I don't.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: (Indiscernible, simultaneous
22 speech) --

23 CHAIR TURNER: I think in my mind -- I keep messing
24 up on these times. In my mind, I'm thinking, okay, we've
25 got to go an hour and a half till we get a break. You

1 know, that --

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah.

3 CHAIR TURNER: -- hour and a half time frame. So
4 thank you. 1:45. Thank you.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, and welcome back. We will
8 begin our time with our public comments. And so yes,
9 please. Do we have anyone in queue, Ryan?

10 AT&T OPERATOR: And as a reminder, if you do wish to
11 make a comment, please press one then zero. One-zero.
12 Currently, we do not have anyone in queue.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Well, then we will wait for the
14 delay.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: There are some documents Raul is
16 distributing you might want to take a look at while we're
17 waiting.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. AT&T, will you check
19 again, please? Ryan, will you check to see if we have
20 anyone waiting, please?

21 AT&T operator, Ryan, are you there? I don't know.
22 Am I here? Do you all hear me?

23 MR. MANOFF: Yeah. Stand --

24 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. There we go.

25 AT&T OPERATOR: I am here. Sorry. My mute button

1 was on. We have no one in queue. Just a reminder, it's
2 1-0. If you'd like to queue up for a comment, please
3 press 1 then 0. And we have no one in queue at this
4 time.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Okay. So at this time,
6 we will move to our -- we have now agenda item 15 that
7 will then dovetail into agenda item 16 and 23. So we'll
8 start with the agenda item 15, Raul.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You caught me in
10 the middle of a send. One moment, please.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, sorry.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, no problem.
13 Kristian, if you could share my desktop, please? And if
14 you find the little red -- three red dots at the upper
15 right corner of your screen, you can click on that and
16 click on pin, and that'll open it up full screen for you.

17 So by special request, you get PowerPoint slides.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Woot woot.

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So this is about
20 state contracts and procurement. So when you talk about
21 contracts and procurement, one of the things to know is
22 that the statutory authority for purchases reside with
23 Department of General Services, okay? That's under the
24 Public Contract Code.

25 Public Contract Code is developed primarily for a

1 few things. One, because you're working with public
2 money; two, to ensure equitable playing field for
3 prospective contractors; and three, to provide a strong
4 framework for how contracting procurement occur. DGS
5 also has statutory authority to grant purchasing
6 authority to other state departments.

7 So what happens if you don't have your purchasing
8 authority? Well, basically, you're non-IT goods and
9 purchases can't exceed \$100. You can't obtain IT goods
10 and services of any dollar value. You can't make
11 purchases against leverage procurement agreements, which
12 I'll tell you about later, and you can't participate in a
13 CAL-Card purchase card program. The CAL-Card purchase
14 card program, think of that kind of like the State's
15 credit card.

16 There are other activities -- purchasing activities
17 that can occur under different authorities. So if you
18 don't have delegated authority, which is what it's
19 called, you can make purchases under \$100. You can
20 obtain telecommunication goods and services. You can
21 obtain non-IT services pursuant to the State Contract
22 Manual, Volume 1.

23 You can get IT goods and services pursuant to Public
24 Contract Code 12-100, and those are really related to IT
25 projects. And you can't get the non-IT goods over \$100

1 unless they're exempt by statute. So the Citizens
2 Redistricting Commission does not currently have
3 delegated authority. What that means then is all
4 purchases and contracts have to go through the Department
5 of General Services and the Office of Legal Services, DGS
6 OLS.

7 So to get delegated authority, you need to be able
8 to provide certain things. One, that you have a
9 procurement contracting officer who's a member of the
10 executive team. The CEA and above is a state
11 classification level. In terms of the job classes that
12 the Citizens Redistricting Commission has, I went ahead
13 and asked for one to be developed at this level. Should
14 you and the Executive Director wish to pursue delegated
15 authority for purchases, then you would have somebody in
16 that position to be able to do that for you.

17 It also requires an individual below that level, and
18 they're designated as your non-IT and IT purchasing
19 authority. And what you're looking at there really is a
20 separation of duties. So the individuals who do the
21 contracting, approve the contracts, make the purchases,
22 approve invoices for payment, are different individuals.
23 And so if I -- as I go through this, if you have any
24 questions, please ask.

25 Another part of the delegated authority is

1 establishing the policies for how you're going to train
2 the personnel in the purchasing law and procedures. DGS
3 or CalPCA has training in three different levels. Some
4 of it's free; some of it you pay for. Your policies have
5 to be in place for how you're going to control and review
6 the purchasing, how you're going to auditing -- audit the
7 purchase and contracting activities, and how are you
8 going to delegate purchasing authority within the agency.

9 In other words, a separation of duties. And it's
10 really a cross-system of checks and balances so that you
11 don't have one person doing it all, and therefore,
12 potentially increasing the risk of improper purchases or
13 contracting.

14 So when we talk about purchasing and contracting,
15 the purchases are called procurements, okay? In terms of
16 how the State does it, you can't just go to Amazon or
17 Walmart or Costco and buy whatever you want. There's
18 procedures in place so you have to purchase from approved
19 sellers first. There's a special consideration for small
20 business, micro business, and businesses from the DVBEs,
21 which is disabled veteran business enterprises. You can
22 also make purchases using leverage procurement
23 agreements. I'll get into those a little bit more later.

24 When you do your purchases, depending on the type of
25 purchase and the amount of the purchase, you have to show

1 evidence of -- that you've done some kind of a cost
2 comparison and that you're getting a good deal,
3 basically. So purchases over \$100 require approval.
4 It's usually a two or three-step approval. IT purchases
5 have many more levels of approval, about four or five,
6 and take considerably longer.

7 In this next part, I'm going to talk about different
8 types of contracts. So consulting services contracts are
9 defined under the Public Contract Code as services of an
10 advisory nature that provides a recommended course of
11 action or personal expertise. If you obtain the services
12 of, oh, like Matt was when he was doing the VRA analysis,
13 that was a consulting services contract.

14 So those can be acquired different ways. There are
15 some leverage procurement methods for doing that, an
16 invitation for bid, and depending on the way you approach
17 it is how long it takes and what it takes to do it.

18 Another way is the interagency contract, and that's
19 a contract between two or more California state agencies.
20 This is probably one of the quickest ways for certain
21 types of contracts. You currently have three that are
22 under consideration, the one with fiscal services and HR,
23 which got discussed on Tuesday the 26th. Those are ready
24 for approval and signature.

25 The one with IT, who basically is supporting your

1 networking and Wi-Fi. I'm still in negotiations with
2 them on how that's going to work out, and so I didn't
3 have that ready for you. Should you want to get a
4 recruitment firm, there are a couple of public sector
5 agencies that do recruitment, in which case, then, we
6 would be able to do an interagency contract which can
7 happen as in as little as two weeks.

8 Your leverage procurement are also known as master
9 agreements. They're statewide agreements that DGS has
10 already pretty much vetted. That means they've gone out
11 to bid, they have evaluated the folks who are bidding
12 their work practices, their costs, they've negotiated the
13 costs for services, and depending on the type of
14 agreement, quite often, they will already have designated
15 that if you are in a certain area in California or doing
16 specific types of work that those would be the people
17 that you choose -- or the contractors that you choose.

18 Examples of that right now are -- and I'm kind of
19 jump in a little bit ahead to what your subcommittee will
20 be talking about, but for your transcription and for your
21 American sign language, those are both master services
22 agreements and those will be presented to you today.

23 So the advantage is it takes advantage of the
24 State's buying power because the cost is pre-negotiated.
25 If you need them, the bidding process has already



1 happened. They're pretty much ready to award. Some of
2 them do have caps on the amount -- on the maximum out of
3 the contract, and we can obtain them under \$50,000
4 without Office of Legal Services approval. Over \$50,000,
5 then we have to go to the Office of Legal Services to get
6 that approval.

7 You already have a contact there in the Office of
8 Legal Services and through some of the procurement and
9 contracting parts. That's one of the things that I was
10 working on for you. And so sometimes a process that may
11 take four weeks, six weeks, eight weeks or more, we can
12 get it -- we can get it through much, much quicker, which
13 is good.

14 So competitive bidding methods. So when we talk
15 about an invitation for bid or a request for proposal,
16 those are what's known as competitive bidding methods.
17 The Public Contract Code and the State Contracting Manual
18 are replete with a number of rules and regulations and
19 laws that apply to these methods. The requirements for
20 when you post, how you -- not so much the when but how
21 you post.

22 The CSR is the California State Contract Register,
23 which ones are required -- requirements regarding the bid
24 opening, the basis for awarding with the asterisk there
25 that you, as the agency who's going to be doing the



1 awarding, you set the actual criteria. Some of the how
2 of that occurs, though, is already set in law.

3 So for example, with the RFP with the line drawer
4 where it said that the cost portions would be provided
5 sealed and not opened until ready for consideration,
6 that's really part of the standards and requirements for
7 RFPs. You don't have a choice with that. How you award
8 it and the basis of the award, the criteria for the
9 award, is where you would come in.

10 They're required to have a statement of work.
11 They're required to have some basis for experience
12 factors and cost factors. I'll go into that a little bit
13 more in a bit. And they also have requirements in terms
14 of what's known as small business or DVBE, disabled
15 veteran business enterprise preferences. And those are
16 usually either in terms of additional awarded points or a
17 percent consideration from their bid. And again, that's
18 to support those two types of contractors.

19 Another form of contracting is the small business
20 DVBE option. This is an option, a contracting method
21 that is specific and only for small -- excuse me -- small
22 businesses and disabled veteran business enterprises.
23 Generally, the contracts are limited to greater than
24 5,000 and less than 250,000 which requires quotes from at
25 least two certified small businesses or two certified

1 micro businesses, or two certified disabled veteran-owned
2 businesses. And you can't mix and match. You can't have
3 one small business and one micro business.

4 Now, that being said, sometimes your disabled
5 veteran-owned business is also a certified small
6 business, in which case, then, you could use that
7 solicitation with them as a small business. Award to the
8 low quote is not required, but you need to be able to
9 document and support business reasons and the cost
10 reasonableness as the basis for selecting if it's not the
11 low quote.

12 And again, when I say these considerations, again,
13 it's because of factors in the Public Contract Code and
14 in the State Contract Manual. You also have legal
15 services contracts. They're not subject to competitive
16 bidding or advertising. Generally, they're authorized by
17 the Attorney General unless specifically exempted by
18 statute.

19 During the 2010 cycle, the Commission -- the
20 Commission's legal counsel wrote a letter for exemption
21 to the Attorney General, and it was accepted, and so it
22 didn't require authorization. So that's something that
23 Marian really knows a lot more about the specifics and
24 could go into detail for you.

25 Generally speaking, again, they require DGS Office

1 of Legal Services approval. The last go-round, yours
2 didn't because of that exemption that was granted by the
3 Attorney General. The copy of the contract and
4 amendments need to be sent to the Bargaining Unit for the
5 attorneys, and the Commission last time was required to
6 provide that notification.

7 So are there any questions? If not, I'm going to
8 move on.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Raul --

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

11 CHAIR TURNER: -- I think there is, but you're
12 screen-sharing so I can't see all the hands. I think
13 Kennedy and Fernandez. Commissioners Kennedy,
14 Fernandez --

15 MR. MANOFF: Chair, you can go to --

16 CHAIR TURNER: -- and Akutagawa.

17 MR. MANOFF: -- gallery view. You can go to gallery
18 view if you like.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, got it.

20 MR. MANOFF: Switch from speaker --

21 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

22 MR. MANOFF: -- view to gallery view.

23 CHAIR TURNER: I thought I was stuck. Yeah. So
24 Commissioner Kennedy. Now, I forgot the hands. Kennedy
25 and the others I just said. Fernandez.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Akutagawa. Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Raul, are we again in a situation where what the 2010
5 Commission did has now lapsed completely and we have to
6 start over?

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: In regards to the
8 attorney contracting?

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: In regards to the attorney,
10 but really in regards to any of this procurement
11 procedures.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: That's an
13 excellent question. So the 2010 Commission decided not
14 to go and obtain delegated authority. When we were
15 looking at the amount of time we had and how much time it
16 would have taken to acquire the delegated authority, what
17 we decided to do was to negotiate processes and form
18 partnerships, and we were able to get avenues for
19 procurement and contracting that were much more rapid
20 than normal state operations.

21 This go-round, you have a little bit more time so it
22 becomes more of a consideration. But to answer your
23 question, yes. Whatever happened in 2010, it's done.
24 We're starting over.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Which doesn't make a whole

1 lot of sense to me. But what does make sense is that if
2 we do have time, if we are able to pursue some of these
3 things now and leave them in place for the 2030
4 Commission, it would --

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- a, make our lives easier
7 during our term, but also hopefully make their lives
8 easier during their term.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No argument
10 there. That's probably one of the more difficult things
11 because of the amount of law and regulation attached to
12 it. And if delegated authority could be obtained and we
13 could negotiate a way -- because delegated authority is
14 in place for the organization, but it's also contingent
15 on the capabilities of the staff to exercise it. But
16 then that becomes when your hiring for the 2030. So yes,
17 I'm with you a thousand percent.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Fernandez.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Yeah.
20 So just a couple of questions. One, if we do choose to
21 try to get some -- get delegated authority, what's the
22 process and how long does that take? And then, two -- so
23 I actually have three questions. But the second one
24 would be the timelines for procurement if we have to go
25 through this whole process where it has to go through DGS

1 and all that.

2 And then three, and I think you might have kind of
3 gone into this, if we don't have delegated authority but
4 somebody else has delegated authority, can we somehow use
5 their delegated authority? So that's the three that I've
6 got.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. I'm trying
8 to figure out which is the easiest first. Can we use
9 somebody else's delegated authority? The primary answer
10 is no, but under special circumstances that can be
11 contracted. It doesn't happen often, but it is possible.

12 As far as procurement time, one of the things that I
13 worked on while the State Auditor was really strongly in
14 place with your operations was to obtain as much of the
15 procurement on the front end as possible. And so your
16 IT, the office supplies that are coming in. So basically
17 to set up the office, and then afterwards, some of the
18 infrastructure for you.

19 So for example, your phones. That couldn't be set
20 up on the front end because you didn't have a CATR. Now
21 that you do, then -- or almost, it needs to be signed --
22 now you can go ahead and get your cell phone service,
23 your telephone service, your 800 number. So as far as
24 time lines, it depends on the type of purchase. Last go-
25 round, it took us four weeks to get computers, four and a

1 half weeks. Generally, it takes about two weeks to get
2 office supplies.

3 So when the 2010 talks about staff going out and
4 getting computers and office supplies, that was one of
5 the primary reasons why that things had to get started up
6 and running so fast. You now have the advantage that you
7 have all those basics.

8 There was three questions. What was the other one,
9 the last one?

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: The other one was the --
11 and when I talked about can we use somebody else's
12 authority, I was thinking of the State Auditor because
13 we're kind of tied but not really tied to them. So that
14 was kind of like my initial thinking.

15 But my third thing was, if we decide to go the
16 delegated authority time --

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- route, what would be the
19 time line? And I realize that you said we'd probably
20 wait until we hire those positions, but I mean, is it
21 something that we can start now instead of having to
22 wait, you know, another month or so to start that
23 process?

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I can initiate
25 the process for you in terms of the request. The

1 paperwork is easy to obtain, but it can't move forward
2 until the hiring. But again, that becomes then one of
3 the criteria for hiring. It also then outlines a little
4 bit of the internal organizational structure that has to
5 be there for the separation --

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- of duties.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I realize we have to have
9 the positions first in order to put that on the form
10 saying we have these positions, we have our internal
11 controls in place. But once we have that, then how -- do
12 you have an idea of how long that would take, that
13 process would take?

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You know what?
15 Really, I'd want to make an inquiry to my contacts in the
16 Department and see how we could fast track it with --
17 it's kind of like god bless them, but with the Department
18 of General Services, who have done a lot for you, there's
19 such a layer of bureaucracy that it -- I'd rather work
20 with the contacts I have and see how we can streamline
21 processes. In general, it could take six months to eight
22 months, and we don't have that time.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
25 going back to, I guess, it's the Government Code 8253,

1 Citizens Redistricting Commission Miscellaneous
2 Provisions, Subsection A, sub 5 says, among other things,
3 quote, the State Auditor shall provide support functions
4 to the Commission until its staff and office are fully
5 functional.

6 Now, it seems to me there may be some room for
7 debate over what support functions comprise, but until
8 its staff and office are fully functional, we're nowhere
9 near fully functional. And to me, this is saying that
10 the State Auditor should be providing the support
11 functions that we need.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: If you go to a
13 couple of sections just below that, it'll -- you'll also
14 see where the contracting and staffing authority is
15 exclusively under the Commission and that the Commission
16 makes those decisions by super-majority vote. I only
17 bring that up -- and I bring that up respectfully, not
18 argumentatively -- because in discussions with the State
19 Auditor, that is one of the places that we had to stop
20 and look at how far can decisions be made, quote unquote,
21 on behalf of the Commission.

22 And that appeared to be a very bright line that
23 couldn't be crossed that, based on that language, the
24 Commission has the sole authority for its contracting and
25 staffing. So that could be -- that could be one of those

1 2022 considerations because I agree with you,
2 Commissioner, that that really would be helpful the next
3 go-round and shedding a little bit more light on exactly
4 what that language means. Because you're right. It
5 seems to contradict itself.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. I'll look forward --
7 excuse me -- to a very interesting discussion with
8 General Counsel once we have General Counsel. But I
9 mean, 8253.6, Sub. B talks about may hire staff and
10 consultants exempt from civil service requirements --

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- and shall have full
13 procurement and contracting authority doesn't say shall
14 have exclusive procurement and contracting authority. To
15 me, that says we will have it once we're up and fully
16 functional, but in the meantime the Auditor's Office
17 needs to be supporting us in any and every way we need so
18 that we can get up --

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- to the point of being
21 fully functional.

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: The --

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Otherwise, we're stuck in a
24 catch-22 that we don't have the authority to do what we
25 need to do to get up to the point of being fully

1 functional.

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I think that's a
3 question for the attorneys. I can only report to you
4 what discussions have occurred. The language about the
5 staffing is really in regards predominantly of why the
6 May is because you're not required to be under civil
7 service. The exemption under Article 12 is regarding
8 constitutional exclusion from civil service, and those
9 are appointed by the Governor's Office and fall under Cal
10 HR, neither of which those considerations affect your
11 staff.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: All right. All right. Thank
13 you.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. And Marian, I can't quite tell
16 when you're wanting to talk or just close to the mic, but
17 maybe you and then Commissioner Sinay.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: No, I have nothing to add to that.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's post-lunch, and this is
22 all in bureaucratic-ese. I guess if you have legalese,
23 you have bureaucratic-ese.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Can you simplify this in a way

1 that non-State people would understand? I mean, it
2 sounds like we can't do anything unless we do this. If
3 we do this, it's going to take some time. There might be
4 ways to get around it, right?

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So there's two
6 primary ways. One is the delegated authority. The other
7 one is the method that was used last time, which I've
8 been pursuing until now, because there's -- basically,
9 the Commission needed to come into place to make some of
10 these decisions. And this is -- this is about as close
11 to English as I can get it.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Got you.

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. If you were
14 to actually read the State Contracting Manual, while it's
15 more consumer-friendly than the Public Contract Code,
16 it's very dense.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So I guess the bottom line is
18 we save money and effort if we go this way, but it takes
19 us more time?

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You save time and
21 money through delegated authority, especially the time,
22 depending on how much delegated authority you get. The
23 biggest factor here is time. When you have to deal with
24 multiple levels of authority with an external force
25 negotiating that process, this becomes a primary factor

1 on how fast it goes, the rapidity of it. When you hold
2 more of that decision-making and authority on your hands,
3 that's where the time factor comes into play.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa.

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think, following on
6 Commissioner Sinay's request, I think I need perhaps an
7 even bigger level of just some simplification. What
8 exactly would -- are we talking about in terms of all of
9 these things? You know, I see that IT and non-IT. I
10 see, you know, other different kinds of things. I mean,
11 what I am -- what I am surmising is that it could be a
12 whole host of different kinds of services and items.

13 Just how much of it is actually really urgent in
14 terms of getting us further up to speed and how much of
15 it is things that we're going to need but doesn't fall
16 under, like, you know, within the next couple, three
17 weeks' time frame?

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Your priority --

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And I have one more
20 question after that.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Your priorities
22 right now are your meeting services. So that's your
23 videographer, your American sign language interpreter,
24 your court -- the transcriptionist/court reporter, your
25 captioner. Because without those, either your meetings

1 don't happen or they happen but they're missing pretty
2 solid pieces for engagement and transparency.

3 After that, comes some of the pieces that you've
4 been discussing today. So as you consider -- you want an
5 external entity to do your recruitment, so that becomes
6 priority, right? Looking at those things that are going
7 to require an actual request for proposal or invitation
8 for bid because it takes a while to actually create that
9 document, run it through legal, and get it ready to post.
10 And you're talking three to four weeks there. And so
11 those should be identified and become priority just to be
12 developed now. So kind of rough and ready.

13 That's a really good question, by the way. And if I
14 may, one of the primary purposes for this presentation is
15 not to get you up to speed on contracting and
16 procurement. Let your staff do that, you know. But to
17 really understand that this is a process, and so for you,
18 the decision-making and planning so that these things can
19 occur in a timely manner becomes very critical.

20 So if you want to get an external agency to help you
21 with your public engagement, that's something that needs
22 to be thought about now because that will most probably
23 have to be an RFP. And so that's going to require a lot
24 of thought and planning on the front end just to be able
25 to develop a solid scope of work that will accomplish for

1 you what you want.

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. So that, I
3 guess -- thank you for that because I guess we have the
4 videographer, the American sign language interpreters
5 working. The transcription, I guess I just thought that
6 that was already all set up and you know, going to
7 continue on.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: All of those
9 services are being provided under contract with the State
10 Auditor right now.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Can you tell us for how
12 long? Because that, I guess, wasn't clear. And then I
13 guess that would then also mean that's where the line
14 drawer is going to also fall under this kind of
15 contracting work --

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- that we're doing. And
18 then my last question that I had is, it's interesting
19 that disabled veterans are called out but minority or
20 women-owned businesses are not called out. It's just
21 more generically small business.

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And so --

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They used to --

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- is that just the statute

1 of the language -- I mean, the language of the statute?
2 Is there a way that we can also say that we want to focus
3 on, you know, a diverse business, which is either
4 minority or women-owned?

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Absolutely. And
6 actually, every agency is not only supported but
7 encouraged to have as part of its procurement and
8 contracting plan an approach for encouraging and
9 obtaining small business, minority businesses, women-
10 owned businesses, disabled vet businesses. Absolutely.

11 CHAIR TURNER: So Raul and Counsel, to separate
12 items 15 and 16, 15 was your training on how the State
13 does its contracting and procurement so that we have
14 that --

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

16 CHAIR TURNER: -- understanding and then make a
17 decision on whether or not we want to allow a delegated
18 authority there or if we want to follow the requirements.
19 Was there an action item to 15 so we can go to public
20 comment before we go into some of the broader discussion
21 of --

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No.

23 CHAIR TURNER: -- a more detailed discussion on the
24 report --

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

1 CHAIR TURNER: -- for the RFP, videographer, and all
2 that conversation.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: If I might
4 suggest, Chair --

5 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- I would table
7 that until you have your Executive Director. And then
8 that's a discussion with your Executive Director in terms
9 of -- because that will affect, like I say, the
10 organizational structure, the staffing, the hiring, so
11 that they -- so that is -- if that is something the
12 Commission wants to go after, then that becomes a primary
13 goal and direction in working -- you know, and just
14 starting operations with your Executive Director.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And is that then the
16 recommendation that you're making for item 16?

17 MS. JOHNSTON: No.

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No. For --

19 CHAIR TURNER: I don't understand.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. So you
21 asked, is there an action item, and my recommendation --

22 CHAIR TURNER: For --

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- is no.

24 CHAIR TURNER: For 15, for 15.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: For 15, yes.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And my answer is,
3 no, I would wait till you have an Executive Director.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: If you wanted to pursue the delegated
5 authority.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Correct.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Got it. Okay. Commissioner
8 Fernandez.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you,
10 Marian.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't necessarily think
12 we need to table this action item. I think we can
13 actually close it and then open up another action item in
14 the future when we do have our Executive Director. That
15 way, it's clean-cut, we're done with the action items on
16 this agenda.

17 Because the whole issue about delegated authority
18 or -- would be something that we would bring up later and
19 I don't know how I feel about leaving agenda items open
20 for that long. I think it's clearer -- cleaner to just
21 close it out and then bring it up again when we have that
22 position.

23 CHAIR TURNER: I like that. And because the agenda
24 item is there as trained on it, I think we have the
25 training on it, and then perhaps I would prefer closing

1 it out as 15 and reopening it as a decision --

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

3 CHAIR TURNER: -- for Executive Director if that's
4 the direction we go.

5 Commissioner Andersen?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just for our -- could we get
7 a copy of your slides, please, (indiscernible,
8 simultaneous speech) --

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I sent them.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: We sent them.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They should be in
13 your mailbox.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh. Okay. Great. Thank
15 you.

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.
17 It'll be in a PDF.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Andersen --

19 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- you might --

21 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. Go ahead.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry. I was going to say
23 they may be in your personal email. Some of the emails
24 have gone to my personal email rather than my Commission
25 email.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh, have they?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So if you're missing -- yes.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: My apologies.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: That's okay. So if you're
5 missing --

6 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sinay --

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- some stuff.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Some went to my spam.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I can't control
10 that one.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to just be -- I
12 get what -- that there is no action right now. If we
13 wait until we -- is there -- did we agree that paperwork
14 would get started or we're not doing anything, and then
15 once we hire someone, it'll still be a two-month -- two-
16 month or however long it takes to get the different
17 authorities?

18 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Fernandez?

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: My understanding from Raul
20 was that we can't actually do anything or move forward
21 until we actually have positions in place because we need
22 to specify who's in those positions when we submit the
23 request to have delegated authority, right? Is that
24 correct, Raul?

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: That is correct.

1 I can obtain the paperwork. I can reach out and start
2 identifying how we can streamline the process. That I
3 can do. But Commissioner Fernandez is right. That'll
4 only go so far. But I can do those things if you would
5 like me to.

6 CHAIR TURNER: That's helpful, Commissioner Sinay.
7 Thank you for bringing that up, and thank you for the
8 response.

9 So then, Commissioners, then we would need to, I
10 would imagine, make a motion to have Raul move forward in
11 that if that's our desire. Or do we want to wait?

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess I can make a motion
13 that he move forward as far as he can, because obviously
14 he can't move forward all the way until the position is
15 filled. But in terms of trying to figure out the --
16 making the -- reaching out, having the conversations,
17 going as far as he can, I mean, I would prefer that once
18 we have an Executive Director, we're ready to go in terms
19 of we've already figured out the process and here it is.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I go
22 back to part of what I was saying earlier. To me, the
23 amount of time that we should invest in this needs to be
24 considered in light of how much of this is for our
25 benefit and how much of it are we going to be able to

1 leave as a legacy for the 2030 Commission. If it's only
2 for us and if we are only going to have occasion to make
3 limited use for us, we need to think carefully about how
4 much time we want to invest in versus how much time it
5 would take us to do things without delegated authority.

6 In other words, if we're only going to do it once or
7 twice and we can't pass it on, what is the time factor on
8 that side versus the time that would go in to getting
9 delegated authority? If, on the other hand, we're either
10 going to make frequent use of it and/or we're able to
11 pass that on to the 2030 Commission, then it makes sense
12 to devote more time to it. Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy, could you help
14 me and say a little bit more and then lead me into how
15 we -- being informed by what you said, what would be the
16 direction?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I guess a question to Raul at
18 this point would be, you know, how much use of delegated
19 authority do you think, based on your experience with the
20 2010 Commission, we might actually use it? And the
21 second half of that would be, is there any way directly
22 or through the proposal process that will start in 2022
23 where we begin to make recommendations for the future
24 that we could pass the delegated authority on to the 2030
25 Commission.

1 Understanding the requirements and so forth, but
2 there may be a way to meet the requirements, whether it's
3 through, you know, putting the Commission's delegated
4 authority into hibernation for eight years and then
5 reviving it without having to start over. You know, some
6 approach so that the 2030 Commission is able to benefit
7 from our work rather than having to start from scratch.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So delegated
11 authority is provided to the entity, not to the people,
12 the staff, while it's relegated to having staff that are
13 able to support that authority. So I think you've stated
14 it really well that what you would be doing is getting
15 the delegated authority for the Commission, developing an
16 agreement that it's going to be in abeyance for X amount
17 of time and that it -- and that once it's back up and
18 running -- you know, like right now, they have a routine
19 reapproval process just to go check, check, check, check,
20 check. Could it be as simple as that the next go-round
21 and have that documented and in place?

22 I mean, I'll ask, but to me, that's -- that makes a
23 lot of sense. As it is right now, you have an
24 organization. Joe or Josephine leaves, that doesn't mean
25 they lost their delegated authority.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. And part of what the
2 2010 Commission told us is that, you know, they had all
3 of this enormous administrative workload to deal with
4 before they could get started, and it seems like in a
5 lot --

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- of ways, we're ending up
8 with that same burden. And even if we have additional
9 time that they did not have, whereas the desirable state
10 is that we wouldn't have the same burden --

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I promise you --

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- because it's been done and
13 put in place.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No. What we
15 worked with -- what we worked with is way different and
16 really was a burden. You don't have that. You have
17 certain hurdles. And I'm not diminishing them, but
18 it's -- my first two weeks, we were -- we were sharing in
19 an office with Gov Ed and borrowed desks, et cetera,
20 okay? So you can't see your operations here very well,
21 but this is incredible to be starting with this and what
22 you have to.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Maybe we can get a tour at
24 some point.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: There's a rumor

1 that staff were borrowing trash cans because there
2 weren't any.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Ahmad.

4 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
5 appreciate the conversation around delegated authority
6 and just looking forward, and I appreciate, Raul, your
7 experience and insights into how 2010 started. But we're
8 starting with a pandemic and wildfires, something that
9 2010 didn't anticipate.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

11 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: So without getting too ahead of
12 ourselves, 2030 might have something that we can't even
13 conceive right now. So I appreciate that we're trying to
14 check our boxes while trying to check as many boxes as we
15 can for 2030, but I would hope that we don't lose sight
16 of what our objective is right now --

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

18 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: -- is to get up and running to
19 the best of our abilities. So just throwing that out
20 there for consideration.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Commissioner
22 Kennedy, the other part to his question was how much was
23 it used. If you use last time as a guesstimate, we ran
24 through over \$4 million in contracts and procurements
25 between January and August, and that's not counting an

1 additional four-point-whatever million in attorney's
2 contracts that ran from, I think, April through December.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So was that two procurement
4 actions or was it 20? I don't care about the dollar
5 amount so much as the number of times that we need to go
6 through a process.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: It was pretty often. I don't
8 remember the number --

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: -- but it was all the time.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: All the time.
12 Every time a meeting came up, we were getting requests
13 for translators, did we need security. Yeah, just the
14 whole --

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Did we need to rent a space rather
16 than just --

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah, rent a
18 space. Were they going to give it to us? And then the
19 meeting services. They still needed to be transcribed.
20 They still needed to be broadcast to the public.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: So all the time.

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It was constant.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. Okay. Well, that's
24 very helpful.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Le Mons.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: With that level of frequency,
2 did you find that, the process that was used before,
3 there were a lot of obstacles to getting these things
4 done in a timely fashion which would make us going in
5 this other direction make sense despite the fact that it
6 may take us a little bit of time to make it happen? Or
7 were there strategies for navigating the process outside
8 of having authority to get those things done in a
9 relatively -- I guess, what is the time differential from
10 your estimation, if we have one path or the other?

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It'd be quicker
12 if you had the delegated authority. That being said,
13 either way, it's a must that you have folks in place who
14 can work through the system and negotiate speed and
15 process, negotiate the decision-making and approval
16 process, especially. It took a while to get that, and
17 once that was in place, we probably broke world's records
18 for getting RFPs and things done.

19 Can that happen this time? That's what I've been
20 working on is building those relationships for you,
21 making those contacts. But it's work that is ongoing
22 because you're right, it takes a while to establish that,
23 and I've only put a certain number of contracts and
24 things through just to test the process.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Would you say, Raul, that it

1 would significantly increase our ability to get things
2 done quickly? I'm still not getting a real gauge on -- I
3 understand, it'll be faster --

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- but is that a week? Is
6 that, you know, thirty days, ninety days? I mean, I
7 think, to me, that makes a difference.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It depends on the
9 level of delegated authority. If it goes up from 50 to
10 100K on different things, it makes an incredible
11 difference. If it stays at 50K for a lot of things, it
12 will still save you time. That's a hard -- if I may,
13 that's a really difficult off-the-cuff question -- well,
14 thing you're asking me to provide to you. I mean, I
15 could go back and look at some information and actually
16 try to ferret that out. How fast is fast is what I'm
17 hearing, and --

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I appreciate your
19 response. I think your response gets to my question
20 sufficiently.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Fernandez
23 and Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I do appreciate the
25 discussion. I guess what I was trying to get at was,

1 because I've been in this position before many times, and
2 it's almost like -- I'll try to put it in my terms -- is
3 I'm going to go out and buy, whatever, a car. I can go
4 and buy it today, that's great. But if I don't have
5 delegated authority, I have to go ask for someone if I
6 can buy that, and then they go out and do what they do.

7 They go out and solicit the information and check
8 with different vendors. So instead of me being able to
9 buy it directly and buy it quickly, like, today. Okay,
10 now I put in my request. So it's still pending and I
11 haven't been able to close it out, and now I'm waiting
12 for somebody else to come and tell me the process has
13 been closed.

14 And during that time when I find out -- at least
15 when I was in that area -- I would continually check back
16 with DGS, what's the status, what's the status? Instead
17 of my ability to just go and purchase it and then I can
18 concentrate on other things. Because I know that our
19 staff's going -- there's going to be other duties that
20 we're going to want them to, to perform. And if we can
21 somehow alleviate that piece of it, in my opinion, I
22 think it's worth it. And again, it's not -- we're not
23 the ones actually going through the process and doing the
24 paperwork. We're just trying to get to the point where
25 we can start the process for them, and then they're the

1 ones that are going to try to get that delegated
2 authority.

3 So I'm just trying to look ahead in terms of it'll
4 be more efficient for the staff that's hired to be able
5 to have this authority. And I guess that I'm just trying
6 to think back to nightmares when I was in procurement and
7 having so many open items --

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- plus new items, and it
10 does, at some point, get to be a little overwhelming.

11 CHAIR TURNER: And so Commissioner Fernandez, you're
12 saying that we should -- you're suggesting delegated
13 authority? Okay.

14 Commissioner Sinay.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Answered my question.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: This is sort of a question
18 for Mr. Villanova. And similar to what Mr. Fernandez
19 just said, basically the way you're going about things
20 now is, you know, I don't have authority, can you go out
21 and do this for me, gather this stuff together. Is that
22 also limited on you have dollar amount limitations? So
23 you can't actually look at can I get someone who's going
24 to be doing, say, interpretation and do all our
25 interpretation for every place we go. Are you having to

1 do individual little, small procurements because you're
2 also limited by amounts, which if you have the delegated
3 authority, that would be a much larger amount, then you
4 could do one contract and take care of it? Is that also
5 part of the difference between the way you're sort of
6 inching along now and delegated authority?

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. And you
8 know, with the interpreting, that's a good one to bring
9 up because there's several approaches. You can do that
10 small business. You can do that through master services
11 agreement. You can do that through the California
12 Master -- the CMAS, California Master Services Agreement.

13 Each one of those has its own benefit, and last time
14 we ran a lot of small business because it was very quick
15 and we could find reliable companies that could be on
16 location and provide reliable services quickly, right?
17 Quite often, the request was twenty-four hours in
18 advance. Okay. Fine. What do we need? Can we get the
19 people there? Once they're there, are people satisfied
20 with the -- with the service they received?

21 So the small business was a really good way to do
22 that. And it tops out at 250 -- 250,000, so sometimes we
23 had we had to get auxiliary contractors in place. I
24 don't know if that answers your question. Cost is part
25 of it, but the service is, too.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So actually, it's more in
2 terms of speed. If you have the delegated authority,
3 does that give you a much greater, like, right -- the way
4 it is right now, you can -- you know, it's a time factor,
5 or I have this time factor so I can only -- I can only
6 have these couple of vendors, where if you have delegated
7 authority, does it give you, regardless of time factor, a
8 lot larger range of options? That's, I guess, the bottom
9 line of the question.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It can, depending
11 on the type of service you're pursuing.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: It does give you less work to do to
13 set it up.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No matter what they are.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No matter what
18 they are. That's true.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Sinay and Yee.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: This may or may not be the
21 place for this, but I would hope, as a commission, that
22 we would agree that we would pay anyone for their
23 services, be it a nonprofit who is going to do
24 translation or do outreach for us. I mean, that we,
25 whenever -- you know, there will be some things we can't

1 quantify, but that the expectation isn't for the
2 community to step up and do any of the services that we
3 would need. So if this can help us with that, that's
4 great.

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: So the current services we have
6 through interpreters and reporters and captioners, so
7 forth, how long do the current contracts run? Are we
8 under any time pressure there?

9 MS. JOHNSTON: The end of the week.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Also, just wondering, have we
11 been -- the various presenters that we've had, have --
12 those have also been contracted with us as well?

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So there is a
14 desire to have us engage Commission services. That being
15 said, the State Auditor will not -- will not stop its
16 support of the Commission's ability to have -- to have
17 its meetings and do them in a proper manner. But there
18 is encouragement to go ahead and obtain the services for
19 the Commission, which, if I may, is also in your best
20 interest.

21 CHAIR TURNER: And well, there was the second part
22 to Commissioner Yee's question about the previous
23 speakers and if they were contracted because they were
24 paid.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: For which -- I'm

1 sorry. What, please?

2 MS. JOHNSTON: The --

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: The various presenters that we've
4 had in the training.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: The speakers been paid.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh. No, the
7 speakers provided their services pro bono.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Oh really?

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They were --
10 yeah. They were --

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Bless them.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They were just so
13 interested and with such passion to be able to give you
14 that information and to spend time. There was a
15 commitment by each and every one of them to ensure that
16 they provided additional time so that you had that
17 question and answer. So that was a strong commitment by
18 each and every one of them on the front end.

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Ahmad.

21 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: I just want to make sure I heard
22 that correctly. Did you say that there's -- the State
23 Auditor is providing these services currently to the
24 Commission --

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

1 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: -- without it coming out of our
2 budget?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, I didn't say
4 that.

5 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Or who's paying for it --

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. So --

7 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: -- I guess?

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. So there's
9 an appropriation -- part of the Citizens Redistricting
10 appropriation is that \$5.2 million.

11 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Right.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay? Once that
13 gets expended, then what happened last time is they sent
14 a bill, basically, and we paid it. The Secretary of
15 State also sent a bill for services, and we paid it.
16 Always pay your bills. You know --

17 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Or we can -- we should expect a
18 bill from where?

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, --

20 MS. JOHNSTON: We don't have an accounting --

21 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Nothing is free, right? So we
22 should --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: We don't have an accounting --

24 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: -- expect --

25 MS. JOHNSTON: yet from the State Auditors. We

1 don't know how much of their allotted money they've used
2 up.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And see, that's
4 the way --

5 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Got it.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- to think about
7 it.

8 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: That was --

10 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Got it.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Those were funds
12 allotted to the State Auditor --

13 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Right.

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- not for
15 redistricting, not --

16 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Right.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- to the
18 Citizens Redistricting Commission that you gave to the
19 State Auditor. It's a very important distinction to
20 understand, so thank you, Marian.

21 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Thank you for that
22 clarification.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa.

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think some additional
25 clarification then on that last question. We had an

1 earlier conversation, I think it might have been last
2 week, about remaining funds with the State Auditors that
3 was not used specifically for the process of
4 redistricting but for the process of the selection and
5 everything like that.

6 If I'm hearing correctly, then, whatever services
7 we're receiving right now in terms of, you know, meeting
8 services, the American sign language and the translation
9 and the transcription services, I assume is coming out of
10 that pot of money, and that whatever then is remaining
11 whenever we're able to get our operations up and running,
12 that is then the question that was discussed, I think,
13 last week about will we get that money added back to our
14 budget?

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So you're
16 probably running about -- and I haven't done the math
17 completely yet, but I was thinking about it the other
18 day, and that is cost per meeting just because that's the
19 way my mind works. Your cost per meeting, I would
20 estimate right now, with per diem, is probably 18K per
21 day, okay? So when you take out the per diem, so that's
22 14 times -- let's say 400 just for ballpark figures, y
23 You're still looking at 13, \$14,000 per day to run these
24 meetings, and that's all coming out of that 5.2 million.

25 That also includes the AT&T, which is really

1 expensive. Nothing against AT&T, I'm just talking, you
2 know, in terms of costs for services. So you've had,
3 what, three days? It'll be seven days of meetings, is
4 what, ninety-some-odd thousand?

5 So the reason I mention that is it's probably best
6 not to think about it in terms of what's going to be left
7 of that 5.2 million that was really appropriated for the
8 State Auditor but to be thinking about, in your
9 operations, how are we providing services and what are
10 the cost-effective means? Are we going to contract them?
11 Which is basically what my side of the table does and
12 then informs you.

13 But I do want to be able to provide you a report
14 that says this is what it cost for this first -- these
15 first meeting days. So I'm working on it for you.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Agenda item 15. Is there a
17 motion --

18 MS. JOHNSTON: There's no action.

19 CHAIR TURNER: -- for -- no action? So we will go
20 then, Commissioner Sinay.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I thought Commissioner
22 Fernandez did make a motion to basically prime the pump
23 so that when the Executive Director is hired, they can
24 start.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't think that needs a motion.

1 You can just direct Raul to be working on that, and then
2 when the Executive Director comes in, he can take it
3 over.

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Just tell me to
5 do it.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Raul, please do it.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Madam Chair --

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- you've got it,
10 and with pleasure.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Outstanding. Okay. Wonderful. We
12 will still go to public comment, Ryan, because we are at
13 the conclusion of Agenda 15.

14 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If there is any public
15 comment, you may press 1 then 0 on your telephone. Once
16 again, if you wish to share a comment, you may press 1
17 and then 0. There are no comments in queue at this time.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. We will wait just a moment as
19 instructed.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Which by the way,
21 Madam Chair, we did do a test ourselves, the videographer
22 staff, of the system before coming online.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. And the test was great,
24 everything worked out, you were able to get in?

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Everything was

1 good.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Outstanding. Commissioner Le Mons.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I caught a little
4 piece of that test, so I want to thank everyone who was
5 involved in that process in making sure hearing us and
6 making sure and all of that. I didn't want to miss the
7 opportunity to thank you all or anything. Appreciate you
8 on that. Much appreciated.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, on behalf
10 of everyone here, you're welcome.

11 CHAIR TURNER: And the time does always seem really
12 long because I set my timer just for one minute and we
13 still have ten seconds left, so.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We better not wait too long,
15 hearing about how much it costs for each one of these
16 days.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Come on. All right. Ryan, check for
18 us again, please.

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Certainly. If there are any public
20 comments, you may press 1 then 0. There are no comments
21 in queue.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Okay. We'll move to
23 agenda item 16.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Kristian?

25 CHAIR TURNER: It was closely tied into 15, but

1 there was -- go ahead, Raul.

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, I was going
3 to have Kristian put my screen back on. This
4 presentation segues to the line drawer.

5 CHAIR TURNER: And I think it -- there was some
6 recommendations from some of the subcommittees, the
7 finance subcommittee in this part as well, right?

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right. I'm
9 setting it up for them.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Outstanding.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Teamwork.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Makes the dream work.

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. The line
14 drawer RFP issued by the State Auditor's Office, the date
15 for closing the RFP occurred August 17. There were also
16 no submissions for that line drawer RFP. So at this
17 point in time, it's closed. There's no submission and
18 it's done.

19 So the Commission, at this point, has three primary
20 options. One, to, quote unquote, keep it as is and
21 reissue or to start completely over or to use the current
22 RFP as a base on which to build from. The rest of these
23 slides kind of go into those considerations, number
24 three, so that as you make your decision, you're fully
25 informed.

1 So the line drawer RFP, there's certain
2 requirements. It has to have a statement of work. The
3 line drawer RFP asked for information about the technical
4 skills. It talked about -- in other words, you've got to
5 be able to do line-drawing. The database, you've got to
6 be able to use the Statewide Database that's provided for
7 redistricting. And you've got to be able to manage to do
8 in-person and remote line drawing for the public
9 hearings. So that was kind of what the statement of work
10 talked about.

11 It also had contract requirements were in terms of
12 the types of software being used, the IT security, these
13 things called technical services for the Commissioners
14 and Counsel, the types of reports when, when and how to
15 provide invoices. And again, the requirement for
16 doing -- for working in remote meetings. And again,
17 those are required. So whether -- whatever RFP happens,
18 these are the types of elements that have to be included.

19 Another part was qualifications. So with an RFP,
20 you have to be able to create a -- to create a basis
21 that, a, allows the contractor to describe the how and
22 why that they're qualified, but also, two, that allows
23 the Commission to be able to judge these statements
24 equitably and on the same criteria across bidders.

25 So with the current one, it looked at project size,

1 scope and complexity, and racial and ethnic diversity in
2 terms of what kinds of line drawing it had done. It
3 looked at the experience based on relevant California
4 factors. And again, it created a means of evaluating
5 experience on a comparable basis. So these last two,
6 having something that's based on relevant California
7 factors and the comparability of the valuation is
8 something that's a must with the RFP.

9 So when it asked about project size, scope and
10 complexity, it basically said, have you ever done any
11 redistricting in cities of the top ten in population size
12 in California? When you do the plus or minus fifteen
13 percent, it goes down to, I think it was the top thirteen
14 cities in California in terms of population. And these
15 are the ones that are listed. The numbers here is their
16 rank order. This information comes from the work of the
17 Department of Finance and its demographic workers.

18 In terms of project size, scope and complexity. It
19 said, okay, fine, if you've done redistricting in a
20 relevant California size of city, have you done it with a
21 city or a body that has the type of complexity in terms
22 of groups? And one of the easier groups to look at is
23 one based on race and ethnicity. And so that's why these
24 cities are there.

25 And so all of these figures come from the 2010 to

1 2019 -- what is it, ALS? ACS, American Community Survey.
2 The ACS survey from the census. But that's the reason
3 this was here, was so that when the bidders are saying we
4 have relevant experience, that we're looking at projects
5 of the type of complexity and size that they would
6 encounter in redistricting the state. Could you use
7 other cities? Absolutely. But that's why that -- but
8 anyway, that's why.

9 With the Line Drawer RFP, we also need to have, and
10 you must have, a means of evaluating costs on a
11 comparable basis. And then this other part, there's some
12 budgetary implications and why you do things the way you
13 do. They require you to look at fixed costs and optional
14 costs. For this RFP, the fixed cost was thirty public
15 input meetings, forty Commission meetings, designated
16 cities, and forty hours of technical services.

17 If I may, one of the Lessons Learned last time
18 because it didn't have the technical services is that
19 became an add-on that created a little bit of discussion
20 between the attorneys and the line drawer and the
21 Commission. And so it was kind of like, well, let's go
22 ahead and put that in and cost it upfront.

23 So this doesn't mean you can only do seventy
24 meetings. This was just to create fixed costs so that
25 you can look at those costs across bidders in a

1 comparable way. The optional cost, ten public input
2 meetings, ten Commission meetings, plus travel and
3 another forty hours of technical service.

4 So again, part of it's for comparability. The other
5 reason, though, is in terms of budget. When you start
6 going, okay, we've done thirty public input meetings,
7 we're starting to project now, and we're going to do
8 probably another thirty public input meetings. What is
9 it going to cost us? Do we have enough in the contract,
10 or do we have to allocate more money into that contract?
11 Well -- oops. See, this isn't good planning. Here we
12 go. My mouse did that.

13 So that ten gives you a basis, then, for cost
14 estimation in a fairly reliable way, in terms of the
15 contract, and also in terms of looking at your
16 expenditures in the future. But again, it doesn't mean
17 that you can only have forty public input meetings. It
18 allows you to do that budgeting and that cost comparison.

19 They were also asked to provide travel costs. Okay.
20 Should it ever occur that you can do a roadshow like they
21 did the last go-round, it's important to have a strong
22 basis of understanding, what is that going to cost you?
23 And also to be able to look at that in relation to how
24 does that compare across borders.

25 So that's why this scheme was developed. Seven

1 different regions. The reference city is just to give a
2 target point. The number of meetings. Okay. How could
3 you take these, allocate them across thirty? And so they
4 had to estimate thirty public input meetings based on
5 their home, their primary workplace in California, to
6 each of these places. Again, that provides them with two
7 things, a basis of comparable means of evaluating costs
8 per bidder. And the other thing it does is it provides a
9 basis, again, for projecting costs across different
10 meetings for different regions.

11 So if you say I've got to go to LA County at least
12 four more times, because now we've done some of the VRA
13 stuff, we want to provide more time for public input.
14 How much is that going to cost us? Well, here's a nice
15 place to do your cost estimation. We indicated that out-
16 of-state travel was not reimbursable. That's fairly
17 typical. That's up to you, if you want to pay somebody
18 to come from Pennsylvania out to California each time,
19 but it's not typical.

20 And so hopefully that provides a basis then in
21 making a decision on where you would like to go in terms
22 of that Line Drawer RFP, but also to help you understand
23 what was the basis in it, because I don't think, based on
24 the comments, that there was really an understanding of
25 the different pieces and how they function and what their

1 true meaning is in terms of an RFP. And so I pass it on
2 to your subcommittee.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Raul. Commissioners
4 Kennedy, Fernandez, Andersen, Sadhwani subcommittee.
5 Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
7 feel very strongly that we need to separate out the
8 public meetings component. We don't know how we're going
9 to have to move forward with public meetings, whether
10 we're going to be able to have in-person public meetings,
11 or they're all going to be virtual, or we're going to
12 have some mix. I also see the public meetings element as
13 a very distinct skill set from the technical line drawing
14 skills. And I don't exclude the possibility that someone
15 could bid on both. But I feel very strongly that we need
16 to split that out. And that would also include slitting
17 out -- I believe it would include splitting out the
18 remote participation item C10.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Kennedy, you said, split
20 out public meetings and split out remote --

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Madam Chair?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Remote meetings
23 participation.

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Madam, if I can --

25 CHAIR TURNER: Participation.

1 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- if I can clarify,
2 please?

3 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So the RFP is for the line
5 drawers to attend all the public meetings and to attend
6 the meetings of the Commission. So those meetings are in
7 there because the line drawers are going to be there
8 helping us gather public input. Part of the -- part of
9 the RFP says that it's the role of the line drawers to
10 capture and digitize, you know, in a way they can use it,
11 the communities of interest, you know, on a map. But
12 also capture the text of, you know, what makes this
13 community of interest, what the what the input was, and
14 then geotag it so we can go back and find it later.
15 So --

16 MS. JOHNSTON: But it wouldn't be all meetings
17 because you could have business meetings that didn't
18 include public input on online drawing.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right, but --

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: He's just talking
21 about the RFP.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right. And so -- it's
23 just -- this RFP says the line drawers are, you know,
24 nominally -- we'll decide ultimately -- but the line
25 drawers are going to attend thirty road trip meetings,

1 with an optional ten more road trip meetings, and forty
2 meetings in Sacramento, with an optional ten more.

3 And also in here, it says -- there's a caveat
4 specifically about the meetings, you know, may instead be
5 held remotely, and the line drawers have to have the
6 capability to do what they would do in an in-person
7 meeting remotely. And specifically, be able to, you
8 know, broadcast the map information in a way that folks
9 can see it on their computer, right, you know, and
10 understand what's going on and provide input. So I hope
11 that provides some clarity.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you for the clarity. I want to
13 understand, though, in the RFP, is this specific numbers
14 that, then, we're locked into, or as Raul explained, was
15 this just for a matter of cost estimates.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It's for -- okay. So it's
17 a little of both. So the original cost estimate is for,
18 like I said, forty Sacramento meetings and thirty road
19 trip meetings, with ten optional in each of those
20 categories. But if we get to a point where we decide we
21 need to, we can always do an addendum and add more
22 meetings.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner --

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: And if I say anything
25 that's incorrect, Raul, chime right in.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, no.

2 Commissioner Fornaciari is being very accurate.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Commissioner --

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: The short answer
5 is, no, you're not locked into anything. There's a
6 caveat that there's no minimum or maximum amount of work
7 implied or promised. That's pretty standard across state
8 contracts.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: And if you look at the
10 table that Raul showed for evaluating travel costs, it's
11 kind of a notional idea. We're going to go to San Diego
12 four times; San Bernardino four times; LA six times. You
13 know, it's just kind of a notional idea so that when the
14 respondents bid on their travel costs, that both of -- or
15 however, many -- all of the respondents are bidding the
16 same, so we can compare apples to apples on travel costs.
17 It doesn't mean that we only go to those, you know,
18 cities. It just gives us a way to compare when we're
19 looking at the RFP.

20 But ultimately, it's up to us to decide, you know,
21 what our road show looks like. And you know, I went back
22 and looked at last Commission's roadshow. You know, they
23 were on the road -- what was it, April, May and June?
24 Where's my note. I lost my note. Something like that.
25 April, May and June, ten and eleven meetings. And they

1 bounced all over the state. And so it's really up to us
2 to kind of define -- you know, finalize what our road
3 trip looks like. This is just kind of a notional table
4 so that the respondents can have a basis.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Fernandez,
6 and then Sinay.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you. So the
8 subcommittee also as well -- and I forgot to ask Raul
9 this part of it, in terms of there were no bids
10 submitted, and on page 11 of the RFP, it talks about if
11 any of the prospective bidders have any questions to
12 contact the state auditors. I guess my question to you
13 is, I mean, one, I'm disappointed there weren't any
14 bidders, but two, did we receive any questions to the
15 RFP? And then also, did we receive any feedback as to
16 why prospective bidders decided not to bid? Because my
17 concern is, if we go forward again, I mean, there's no
18 guarantee there's going to be a bidder the second time
19 around. So I'm just trying to see -- you know, I'm
20 trying to understand why that nothing was submitted.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No questions were
22 received. And I think that -- no, I'll just say this. I
23 don't think anyone really knows why nobody bid. I think
24 that there's a lot of different guesses that may or may
25 not have different levels of prospective validity. But I

1 personally haven't heard anything that would lead me to
2 say that this is why folks didn't.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And so maybe a little bit
4 of information as to how widespread this RFP -- I mean,
5 who was it sent to? I mean, I'm assuming that hopefully
6 it got to the right people, but maybe just a little bit
7 of education on my part, if you could give us that
8 information?

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So it was posted
10 and released in the same way as your recruitments.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So --

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So to the --

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I want --

14 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: --800 plus on the
15 mailing list and --

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- I want to say, like
17 RFP --

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Oh, no. It was
19 on the contract --

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- I don't remember --

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- it was on the
22 California State Contracts register, in addition. You're
23 absolutely right.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. That's what I was
25 trying -- I thought there was some sort of other

1 mechanisms that if I'm in this type of business, I can go
2 to that specific website --

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right. Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- and that's the
5 recruitment or the RFP information.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah. I think it
7 went out sometime in June. Stayed out there until
8 August.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Sadhwani and Ahmad.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. You know, at
11 this point in time, I don't have any particular issues
12 with the RFP or more specific changes that I would want
13 to see made. And that's in large part because --
14 especially because we can't consider applicants at this
15 point in time. I actually, quite passionately feel like
16 we should have a conversation first about what our
17 process will be and what we would want or need from a
18 line drawer and the kind of skill sets that we think that
19 they would actually need.

20 And to that extent -- I also to some extent, think
21 we could probably use a little bit more training in terms
22 of the kinds of line drawers who are out there. I mean,
23 there has to be a reason why we received 0 applicants.
24 We're California, right? I mean, we have more
25 Congressional districts than any other state. So if I

1 were a line drawer, I would be all over that RFP, right?

2 So why is that?

3 And perhaps that something -- and you know, I think
4 we can brainstorm what that might look like. But perhaps
5 having a couple different line drawers actually come in
6 and provide, you know, some sampling of their work or
7 some kind of training so that we can better see what
8 various line drawers might look like, so that we better
9 know what to put in this RFP process, right? There are
10 different softwares that are out there. Which ones are
11 they using? Do we have a preference in that? Right.

12 So I just feel like we need to have a greater
13 conversation about our full process and what that's going
14 to look like. We've talked about the potential, and we
15 have been advised by many of the speakers who came in the
16 last several days to be putting out maps. Whether
17 those -- you know, and I kept bringing up whether they
18 should be computer generated or not. It doesn't matter,
19 really, but like, if we're going to be putting out
20 various discussion maps before an actual drafted map or
21 even be thinking about these kinds of things in order to
22 solicit additional public comment, then I think that we
23 just need to have that conversation before we can kind of
24 finalize and move forward on an RFP or this agenda item.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Ahmad.

1 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just
2 have a few questions. So some background, I dealt with a
3 very similar situation at work where we put out an RFP
4 and got their proposals back. And to Commissioner
5 Fernandez's question, we actually went out and contacted
6 everyone who had opened the RFP but did not submit, to
7 ask why they didn't continue on with the application
8 process. I don't know if we can do that here or if we
9 even have access to that information. But to that, I
10 would ask if it is permitted to do some targeted
11 advertising and promotion of the RFP itself.

12 So you would set out, Raul, on your slides, some
13 cities that have done redistricting and line drawing.
14 Can we go and look at who those line drawers were and
15 say, hey, there's an RFP open for California Citizens
16 Redistricting Commission, apply if you are interested?
17 That's one question.

18 And then the other question I have is related to the
19 timeline of the line drawer. If you can, advise us on
20 when would be the most urgent time to actually have a
21 line drawer in place, and if that timeline differs from
22 our executive team and how much we can involve our
23 executive team in the RFP process as well for the line
24 drawers.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right. I would

1 like to say that two of the individuals who presented to
2 you are line drawers, right? So Doug Johnson and Karin,
3 and you got to see their line drawing and I think they
4 brought it up in their presentations. To me, there's two
5 kinds of line drawers. Those who have enough experience
6 to do the work for you and those who don't. And that's
7 why setting a criterion that they've done the type of
8 line drawing that they're going to encounter in this
9 state is important.

10 Commissioner Ahmad, you can do targeted in addition
11 to the required. And I'm sorry the state auditor did
12 that. They had a spreadsheet of about ten different
13 groups that were line drawers that they made sure to
14 contact and said, hey, here's the RFP. And I think you
15 could -- I mean, that's -- Marion, I would defer to
16 you -- but couldn't they take that list of folks that the
17 state auditor had contacted and send some kind of a
18 survey that they could respond to confidentially --

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- as to why they
21 didn't.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't know if they would answer it,
23 but you could certainly send it.

24 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Just to jump in real quick. I'm
25 not suggesting that we do that, but that is an avenue of

1 exploring if we were interested in finding out more
2 information, but it was more related to targeted
3 advertising. And then the other question about the
4 timeline of when is the absolute last date that we
5 absolutely should have a line drawer in place?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, we'll know more about that when
7 we know about the census timing.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You did have
9 various presenters, though, who really across each other,
10 reinforced that being able to start sooner and looking at
11 the public input --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: The quoting information --

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- and doing that
14 work now would be of benefit to you.

15 VICE-CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Fernandez.
17 Le Mons -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Le Mons. Commissioner
18 Fernandez, Le Mons, Sadhwani, and Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: Do we need to time check for the
20 Commissioner.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. Thank you so much. We're
22 over. So what we'll do is come back at 3:33. We do need
23 to take our break because it should have been at 3:15.
24 We'll come back and start with you, Commissioner
25 Fernandez.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner (sic) Turner, I
2 keep getting skipped over.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
4 Got you.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: What time are we coming --

6 CHAIR TURNER: 3:33.

7 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much and welcome back.
9 We are continuing on in comment on our item number 16 and
10 right as we were going to break, Commissioner Sinay let
11 me know that I have been intentionally overlooking her --
12 no, I'm -- Commissioner Sinay, if you would start us out
13 for Commissioners Fernandez, Le Mons, and then Sadhwani,
14 and Andersen, please.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. And I didn't think
16 you were doing it on purpose. That's a tough job.

17 CHAIR TURNER: I know.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: A couple of things. First, I
19 think if we open up the public comments, we may hear from
20 the public why people didn't submit, and the public
21 comments can be -- so I don't think we should make any
22 assumptions and stuff, but maybe we just need to open it
23 up because there was a public comment that said they had
24 something to say on that when we got to this agenda item.

25 The second, I do agree with Commissioner Sadhwani,

1 that we -- I know there's different ways to hold
2 meetings. There's public meetings, there's these
3 business meetings, and there's also, at least in my
4 school board experience, we did workshops. And I really
5 feel that we need to do a workshop of what this might
6 look like. I know that the line drawers have told us to
7 draw maps and stuff, but as someone who's worked in the
8 community and with COVID out there right now, I think
9 there's better ways that we can use this time to learn
10 about the communities without putting a map out there and
11 scaring folks. We need to listen before we put any maps
12 out, is kind of my personal feelings, but based on the
13 communities that I would like to hear from.

14 And we also need to remember that last time there
15 weren't a lot of people who submitted applications for
16 the line drawer, and it became very political. That
17 there was this -- there was an issue of you couldn't --
18 you know, and it says it in there, you know, ten years.
19 Ten years is a long time. And you might have started on
20 a political campaign, and that's how you learned, and now
21 you've moved on. I mean, you know, ten years, you could
22 be eight and twenty-eight. There's a lot going on, you
23 know, twenty-eight to thirty-eight.

24 So I think that that political dynamic is one that
25 we need to discuss before we put the RFP out there again.

1 What this might want -- what does this look like? If we
2 can all be objective and we have high integrity, even
3 though everybody knows that's political affiliation,
4 then, can we expect the same from some line drawers? I
5 mean, in this day and age almost everybody has a
6 political affiliation. I know, some of you on here don't
7 have a political affiliation.

8 And finally, I do feel that there was one piece
9 that was really missing on the RFP, and that was this
10 whole idea of wisdom of crowds. And this is something
11 that we can actually do during COVID, and people are
12 home, wanting to do something. And the wisdom of crowds'
13 idea is that the more people give you their input -- and
14 they may not be experts. Sometimes the nonexperts are
15 the ones who actually bring you the most creative,
16 innovative ways of looking at things.

17 So if we could put mapping software on our website
18 and people play with it and they learn our criteria and
19 it becomes something fun for people to do, that becomes a
20 public education component, and eventually we think
21 that -- you know, we can have -- appoint a certain amount
22 of time where people learn how to play with it and stuff,
23 and then, later we say, okay, now you can submit maps
24 this way. But I think we need to just take a step back
25 and really think through all the innovative, creative

1 ways that we can be using this COVID time, and when do we
2 actually need the line drawers?

3 Again, I would encourage us to listen to public
4 comments sooner rather than later, because I think some
5 of our answers would be there and we would have to go in
6 circles wondering why people didn't speak or apply.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner. I have
8 Commissioners Fernandez, Le Mons, Sadhwani, Andersen, and
9 Kennedy, then Fornaciari. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Chair. I
11 do agree we probably need to look at this RFP because
12 there were some comments that I made throughout the
13 language, and I'm sure everyone else has comments and
14 changes they might want to make.

15 I don't know if this is appropriate or not, but is
16 it possible for us to have one of the line drawer experts
17 that won't be bidding, have them look at our RFP and
18 provide feedback in terms of, you know, the language and
19 what should be in there -- or what language should be in
20 there because I don't know how the language was developed
21 this time, but I'm just thinking maybe that's something
22 that would be useful. And then also, as Commissioner
23 Sinay said, I think public comment would be good to hear
24 as well. So thank you.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Okay. Commissioner Le

1 Mons.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a question about, I
3 guess, more of a conflict-of-interest question. I'm
4 hoping that the presenters that we had who were line
5 drawers by virtue of having presented to us, did they
6 somehow, A, disqualify themselves or B, did they infer
7 that they weren't interested in pursuing it by coming to
8 us as an expert? So whoever could answer that, it would
9 be great as to whether or not they are eligible.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: The only one I know that's
11 disqualified herself is Ms. MacDonald. She didn't do it
12 as a state database director; she did it as a separate
13 company she had last time, and she has told us she's not
14 interested this time. I don't know about anybody else.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: But there's nothing inherent
16 in any of the statutes or anything that says that if an
17 organization or group presents to us, that that somehow
18 disqualifies them for pursuing an RFP or a contract or
19 some kind of paid relationship with us?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: No.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sadhwani, Andersen,
22 Kennedy, and Fornaciari.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I had the same
24 concern as Commissioner Le Mons. And I think that
25 there's a list that was developed by --

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Could you get closer to your mic,
2 please?

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. I thought I was --
4 can you hear me better?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. Great. If there was
7 a list of ten, then I think it would behoove the members
8 of the Commission to at least be able to see that list
9 and to know more about who are some of these other line
10 drawers in California and how we can (audio interference)
11 we don't know if they are interested or not, but I (audio
12 interference).

13 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Andersen.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. One
15 thing about the RFP, and this is -- no one sort of said
16 maybe why -- it could be a -- what reason why people did
17 not apply is shortly after the RFP went out, we were --
18 the state auditor's office and the group of eight were
19 inundated by negative comments. The public comments
20 were, the state auditor overstepped its bounds. The
21 scope should not be -- you know, this -- you never should
22 have done it. We should throw all of those out. Don't
23 look at it. And only when the full Commission is
24 together, then write your own RFP. And the state auditor
25 was very, very clear. They were doing that only for the

1 idea to move the Commission along. But there was a huge
2 push back, and I would think that that would be a reason
3 why people sort of said, I'm going to wait on this.

4 So whether, you know, for a valid reason or not
5 valid reason, don't know, but the state auditor, again,
6 they kept on saying, look, either hand it to the
7 Commission and what they want to do with it, throw it all
8 out, rewrite it, whatever, we were only doing this to
9 move them along. And it appears that that's exactly
10 where we are.

11 So what I was actually going to -- oh, and second
12 item is; I totally agree that we could go out with mapped
13 drawing early and jump in because there's nothing that
14 engages the public more, you know, instantly than
15 something they can identify with. Rather than, we're
16 just coming out to talk to you, you know, who are you
17 guys? Which is wonderful, but they can -- the line might
18 be here. Then all of a sudden -- and people actually see
19 that, it's just like road construction. No one pays any
20 attention to the documents or anything until you start
21 seeing someone in your neighborhood. And it's the same
22 idea. If we send maps out that are draft, draft, draft,
23 then you're going to get people coming in being very
24 interested.

25 Also, it would -- two reasons why jumping into maps

1 is it will give us the ability to practice how to do it
2 all before we're actually really doing it. Because we're
3 engaging the public, we're getting the public's comments
4 where we can get an idea of where they really are and
5 then we actually get the numbers. We'll do it all again.

6 So I would -- what I was going to propose is that we
7 basically get are options. We go with -- use the current
8 RFP as a base to build from, modify the RFP, and then go
9 from there. So I was actually going to propose that, but
10 then, I believe, we need a full discussion about our
11 scope, and you know, write up -- modify the RFP because
12 it does need a few things added to it. I think we're all
13 in agreement, but I would not say completely start over.
14 Look at the group of ten. If we decide that we would
15 like to bring someone in, I'm not sure how that fits with
16 what we can and cannot do. I don't want to conflict
17 anybody out, but that's what I would propose.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy.
19 Excuse me. Commissioners Kennedy, Fornaciari, and
20 Vazquez.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
22 think I'm along the lines with Commissioner Sinay. I
23 would very much like to be going out and collecting
24 information on -- or input on communities of interest
25 before we get into mapping, because I feel like we're

1 going to get more genuine input on where communities of
2 interest are if we're not talking about lines at that
3 point.

4 I mean, there is one political science principle
5 related to elections. You know, you kind of make changes
6 when the level of uncertainty is greatest in order to
7 minimize the opposition to those changes. And I just see
8 that, you know, if we're not talking specific lines,
9 we're more likely to get a more genuine and accurate
10 description of where communities feel that their
11 communities are.

12 Second of all, if and when we do want to solicit
13 input early, before we get the data that we need to be
14 drawing maps, I'm wondering if it's getting input somehow
15 about the current maps could serve as a conversation
16 starter. That way we're not -- you know, we're not
17 putting our work on the line. I don't want -- I don't
18 want to throw the 2010 Commissioner under the bus, but I
19 think that it would be interesting to get the public's
20 reaction to the lines drawn by the 2010 Commission.

21 And finally -- and this, I think, is at least
22 tangentially related to this RFP, you know, and our
23 discussion of are we going to be able to have a road
24 show? What's it going to look like? Are we going to be
25 limited to Zoom meetings? How do we -- how can we

1 structure all of this? I know that last time a Statewide
2 Database worked on setting up redistricting resource
3 centers, but there were only four or five or six around
4 the whole state. And I mean, I've run resource centers,
5 so I'm very keen on the idea of having resource centers.

6 I'm wondering if there is a way that we can enlist
7 the California Library Association and/or the California
8 Community College Network so that our reach on the ground
9 is that much greater. And it might involve bringing in
10 librarians from the public libraries or community college
11 libraries or community college political science faculty
12 for some sort of training, even if it's online training.
13 But I think there are interesting and creative ways that
14 we really can expand our footprint without necessarily
15 having to be logging thousands of miles in these
16 difficult times. Thank you.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari
18 and Vazquez.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thanks. Yeah. So listen.
20 So you know, I've looked through this RFP a few times,
21 and my initial reaction was, look, I don't know what I
22 don't know at this point. I mean, we've got a little bit
23 of training, but I certainly don't feel like I have
24 enough training at this point to make a decision on
25 whether an RFP for a line drawer should look like. I

1 agree with Commissioner Sadhwani. We need to figure out,
2 you know, what our strategy is and what, you know, how
3 are we going to do this.

4 I appreciate Commissioner Kennedy's thoughts and
5 ideas. I mean, I think we need to come up with some
6 really clever and different approaches this time, as
7 opposed to last time. I mean, I don't know, but I can
8 imagine if I was a line drawer and I looked at this RFP,
9 I'd think, hey, I have a family. I want to spend time
10 with my family. I don't want to spend, you know, two
11 plus months on the road. And that may have been one of
12 the reasons.

13 So you know, again, I think we just need to come up
14 with some clever ideas. So I do like this idea of a
15 workshop. If we spend a day or two, we come up to speed
16 a little more on line drawing and what's required. I'd
17 like to see if we could get some feedback from previous
18 commissioners. Lessons learned, their thoughts, their
19 ideas for the future, not just looking backwards, but for
20 them, you know, having gone through it and looking
21 forward and some ideas from them. You know, I don't know
22 if it would be appropriate, but if Karin has already
23 opted out and is committed to being opted out of the
24 program, I mean, maybe there's some Lessons Learned from
25 her and some ideas from her.

1 So I think that -- you know, I think that we really
2 need to spend a little more time on this upfront, figure
3 out what we're going to do before we go out with this.
4 And I'll just stop there. Thank you.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. We will go next to
6 Commissioner Vazquez, but right before we do, I just want
7 to announce that when she finishes, I want to go, in
8 honor of what I believe Commissioner Sinay said, open for
9 public comment on this agenda item only, as it relates to
10 the RFP for line drawer, and then we'll go back again.

11 Commissioner -- yes, Commissioner Andersen. We're
12 going to Commissioner Vazquez next. Commissioner
13 Vazquez, no?

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sorry. I thought you were
15 going to Commissioner Andersen first. So I would like to
16 hear from public comment as well about, you know, the
17 reasoning, if any, the public has for, you know, possibly
18 not applying. I think I agree with folks who have said
19 that they -- I think we should go out early. I think
20 Commissioner Sinay brought this up. I think we should go
21 out early. There are community groups. I remember when
22 I was a young baby analyst, ten years ago, working at
23 Advancement Project, that Advancement Project and their
24 healthcity.org folks had created several community-based
25 mappings.

1 So you know, they weren't official line drawers, but
2 that they -- if I'm remembering correctly -- had
3 facilitated processes where communities could gather and
4 say, this is my community, right. It's a very informal
5 process, and they were literally drawing their own lines
6 around -- this is what my neighborhood is. These are
7 where my friends' neighbors live.

8 And so again, even if they're not going to map
9 specifically on to, you know, census blocks, it starts to
10 give us an idea of where communities of interest are, so
11 that we can have things to anchor, even draft maps for
12 folks to then react to. I do think in some ways people
13 either need something to react to. It's sort of hard to
14 just go and give a blanket, say, hey, who is your
15 community? Where is that?

16 So there either needs to be a process to draw that
17 out for people or they need something to react to. To
18 respond to, to either tear apart and say, no, that's not
19 it. Let me show you how it is. Or yes, that's sort of
20 right, but here's some tweaks. So those are those are my
21 thoughts.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Andersen,
23 and then Fornaciari, please, before the public comments.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you, Madam Chair.
25 I totally agree with what Commissioner Vazquez just said.

1 And I want to make sure that -- what I'm really talking
2 about is, we definitely need -- in the map drawing
3 process -- in the RFP, we need to have that we're drawing
4 several sets of maps. I don't mean that we should, oh,
5 no, we can all only go to the communities of interest
6 right now with maps. I think we should engage, but
7 shortly thereafter, with a map. Which is kind of almost
8 exactly what Commissioner Vazquez said.

9 It's just that I want -- in the RFP right now, and
10 the way we've kind of been thinking a lot, it's like,
11 okay, well, we do all that, and then we start drawing
12 maps and I don't want to divorce the two. I mean, we
13 need to be connecting maps to our communities of interest
14 so we can really get their valued information and input.
15 Where I think if we just separate it completely, it won't
16 translate. And that's where I believe in the RFP when
17 they added that the line drawers, essentially, have to
18 come with us so they can digitize the information that
19 we're going to be hearing. I think it's totally, totally
20 crucial.

21 And I just want to make sure that in the RFP, we are
22 upfront with the line -- with the draft drawer or line
23 drawers, that they're responsible for helping us get all
24 this community information out there. It's not just,
25 okay, and now we line draw separately, abstractly. And

1 that's where it appears to be, and that's where I just
2 want to make sure that we don't have to divorce one from
3 the other. I don't think we should.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Fornaciari,
5 and then Commissioner Kennedy.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. And so I missed one
7 of my bullet points, and that's public feedback. I went
8 back and reviewed the letters to the state auditor and
9 the feedback that we got initially on this topic. Just
10 the two -- the one letter from Angelo Ancheta and Lilbert
11 Ontai, former commissioners made two bullet points,
12 right. One was, you know, eliminate it because the
13 commissioners are not prepared to make that decision.
14 And number two, is the public not ready to engage and
15 weren't allowed to comment.

16 And then the multi feedback letter written by Common
17 Cause, "It infringed upon our responsibility to determine
18 the redistricting process." Which, I think we've come to
19 a point where we have to figure out what the process is
20 first before we can get a line drawer. And two, it
21 deprived the public of the ability to engage. And I
22 think stopping for public comment now is good, and we
23 need to. But I think on this topic in particular, based
24 on the amount of feedback we've gotten, I think we need
25 to be really deliberate about allowing -- is hearing from

1 the -- giving the public the opportunity to know when
2 we're going to talk about this and give us feedback. I
3 think it's really important, and I think because now, you
4 know, whoever's listening and is ready to pick up the
5 phone is going to be able to give feedback. But on this
6 particular topic, I think we need to be a little more
7 deliberate.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I hear that. And thank you.
9 I do want to also say that it's also been on our agenda
10 for a while for written comments as people have engaged
11 also, and I think we've announced it for today. So it's
12 much later in the day than what I think we anticipated.
13 So I hear you. Commissioner Kennedy.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. For
15 over a decade, I've been receiving a regular newsletter
16 from the Election's Community, and there was a piece in
17 last week's newsletter -- it comes out on Thursday --
18 about a new group called U.S. Digital Response. U.S.
19 Digital Response, according to their website, connects
20 Government with volunteers skilled in technology, beta,
21 design, communications, and operations for COVID 19 Rapid
22 Response.

23 That got me thinking that, you know -- and I
24 remember from the 2010 Commission's write-up, that
25 capturing and organizing all of the public input was one

1 of the most difficult aspects of their work. And I'm
2 wondering whether an entity like this might be able to
3 come up with a way that would really help us and help the
4 line drawers capture and organize all of the public
5 input.

6 So I just wanted to bring that to the attention of
7 the group. It's something that I came across in the
8 course of my normal weekly reading, but I wanted to share
9 it with you all.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. You know, we need to go
11 to public comment just for a minute, but Commissioner
12 Sinay.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just quickly. Building on what
14 you said, Commissioner Kennedy, creating conferences for
15 hackers to do social good is the in-thing right now. So
16 there is that opportunity to create something like that
17 where individuals could think through a lot of ways to
18 use technology to help us. So there is that. So I don't
19 want us to brainstorm. Going to strategy is very easy to
20 do that. That's the fun part that we're not allowed to
21 do yet.

22 But I do want to go back to the comment that
23 Commissioner Andersen said and Commissioner Vazquez, and
24 what we are talking about is power. I'm going to put it
25 point blank. The line drawing is all about power. And a

1 lot of communities don't even know that they have power.

2 They don't feel that they have power.

3 So drawing a line and asking where they are, they're

4 not going to know. And so there are other ways to

5 facilitate these conversations in the community,

6 especially the groups that are totally disenfranchised.

7 And it's not that we can't find them. We will be able to

8 find them. But we need to be able to have these

9 conversations about power and not about lines.

10 We first need to let them understand what the power

11 is, how the power is worked. And I'm not saying social

12 justice, and I know it's sounding very social justice,

13 but we have a fear of talking about power in our society,

14 and so I'm just putting it out there that what we're

15 trying to do is let people say, I do have the power to

16 give you input to help you draw these lines.

17 So we do need to take that step back and have those

18 conversations, especially in specific areas, in rural

19 areas, diverse areas, and areas where there is the Voting

20 Rights Act. So I just don't want to just leave it there.

21 This is a much larger conversation we all need to have,

22 and I apologize that I jumped in one more time, but I

23 couldn't leave it the way it was.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Ryan, we're hoping that

25 there is some community waiting online to give public

1 comment. Please check.

2 AT&T OPERATOR: Okay. Once again, if you would like
3 to make a comment, please press 1, then 0 at this time.
4 1-0. We do have one in queue. It's the line of Douglas
5 Johnson. Please spell your first and last name.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, hello. This is Douglas Johnson
7 from the Rhodes Institute, again. I've just caught the
8 last half hour of your conversation. Oh, and sorry.
9 It's D-O-U-G-L-A-S. Johnson, is J-O-H-N-S-O-N. And so
10 one thought I had is, as you guys are very aptly
11 describing, you know, you're new to this. You're getting
12 ideas. You're looking for ideas. So don't try to lock
13 in an RFP. You know that sixty-two-page behemoth of a
14 nightmare, it was going to take me, I don't know, eighty
15 plus hours to respond to that, and it wasn't worth it.

16 You know, really, all I would suggest you do is do
17 an RFQ. A request for qualifications, and then get
18 people in and you know, put together the team you want,
19 or do a basic -- you know, a two-page RFP that lists,
20 here's what the commission has to do. If you have
21 experience with this and you would like to help us, tell
22 us how you would help us. You could even put legal
23 services and outreach all together into one document.

24 So something to ponder. I would strongly urge you
25 not to try to put your whole plan in the RFP because it's



1 too early; you don't know. And as you may have heard ten
2 years ago, they put out an RFP with, I think, calling for
3 twenty public meetings. They got proposals in, and then
4 in the middle of the process, they doubled that number to
5 forty meetings. And so the firm they hired then had to
6 handle twice what it had expected to handle.

7 So something to consider; you could just put a very
8 basic RFP out there and let people respond to parts of
9 it, you know, or all of it. You know, give people the
10 option to only respond to parts of it and see what ideas
11 you get and work from there. Because I think ideally,
12 you're going to end up putting together a team. You're
13 not just going to pick one provider to do everything. So
14 just a thought; put out something, either an RFQ or a
15 very simple short RFP see what you get. I hope that
16 helps. Thanks.

17 CHAIR TURNER: That is helpful. Thank you, caller,
18 Douglas Johnson. Thank you. I'm trying to be very
19 careful with my pronouns, Commissioner Vazquez. Let's
20 see. Do we have another caller in queue?

21 AT&T OPERATOR: We do. It comes from the line of
22 Renee Reed. Please spell your first and last name.

23 MS. REED: Yeah. First name, R-E-N-E-E. Last name
24 R-E-E-D.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Please go ahead.



1 MS. REED: So I just wanted to go ahead and speak to
2 Commissioner Sadhwani's earlier point about embracing
3 flexibility before locking yourself into an RFP process.

4 I would recommend the Commission consider a
5 secondary versus primary RFP. And as a quick briefer to
6 turn bureaucrat lingo into English, under a primary RFP,
7 like the one issued by the CSA, proposals are evaluated
8 basically as a pass fail. If multiple proposals meet the
9 minimum standards, the contract goes to the lowest cost
10 bidder no matter what. Under a secondary RFP, proposals
11 are scored on multiple criteria, with price being only
12 one of the factors considered.

13 In other words, if you have multiple applications
14 that meet those minimum standards, you are able to pick
15 the marginally more expensive one if it delivers
16 significantly greater quality. The services you're
17 looking for are very complex and unique. Professional
18 methods can vary greatly. Creative and innovative
19 approaches are not only needed, but they're required.
20 They meet the minimum standards for a secondary RFP under
21 chapter five of the state contracting manual, and I
22 encourage you to strongly explore that option.

23 Also, to the question of whether you have time to
24 make this and other changes, I just checked -- I checked
25 your website, and the last Commission didn't select their

1 line drawer until March 19th of 2011. And if you
2 followed that same timeline as at base minimum, that's
3 six months from now. So you have more time than you're
4 allowing yourselves. You can afford to be deliberate and
5 rewrite the RFP to suit your needs and allow for
6 meaningful public input as well, and we'll still be way
7 ahead of the last commission.

8 So those are just some things to think over when
9 you're considering secondary versus primary RFP. Thank
10 you very much.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much, community member,
12 Renee Reed. That was extremely helpful. I don't know
13 about a secondary RFP and primary, so that was very
14 helpful.

15 Do we have another caller?

16 AT&T OPERATOR: And once again, it is 1-0, if you
17 wish to make a comment, 1-0.

18 AT&T OPERATOR: We'll just move on in a few moments
19 here. We have no one in queue right now.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. While we're waiting,
21 Commissioner Andersen.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Again, while
23 we're waiting, this is just going back to public comment.
24 You know, I have to confess, the time of day, I always
25 get tired between 3:30 and 4:30 so I'm a little out of

1 it. And I'm also not familiar with state contracts like
2 I should be. But this is exactly what we were doing RFQ
3 for.

4 You know, in my profession as structural
5 engineering, basically the large engineering firms don't
6 necessarily do RFPs unless we're forced to do that. You
7 always go for RFQs because that way you get your
8 qualifications out there what you can or can't do. You
9 put a certain, a certain minimums in there, we need this
10 and this and then you can actually compare and get the
11 qualities. I didn't realize that the document was indeed
12 behemoth. He's absolutely right, Mr. Johnson. The way
13 his approach is, I believe, exactly what I believe we
14 should do. I totally agree with him.

15 And then the second person calling in, again, I also
16 did not realize that you can do a secondary. So again, I
17 think, still going back to do we do a workshop do we
18 learn more and then we decide how to come out. I think
19 it's great advice.

20 CHAIR TURNER: I agree. I think both of those
21 callers were very beneficial and very helpful for me. I
22 also enjoyed and am excited about an RFQ as an option and
23 that will be able to draw in more interest in the -- and
24 be able to actually kind of curtail what they're able to
25 do and what their skills are for, what they're offering

1 to this Commission.

2 Any other comments, questions? I'm sorry.

3 AT&T OPERATOR: We have none in the queue on the
4 phone.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Right. Thank you. Thank you.
6 Commissioner Yee?

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. I definitely support,
8 again, taking time to get more education and training
9 about this. I mean this is the very, very heart of our
10 job and so it behooves us to really prepare thoughtfully
11 and at length to get the help we need and to do it well.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Marian.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: I just wanted to call to the
14 Commission one procedural rule that stood out in statute.
15 And that is that you are to solicit broad public
16 participation before you draw any maps. So it's not a
17 matter of being able to start with maps and get people's
18 reaction to it. You've got to start with input, public
19 input.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. I thank you very much
21 for that comment. I'm just jumping in. But I don't
22 think that prescribes exactly how, not that, again, not
23 that I'm advocating that we have to go out with a map but
24 if we put out a way that someone could draw something, I
25 don't think that precludes us from talking about it with

1 a map. That's (indiscernible, simultaneous speech) --

2 MS. JOHNSTON: The problem, I think, the Commission
3 last time was putting out draft maps is the people
4 grabbed onto them and they didn't think them as drafts
5 and that created a lot of unnecessary tension. I don't
6 know if that was behind the way the statutes written but
7 it's pretty clear that public input has to come first.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. And I think we were
9 told about that. We cannot call them draft maps
10 because -- and I misspoke when I said that. You're
11 absolutely right. In the statute it says, draft maps
12 shall be such and such. These would be just a straight
13 preliminary thing. This is for a work --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: No. It said you can't put out any
15 commission maps.

16 There is a requirement that you put out draft map by
17 a certain time but before that it says you may not put
18 out any maps before public input.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It doesn't mean you cannot
20 ever, well -- that doesn't mean you have to do all input
21 and then take -- pull a map out. I think there's a time
22 when you can kind of use it as a tool as well, right? Is
23 that -- is it a hard and fast no, no, no, you have to
24 just --

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Just not as a beginning statement.

1 You can't create a set of maps just to get public
2 reaction.

3 CHAIR TURNER: I'm going to need a couple of other
4 Commissioners in. Commissioners Le Mons, Sadhwani and
5 Akutagawa and Vazquez.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I appreciate the discussion,
7 Commissioners. It's been very educational as well as I
8 think helpful in us determining a process of moving
9 forward. I think we're going in the right direction.

10 As far as the creative ideas that are put forward I
11 think we should really explore some of those more. I was
12 particularly drawn to creating community level
13 opportunities whether it's communities developing
14 drawings, I won't call it maps.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: The community can just make --

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Drawings to tell us who or
17 where they are. I think that could be fun. And I think
18 to Commissioner Kennedy's point, I think there would
19 probably be zero harm in getting feedback on the previous
20 commission's maps that have already been drawn.

21 So those could be conversation starters. And I
22 think that's more the spirit of what we're talking about
23 is conversation starters with community as opposed to
24 presenting a plot up for them to react to that we're
25 holding up as our product.

1 And then finally, I also like this RFQ approach.
2 And I also like the sort of decentralization approach to
3 the activities. We kind of talked about that early on
4 and I think we got some clarification feedback as to what
5 certain things meant. But I think if we do look at this
6 in a more creative way, we may find that there are line
7 drawers that want to do certain aspects.

8 I'll just sum it up and say this, putting together a
9 team that has the task might get us more of what we want.
10 I mean I think that remains to be seen. I'm not saying
11 that is the approach but I think the fact that we're
12 exploring all of these different options is in our best
13 interest and I think will serve us well. So thank you.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you. Commissioner
15 Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think Le Mons just said
17 everything that I was going to say anyway.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Outstanding. Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: So I think, sorry. So the
20 only thing that would perhaps go in there is that I think
21 this is worth a longer conversation and I would encourage
22 us not only at the end of our agenda when we're meant to
23 talk about our process moving forward that I think that
24 (audio interference) mentioned around the idea of a
25 workshop in which we would further discuss all of -- come

1 up with a more concrete plan.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And I'll have a question
3 about that in just a minute.

4 Commissioner Akutagawa.

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I will say that, yes,
6 Commissioner Le Mons took what I was going to say as well
7 too. I do just want to just comment on a couple of
8 things in addition to that.

9 One, I would like to also have some more opportunity
10 to dive deeper into this. I also wonder if whether it's
11 now or whether it's sometime after we get some
12 additional, I'll call it training or more opportunities
13 to dive deeper into this that the formation perhaps of
14 some kind of subcommittee to help us think more about
15 what this line drawing work should consist of.

16 I will say that my initial reaction to
17 decentralizing, I'm calling it decentralizing, the line
18 drawing work, is a little concerning to me only because I
19 think like the earlier conversations about having
20 somebody who is a strategic partner to us whether it's at
21 the communications or at a Chief Counsel level, in some
22 ways I look at the line drawer in a similar way. You
23 know, we need somebody who is going to be able to see the
24 whole entire bigger picture and whether they put the team
25 together or whether they subcontract out to somebody

1 else, I think there has to be somebody who, frankly, I
2 think we just need perhaps one person that is going to be
3 a partner but also be held accountable by us rather than
4 trying to hold a bunch of people accountable. I think
5 that that's where there's going to be room for some
6 miscommunications and other kinds of things that we may
7 not want to set ourselves up for. So I wanted to just
8 put that out there for consideration.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Um-hum. Commissioner
10 Vazquez?

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: My comments have been stated
12 elsewhere.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. The comments that I wanted to
14 just kind of lift up not in disagreement with anything,
15 but understanding, we continue to talk about the workshop
16 and I think maybe we have used it before. And wanting to
17 understand what exactly do we think the workshop should
18 and how does it actually take place.

19 So when we say create a workshop we can get more
20 understanding around it and talk about bringing in people
21 from additional training and then we have a subcommittee
22 on kind of we've just thrown out, to determine, you know,
23 how we should move forward for example, for a line
24 drawer. I am very much interested in a workshop so that
25 we all have understanding about all of the various

1 components of a line drawer as this seems to be a crucial
2 component of the work that we're going to do. And so I
3 guess to staff or yes, to staff, workshops on what in
4 this current moment would still be back on the Zoom type
5 of call that we have. But what is the thought process of
6 the suggestion about moving forward with a workshop
7 specifically as the thought to invite someone in similar
8 to Ms. MacDonald or someone else to give us further
9 training and allow us to -- what does that look like?

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: On the front end,
11 I like the idea of a subcommittee to gather ideas and
12 based on this discussion, I can obtain the speakers for
13 you. It would look just like this meeting because of
14 Bagley-Keene requirements and your requirements for
15 transparency. But being that the agenda would primarily
16 be the sequence of events for your workshop.

17 CHAIR TURNER: And I guess the workshop piece I
18 would want to ensure that would look different. My
19 concern about a subcommittee, subcommittees typically
20 those that would be assigned to it, are those that
21 already have some familiarity with it. They would go
22 away for sure and pull together I am certain outstanding
23 recommendations but it does nothing then for me. I'll
24 speak in I terms, it would do nothing for me to build
25 capability and understanding just in direction. I like

1 workshop and I'm thinking in terms of workshop of someone
2 that's going to actually come in and not just read a
3 document to me but actually train, I guess I'm thinking
4 of workshop in a whole different way.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Where it is more interactive where we
7 are raising our level of understanding and capability
8 together as opposed to just sharing any -- moving on.
9 Commissioner Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: You're absolutely right,
11 Commissioner Turner. When I was saying workshop, I mean,
12 the way I differentiate it is, the meeting we're having
13 now if we were in person we would be sitting in a diasia
14 (sic) or however you say it. This is a half-circle up
15 above and if there was a public, they would be below.
16 While a workshop is actually the opposite, we're down
17 below, our sleeves are rolled up. There is a bunch of
18 paper and all that and people are speaking to us but
19 we're also interacting and putting our ideas on paper.
20 And then the audience is still there so Bagley-Keene is
21 still -- yeah, they're on the outside looking in at us,
22 they still are but now -- but it's more of, instead of us
23 sitting there and listening, it has to be someone who is
24 facilitating us in the learning and moving us forward in
25 the work.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So it's not -- we would be
3 engaged in the process. Hoped that helped.

4 CHAIR TURNER: It did. Commissioner Le Mons and
5 Akutagawa.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think the only differential
7 I might have is the content of the workshop. I don't
8 think it's necessary for us to become schooled in map
9 drawing.

10 I think it's a particular -- we're trying to put
11 together our process for securing line drawers, how we
12 utilize them in terms of community engagement, where the
13 community intersects the process. I'm thinking more of a
14 workshop that focuses on those things as opposed to deep
15 dive into line drawing. Because that's not -- that's why
16 we're hiring them to do that.

17 I mean, we certainly want to have the understanding
18 but I don't -- and I don't know if I misunderstood what
19 Commission Sinay was just describing but unless I don't
20 really understand the value of us getting granular on the
21 line drawing itself but what -- this is dovetailed from
22 the RFP process and us wanting to feel that we can make
23 an intelligent choice as to who we select, based upon a
24 better understanding of what our needs are.

25 And so I just would hope that whatever kind of

1 process that we use, be it a workshop or some other
2 process to get to those points would be the purpose of
3 it.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah.

6 CHAIR TURNER: So I want to respond, let me respond,
7 please.

8 Two things. One is the -- through public comment
9 and on the discussion today. I'm hearing that it's
10 important that we be able to articulate what our desire
11 is in a line drawer, what we want to see, what this
12 Commission needs to see without having some training and
13 understanding as to how the line drawer is doing the
14 work, what they're doing, and a whole scope of what they
15 do. I really don't think that I personally can have a
16 lot of input in saying what I desire as a line drawer
17 without that understanding first.

18 Secondly, when all is said and done, regardless of
19 who draws the lines, as I understand it, it is this
20 commission's responsibility to approve whatever lines
21 that they've drawn. And I don't want to get so far down
22 the pipe at that point and then saying, well, yes, I'm
23 voting yes just because you're the line drawer. I want
24 to maybe not need to be deep detailed but I want to have
25 some sort of workshop to where I feel educated enough,

1 comfortable enough with whatever the line drawers are
2 doing to be able to say, yes, I'm in agreement with that
3 or no, I think you still left something out. That's as
4 far as what I'm willing to go for our workshop and have
5 an understanding for this piece part.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa and then
7 Andersen.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I want to agree with what
9 Commissioner Le Mons is saying, too. I want to propose
10 maybe a few ideas.

11 One is, I was just looking at the line drawing RFP
12 that was put out by the auditor's office and I'm not
13 necessarily saying that we have to follow what they did
14 or what they've put together. But one, I think, and I'm
15 sure, I think, following on what you were just saying, it
16 does strike me that maybe we could use that as a guide to
17 say, here's where we need someone to come in and help us
18 understand what this all means. Like, what's the
19 difference between one computer software versus another
20 software.

21 You know, perhaps it's actually maybe having -- in
22 my mind I'm envisioning possibly three different kinds of
23 speakers.

24 One is to speak about the kind of technical kind of
25 stuff.

1 Another one is perhaps maybe someone from the
2 previous commission who could speak to the conversations
3 and some of the considerations that they had to go
4 through so that we'll be mindful of either understanding
5 how do we avoid some of the challenges or even being able
6 to understand -- even though they gave us that handbook,
7 being able to then pick their brains a little bit more
8 for are there other best practices. Because when I read
9 through their -- I just went back to their handbook too
10 and it doesn't give a lot of detail and I think that
11 there's more that perhaps that we could get.

12 And then the third part is, and this gets to maybe
13 some of the public input kind of perspective as well too
14 that we're looking for from the line drawer.

15 Perhaps there may be also as a third speaker, some
16 value in having someone from one of these community
17 organizations who are very invested in this redistricting
18 process, who also understand the line drawing and asking
19 them to also come in and give us a perspective that is
20 not from the perspective of somebody who could
21 potentially even be a potential contractor to us. So
22 then we're getting a more holistic look and enabling all
23 of us to, I think, get a better understanding of all of
24 the considerations that we may need to get.

25 I just feel like, yeah, we could just say, okay,

1 this looks good but if you honestly ask me, like, do I
2 really understand it, I feel like -- even if I read
3 through this and I've read through it already once, I
4 feel like there's still something missing and I would
5 really feel more comfortable being able to do that deeper
6 dive in but to be able to get different perspectives of
7 understanding.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you. Commissioners
9 Andersen and Sadhwani, and Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 Yes, I think this -- there's a great deal of confusion on
12 this in terms of what your line drawer is really doing
13 and what is our role and we're all concerned. We don't
14 want to turn over our role to someone else to draw up
15 these lines and then, I guess we'd have to live with it.

16 And I think the idea of workshops would actually
17 maybe be like scenarios running through and actually
18 having like essentially a few guinea pigs or just some
19 volunteers who even qualify. But someone like Karin
20 MacDonald who said she is not going to be bidding while
21 playing the role of the drawer and actually having an
22 advocacy group who was willing to help us and say, well,
23 this is my community and this is how I plan to bring this
24 in, and so we can see how that would actually fit
25 together.

1 And then -- so it's almost like we have to get
2 people who would be willing to work together, again,
3 remotely, so we can actually understand, as well as then
4 the actual technical part of because of the actual line
5 drawing itself.

6 And again, on that, as I think Raul is saying, we
7 actually aren't going to physically draw the lines, we're
8 going to have, and my analogy is a draftsman. I'm the
9 engineer, I lay out the design, I know how it's going to
10 happen and then have someone else draw it up. And we
11 want our lines people to be basically like that. We're
12 actually telling them what to do. And the particulars of
13 that, and they're not at a level of they're telling us
14 what to do. And they need to know enough about the Voter
15 Rights Act, all the different databases, how they all fit
16 together so we need that part of explanation.

17 But what we're looking for at this point, I think
18 Commissioner Le Mons was actually saying this, is, we
19 need to see how was it going to happen, we can't quite
20 put our brain around the process involved in this. And I
21 think that's the workshop that we're trying to propose.
22 Is that where I'm kind of -- I think that's what I'm
23 rehearsing from everybody. And then -- so we need to
24 think about this and put a couple of people together who
25 might be able to emulate that for us. So then we know

1 enough to ask really good questions.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Sadhwani,
3 Sinay, and Kennedy and then me.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I love where this
5 conversation is going. I was in total agreement (audio
6 interference) --

7 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Sadhwani, your mic is
8 having a little difficulty today for whatever reason
9 so -- thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yesterday and today both. I
11 don't know why I'm having issues. Is that any better?

12 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. So I am in agreement
14 with what Commissioner Akutagawa was laying out.

15 I like in theory, Commissioner Andersen, what you're
16 saying about the scenarios. I'm not sure in practice how
17 we would have those simulations exactly so perhaps one
18 thing that we, at some point, whether it's in this
19 workshop or not. There have been cases around, less so
20 around the 2010 lines but there have been a number of
21 California Voting Rights Act issues. And while that does
22 not apply to us, perhaps we could actually get some of
23 the line drawers who had to draw those lines in some of
24 those districts that face suits under the California
25 Voting Rights Act.

1 Now, I recognize that that might confuse us or add
2 additional burden so I'm okay if we don't do that too.
3 But just in terms of that scenario part, I'm not sure how
4 we would operationalize that.

5 In terms of what Commissioner Akutagawa and
6 Commissioner Le Mons were talking about, yes, I agree, I
7 think that we need to perhaps, and maybe this evening we
8 kind of do our own personal needs assessment. What kinds
9 of things do we feel like individually we might need and
10 then develop that list to kind of further flush out what
11 such a workshop would be like. What I'm envisioning is
12 that there would be this training element conversations,
13 I loved the idea of bringing in community-based
14 stakeholders from the many organizations that are
15 obviously following along in this process. But so that
16 it can lead to a conversation for us, I hope that we can
17 facilitate that conversation ourselves and in creating
18 such an agenda we would do that. If we needed an outside
19 facilitator we can explore that too but to facilitate a
20 discussion about what will our process be and kind of
21 come up with what's our plan, right?

22 So what do we need to know first, let's get that
23 information. And then ideally so that stage two of that
24 workshop leads us to a more concrete plan that we can
25 move forward with it. And from that plan, hopefully,

1 we'll have a much better idea of what we're looking for
2 in a line drawer and if it's an RFQ or an RFP or whatever
3 that might be. But that's my thought and I think I'm on
4 the same page as a lot of the folks that have already --

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay,
6 Kennedy, and Yee.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just adding on what
8 Commissioner Sadhwani said. I'm going to go back to your
9 question, Commissioner Le Mons, that my idea of a
10 workshop wasn't just about the line drawing. I think,
11 and the truth is, there's a lot of pieces on this and
12 we're all brought in because we have different pieces and
13 we're jumping to the line drawing as a scenario planning
14 but we also need to understand what the listening, and
15 even what are the reasons.

16 You know, looking at the map of California, there
17 has been two -- yeah, people have been giving us little
18 breadcrumbs of what they want us to do and someone showed
19 us a region that was breaking down the regions very
20 different than the one that was used last time. So
21 there's a lot of pieces in this and an idea of a workshop
22 is thinking through some of these different pieces so
23 that we can build out the plan.

24 I, you know, going on what you were saying, you
25 figured out what this is already, right? I have been

1 sitting here, I know, Commissioner, I can you laughing
2 too, Commissioner, but I have been writing down every
3 time someone says we need something and tomorrow is about
4 building an agenda. I have no clue -- you know, I
5 haven't spent the time to actually put this together to
6 figure out how we would move forward but I have been
7 listening to all of our conversations and we're working
8 on the little stuff. And I just want to remind that this
9 is a big picture and sometimes we grab onto what feels
10 the most common or what feels comfortable and so for me
11 maybe it is talking to the community and listening to the
12 community while someone else might be about data and
13 someone else might be about lines. But that we're all
14 here because we know the big picture. So yeah, I'm on
15 the same page as you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioners Kennedy and
17 then Yee.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
19 also just wanting to build a little bit on what
20 Commissioner Sadhwani said. You know, the We Draw the
21 Lines website at least has links to all of the video
22 archives of the 2010 Commission if we want to see how
23 these sessions worked in 2010. I don't know that the
24 links are working currently. Raul can tell us whether
25 they are or aren't, but if they're not, I know that I've

1 already expressed to Raul that for archival purposes,
2 those links need to be somewhere live so that not only
3 can we get to them, but the general public can get to
4 them and see what happened in 2010. I think that would
5 give us a good sense of the flavor of how these things at
6 least worked then. And then we've said that our process
7 may be different, but it would at least give us a good
8 idea of how that went.

9 Second of all, again, following on what Commissioner
10 Sadhwani said, we have jurisdictions all over the State
11 setting up local redistricting commissions, and I had
12 posed the question to counsel a month ago or more as to
13 whether we could attend those in our capacity as private
14 citizens. I don't think I got a response to that, but my
15 sense is that if we're attending as private citizens, and
16 we're not speaking, and we're not taking input on the
17 lines that we're drawing on, it seems to me that our
18 attending local redistricting commissions could be a big
19 plus for us. So thank you very much.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Yee?

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. So the goal at some point
23 is to hire one or more line drawing contractors to help
24 us do our work. It sounds like we're just a long ways
25 away from that goal because there's a lot we all need to

1 learn. So I absolutely support whatever efforts,
2 workshops, whatever it will take for us to get up to
3 speed enough to do that. So I support, if we can form
4 maybe a subcommittee to collect all those little Post-it
5 notes that Commissioner Sinay has, and all those
6 thoughts, and start to develop -- and work with Raul to
7 develop that workshop, that would be fantastic. I mean,
8 I don't even know what other options we have to get to
9 the line drawers. So the RFP, 62 pages. Doug Johnson
10 said it would take them eighty hours. So how else do you
11 get line drawers? I don't even know. If that's not a
12 particularly good way, issuing 62-page RFPs, what other
13 ways are there? He did recommend that we consider
14 issuing an RFQ. I don't know if it's way too early to do
15 that, or whether that's a move we can start fairly soon
16 to help us on this long journey to get there.

17 On a completely separate matter, but something that
18 was mentioned earlier, about going out to get community
19 input first. Counsel mentioned that we are required to
20 not go out with any kind of draft maps first. And just
21 wondering where exactly was that in the statute? And I
22 wasn't able to find it, and just wanted to have that
23 language very precisely in my mind as we go forward.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: 82 Section -- Government Code 8253,
25 Section (a)(7).

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. And by draft map, I mean
2 that means a map that has some district lines of any kind
3 proposed, notional, whatever on it, because, of course --

4 MS. JOHNSTON: It just means that -- it says --

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- you go out with a blank map,
6 that's --

7 MS. JOHNSTON: -- any commission map. So I would
8 assume that would be anything that created districts,
9 which is what the Commission does.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. Right. But to go out
11 with a blank map, or a map that just has landforms and
12 major streets and say, okay, you tell me --

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, that would be fine.

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- where you're. Yeah.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. But to go out, for
17 instance, with a map with four notions of Koreatown, that
18 would not be -- even if we didn't come up with those
19 notions?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: I think that's right.

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. We could not do that.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: If a community group brought that to
23 you, that would be fine.

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. Okay. Thank you.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa, Commissioner

1 Vazquez?

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think Commissioner
3 Vazquez was first. I'll go after her.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I think I really -- that's
6 the line that I was thinking of earlier, Commissioner
7 Yee's point, is sort of have a blank map, and get
8 community reaction. Tell me where you live. It's not
9 going to be a district, but it will give us an anchor for
10 communities of interest by which we then engage in the
11 more formal line drawing process with a line drawer. And
12 that's the kind of community engagement work I think we
13 can do in parallel to setting up official line drawer
14 staffing and processes, et cetera. That's the stuff that
15 we can start thinking about, like, what is the process
16 for doing that? And start scheduling those out, because
17 I also think we're going to need a lot of outreach to get
18 people to come to even a virtual meeting such as that.
19 And so that's just going to take a lot of time to even
20 get initial public input, and I would recommend that we
21 pursue that in parallel.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa?

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So a couple things. One is
24 I think this is for Marian. Commissioner Kennedy had
25 suggested one option maybe is using the previous 2010

1 maps as just a kind of conversation starter. Question
2 one, is that considered showing, I guess, a draft map? I
3 mean, could we do that?

4 MS. JOHNSTON: I think you could do that because
5 those are not your maps. They the prior commission's
6 maps.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Yeah. And I asked
8 that because I mean, love them or hate them, whatever it
9 is, I think in ten years, the likelihood is that things
10 have changed, communities of interest have changed. So
11 it just is just one way of having a starting point.

12 To build upon what Commissioner Vazquez just said, I
13 think it was one of the presenters that did say that
14 there -- or it may have been in in in some of the reams
15 of the pre-reading that we had to do, there are different
16 sources of how neighborhoods, communities of interest can
17 be defined. I'm going to speak to at least the City of
18 Los Angeles. I'm aware that they have what's called
19 neighborhood councils. And so those neighborhood
20 councils could be one way of starting with them as a way
21 of speaking to a potential community of interest and
22 hearing from their perspective, how is that work out?
23 How has that evolved and changed? Of course, there are
24 other community groups in other areas as well, too.

25 I think I'd like to also have us consider, in terms

1 of the public input, whether it's in person or if it's
2 virtual. And I will say that I'm the first one that
3 probably is not really a huge fan of trying to go out in
4 public somewhere, but at the same time, I also see that
5 there may be a need for us to perhaps consider a very
6 well socially distant type of environment, where we can
7 be together and where the best way to get public comment
8 may be by going out to their communities. And
9 specifically, I'm thinking about some of the places in
10 the far northern reaches of California, near the Oregon
11 border, around there. I know that they're under big fire
12 watch right now, so maybe this isn't the right time, but
13 I would be concerned that if we don't go to them, they
14 may not come to us. And I would say the same in parts of
15 the Central Valley as well, too, and perhaps parts of the
16 Inland Empire and the far eastern reaches of San Diego
17 County, as well, so those locations may be difficult for
18 them to come, either online or in other ways, and we may
19 just need to find ways to get to them.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. I see you, Commissioner
21 Vazquez.

22 Right before you go, Marion, I think I'm just -- the
23 Government code 8263.67 (sic), when you read it, you read
24 it to say the Commission may not go out with any
25 Commission map, and then we're saying, but you can go out

1 with the 2010 Commission map. But to me, it still seems
2 like -- well, for sure, I'm not still clear. When you
3 read any Commission map, I'm wondering why the exclusion
4 of a 2010 Commission map because it's still a Commission
5 map.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, I probably was paraphrasing
7 when I read it. What the actual language is, "the
8 hearing process shall include hearings to receive public
9 input before the Commission draws any maps".

10 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: So that's before you --

12 CHAIR TURNER: The Commission's maps.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: -- do your map drawing.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay. Yes. That's good.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Sorry for that.

16 CHAIR TURNER: I wrote it down the last time
17 (indiscernible, simultaneous speech) --

18 MS. JOHNSTON: I probably didn't say that correctly.
19 Sorry for that.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez? Thank you.

21 Okay, Commissioners. Should we go back to public
22 comment? I know we're not at a conclusion, but we are at
23 the end of the day, and if we have public waiting, I want
24 them to be able to weigh in as well.

25 Commissioner Sinay?

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Actually, we do have a
2 conclusion in that we jumped into kind of agenda
3 building, and our future, and what we want in the future,
4 so I think we're okay stopping here and actually taking
5 it back up tomorrow. So I think we're okay. Because a
6 lot of what people are saying is they need workshop, they
7 need more trainings, they need more this to be able to
8 figure out the line drawers. So I think for right now,
9 there is no action on the line drawer.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Looks like Raul wants to say
11 something.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, thank you. Raul?

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, I just
14 wanted to point out that you're only partially through
15 agenda item 16. You're basically tabling the decision on
16 the RFP, which is within your right to do so because what
17 you're doing at this point is further action, because the
18 RFP itself is done. It's over.

19 Does that make sense? Yes.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Because there was no -- no one
23 replied to the RFP. So it's --

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Exactly.

25 CHAIR TURNER: -- done and this is further action.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Exactly. There's
2 no action to be taken on that. Any action is what you're
3 going to do in the future. So putting that into the
4 future to make that decision as you plan your workshop is
5 appropriate.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. That's perfect. And I'm
7 not -- I know we're not at the conclusion of 16 because
8 we still have the other bullets to go through. Just that
9 we were at the end of the day, and in case there was
10 public waiting that wanted to comment on the discussion
11 that we've just had, I was suggesting that we open for
12 public comment for that.

13 Commissioner Kennedy?

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I definitely want to go to
15 public comment, but I'm also curious because I have been
16 looking for these other documents, videographer
17 solicitation, language interpreter solicitation,
18 transcription contracts, and ASL interpreter services
19 contract. I have not been able to put my hands on, so I
20 don't know whether others have seen them, whether they're
21 posted somewhere that I just haven't been able to find
22 them, but --

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They haven't
24 been --

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- and I can't

1 (indiscernible, simultaneous speech) --

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- they're
3 just -- they were submitted to your subcommittee. If
4 your subcommittee has a recommendation for action, at
5 that point, then they would be provided as public
6 comment. Not public comment, for public posting and
7 discussion. We haven't gotten to their recommendations
8 yet.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioner Andersen?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Can I ask, what subcommittee
11 do we keep on talking about? I don't recall an RFP, or I
12 mean, a subcommittee was -- what subcommittee are we
13 talking about here?

14 CHAIR TURNER: Finance.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, these went to Finance
17 Committee. And who is on that one again, please?

18 CHAIR TURNER: Commissioners Fornaciari and
19 Fernandez.

20 Commissioner Fernandez --

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

22 CHAIR TURNER: -- go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I mean, I don't see a
24 problem with putting up the information on the -- was it
25 the videography, the language that went out? I think

1 that that can be shared with everyone because it's going
2 to be very difficult to discuss it tomorrow if the rest
3 of the commissioners haven't read it yet, if they want to
4 read it.

5 And then in terms of the other ones, I don't think
6 we had --

7 CHAIR TURNER: American sign language?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- the transcription one,
9 that was a standard agreement, correct, Raul?

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum. Yes,
11 about the transcription?

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So that one, you
13 could probably post as well, the transcription, because
14 we really -- I mean, there's not much we can really do
15 with it. It's a standard agreement.

16 And then I think the American sign language is also
17 going to be a master service agreement?

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Correct.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I haven't seen that one. I
20 haven't seen that one yet, though. And then language
21 interpreter, that's the one -- we have not delved into
22 that one yet.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No. That one
24 was --

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. So I think it's

1 appropriate that anything that was sent out, like to bid
2 or to request information, I mean, I don't think we
3 should share the cost information yet, or what came back,
4 but I do believe the language can be shared and posted.

5 I don't know, Commissioner Fornaciari?

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I think we should
7 definitely share what was posted so folks can take a
8 look.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So that'll be shared out
10 tonight.

11 Ryan, I'm wondering if you would check to see if
12 there -- if we have any public comments, please?

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Actually, that'll
14 be shared out tomorrow morning.

15 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay. But I'll
18 share it to the commissioners tonight.

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Great. Thank you.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Ryan, we're ready.

21 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. And ladies and
22 gentlemen, as a reminder for public comment, please press
23 1, then 0 on your telephone keypad. Please also spell
24 your name for the record.

25 And first, we turn to the line of Alejandra Ponce De

1 Leon.

2 Please go ahead.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

4 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Hi. Good afternoon,
5 Commissioners. My name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon,
6 A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-A P-O-N-C-E D-E L-E-O-N. Want to
7 appreciate the time that you've been taking today, and
8 throughout these trainings and these sessions, but today
9 in particular around the RFP to really think through and
10 discuss, you know, what is needed for a demographer. I'm
11 calling on behalf of the Advancement Project, and -- and
12 we're part of a -- of a -- a coalition of 15 Statewide
13 and regional networks that are heavily involved with --
14 with different communities of color across the State, and
15 really committed to racial equity, racial and economic
16 equity. And so for us, I mean, we just want to uplift
17 and -- and really appreciate that you are open, you know,
18 to getting more information, learning more on, like, the
19 technical side of line drawing, of -- of being open to
20 getting recommendations even from line drawers that are
21 not applying, and also looking at, you know, engaging the
22 community for feedback.

23 We were one of the groups that, you know, had
24 recommended that the Commission take some time to review
25 the RFP, given that it was drafted ahead of time, before

1 you were seated, and so we wanted to make sure that --
2 you know, that all of you had an opportunity to weigh in
3 and really think through on visions that you have in
4 terms of what you need from a line drawer. And so thank
5 you for -- for taking that time to do that.

6 I just wanted to reiterate that, you know, for --
7 you know, as at Advancement Project, we work in this
8 coalition, and with other diverse partners across the
9 State that have expertise within particular racial and
10 ethnic communities. And so we just want to encourage
11 that you see us as a resource to share the expertise that
12 our partners have to inform the community engagement and
13 outreach efforts that you will be leading, as well as
14 deepen, you know, your vision of what you would like to
15 see in a demographer. I think that this is a -- a great
16 opportunity as you're -- you're -- you're going to be
17 discussing more and kind of planning this out more,
18 again, that -- you know, that there are a variety of
19 several organizations that work very, very much in line
20 with the Black community, Latinx community, Asian Pacific
21 Islander community, Asian-Americans, the -- the Native
22 American community as well. And so we are here as a
23 resource to you, the -- as Commissioners, and -- and
24 we're also a resource for the communities that we're
25 working with to be able to bring folks together. And

1 knowing that the redistricting process is something that
2 is very abstract for many folks, something that for many
3 communities already feel disempowered when it comes to
4 political participation. And so you know, we're here to
5 be able to be that bridge between the community and --
6 and -- and -- and the Commission. And so again, just
7 wanted to uplift that for you. So thank you for your
8 time.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Vazquez?

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Can we interact with --
11 before they leave, can we interact with the speakers?
12 It's agendized, right? We can -- yeah.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: This is on an agenda item, so yes.

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Great. So Alejandra, thank
15 you for your comments. And I'm curious, since I was a
16 former Advancement Project staff member, you don't have
17 to answer this now, but I'm curious if Advancement
18 Project staff, at this point, given the current work,
19 would Advancement Project and/or its partners be
20 potentially speakers for any sort of workshop that the
21 Commission may want to put on around educating us on
22 community-based mapping efforts. Sort of a general
23 question, but I'm curious about how you would be able to
24 support us, if at all?

25 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yeah. I mean, we -- we are

1 starting conversations among partners to see what -- you
2 know, what are the resources and the capacities that
3 folks have, and -- and some have expressed interest, like
4 the -- there is openness for sure, from our partners,
5 from AP -- from Advancement Project as well, in terms of
6 being able to -- to either participate in workshops, lead
7 workshops for the Commission. And so we're very much
8 open in terms of having those conversations and -- and
9 hearing from all of you, you know what would be helpful
10 in a workshop? Would it be helpful to have multiple
11 partners be able to bring you the -- the information
12 and -- and their -- their knowledge of the variety of
13 communities that can speak to, you know, language access,
14 that can speak to, you know, community engagement, like
15 best practices, outreach. What are the nuances, the
16 challenges that are distinct for each of these
17 communities? And so there is an openness from our
18 partners in Advancement Project to -- to work with y'all.

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Great. Thank you. Looking
20 forward to staying in conversation.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

22 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Perfect. Thank you. Appreciate
23 it.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Ryan, are there other callers in
25 queue?

1 AT&T OPERATOR: Yes. We turn to the line of Sophia
2 Garcia.

3 Please go ahead.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

5 MS. GARCIA: Okay. Hi. Hello? Hi. My name is
6 Sophia Garcia, and that's spelled S-O-P-H-I-A,
7 G-A-R-C-I-A, and I am the GIS analyst for the Delores
8 Huerta Foundation, and we are also a member of that
9 Statewide redistricting network that Alejandra just spoke
10 to, and I do want to uplift everything that she said.
11 And she said it really beautifully, and that we, at -- at
12 DHF agree.

13 But I also want to turn directly to some of the
14 specific things that we, at DHF, and then also as a
15 person in the GIS field, would ask for you all to look at
16 when reviewing a demographer, specifically the history of
17 community input for the demographer, the demography firm.
18 We would also like you to look for a demographer that
19 does not have a history of incumbent gerrymandering. I
20 am -- I am assuming a lot of the demography firms who
21 would bid for the contract have a long history and a big
22 profile that they would be able to share with you.

23 We'd also ask that the firm have a framework that
24 also follows the new redistricting bill by both the AB
25 849, otherwise known as the Fair Maps Act, that was

1 passed in 2019, and while I know that that specific bill
2 does not directly affect Statewide redistricting, it does
3 only mandate for counties and cities, but it has a really
4 great outline of best practices of community engagement
5 in the bill. And so we would hope that whatever
6 demographer firm would be up to date with community input
7 in how to work with communities.

8 Also, I just want to note that in -- in 2019 and --
9 or 2020 and heading into 2021, the tools for online
10 mapping, and community input, and transparency are a lot
11 more readily available. There's a lot more mapping
12 capacity specifically for online, a lot more capacity
13 specifically for community input, and so we would also
14 like to see -- I know communities of interest have been
15 talked a lot, and I would -- you know, we would like to
16 see what exactly that -- that demography firm would be
17 doing in terms of communities of interest, how they would
18 be collecting that information for the board, how they
19 would be displaying that information for the board, and
20 then ultimately displaying that information to the public
21 for transparency.

22 We know, again, that there's a lot of data -- data
23 that's available, so we would just be interested in more
24 of a robust view specifically, not only for the
25 Commission, but specifically for the community, and --

1 and with what Alejandra just said to the -- the language
2 and access that would be needed specifically for this
3 firm. So again, it's all in -- all in the name of
4 transparency in community, but really, the -- the
5 framework that this specific demographer would be looking
6 at data, and what best practices are they would be using.

7 We say this because we've been involved in a number
8 of redistricting efforts that have happened since 2018,
9 and have been able to interact with a number of different
10 demographers, and all of them have come with displaying
11 their maps and information in different ways, and we
12 really look forward to working with whatever demographer,
13 and hope that they have a strong interest in displaying
14 that information for community. So thank you, again, and
15 I really appreciate this discussion.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

17 Commissioners, do you have any questions? Thank
18 you.

19 Ryan, how many more callers do we have in queue?

20 AT&T OPERATOR: We only have one in queue at this
21 time, ma'am.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Yes, please.

23 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We turn to the line of
24 Rosalind Gold.

25 Please go ahead.

1 MS. GOLD: Hi, it's Rosalind Gold, R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D,
2 and the last name is Gold, G-O-L-D, chief public policy
3 officer with the National Association of Latino Elected
4 and Appointed Officials, NALEO Educational Fund. Thank
5 you, Commissioners, again. I will make this brief.

6 Ten years ago, we actively were engaged in
7 mobilizing the Latino community and working with partners
8 in other communities in California, mobilizing
9 underrepresented communities to participate in the
10 redistricting project, to provide maps on their
11 communities of interest, to provide perspectives, and so
12 we would be also happy to join in any kind of effort to
13 provide information to the Commission about best
14 practices in community input and engagement. Thank you
15 very much.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, and we appreciate your
17 offer as well for support to this Commission.

18 And any more callers?

19 AT&T OPERATOR: We have no further callers in queue.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you, Ryan.

21 Okay. Commissioners, we'll recess for today. We'll
22 pick back up with agenda item number 16 to complete our
23 other bullet items, and then go to agenda item 23
24 tomorrow, which will allow us to get a report from all of
25 our other subcommittees and plan out our future agenda

1 items.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: And items 5 and 9 are still waiting,
3 too.

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Didn't we do 5?

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And items 5 and 9.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: I think I'm right on those.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: That's right. 5
8 is --

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. 5

11 (indiscernible, simultaneous speech) --

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: 9, yes.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Yeah. The number 5 was one of
14 the follow ups, so yes, yes, yes. And item 9 --

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Is the census.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Whether to write a letter, or so
17 on, so on.

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, that's one of the follow ups.

20 Okay. Perfect. Got it. All right.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Plus all the
22 subcommittee reports.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much. We'll see you in
24 the morning.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, everyone.

1 CHAIR TURNER: We are now recessed until then.

2 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting

3 adjourned.)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.



LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108

July 24, 2022

DATE