

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:

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APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Isra Ahmad, Chair
Alicia Fernandez, Vice-Chair
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Trena Turner, Commissioner
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Ray 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

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

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator
Katy Manoff, Comment Moderator

Also PresentPUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Westa-Lusk
Michelle DiGuilio
Lori Shellenberger
Anne Hunter
Jacqueline Coto



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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 September 23, 2020

9:30 a.m.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Good morning, everyone. Today is
4 Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020. The time is
5 approximately 9:38 a.m. Can we have --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Could you speak up, please?

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Can we have a roll call vote? I'm
8 sorry. Roll call attendance.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

10 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

12 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commi -- yeah!

22 Commissioner Le Mons?

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

25 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.



1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee? Commissioner Yee?

12 You're muted.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: (Unintelligible).

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Your voice is very chipmunky.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: (Unintelligible).

16 MS. JOHNSTON: The joys of technology.

17 Everyone's present Commissioner Chair.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

19 Do we have any general announcements?

20 (No audible response.)

21 Seeing none, can we hear the instructions to call in
22 for public comment?

23 MR. VILLANUEVA: So before I do those, to the
24 public, we're going to present to you a different system
25 than the ATT. Hopefully, it will be a little bit more



1 simpler and straightforward for you. The instructions
2 that I'm reading to you are also posted on the website.

3 So in order to maximize transparency and public
4 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
5 taking public comment during their meeting by phone.
6 There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners
7 regarding the items on the agenda. And there will also
8 be opportunities for the public to submit general
9 comments about items not on the agenda.

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

16 So to call in on your phone, dial the telephone
17 number that is provided on the livestream feed. Next,
18 when prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also
19 provided on the livestream feed using your dial pad.
20 When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the
21 pound sign.

22 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
23 queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers
24 to submit their comment. You will also hear an
25 automatic, automatic message to press star nine to raise



1 your hand, indicating that you wish to comment. Again,
2 you would be pressing star nine to raise your hand, which
3 indicates that you wish to comment.

4 When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will
5 unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message to the
6 effect, "the host would like you to talk and to press
7 star six to speak." You will have 3 minutes to provide
8 your comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or
9 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
10 during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be
11 alert for when it is your turn to speak. And please turn
12 down the livestream volume.

13 The Commissioners will take comment for every action
14 item on the agenda. And as you listen to the online
15 video stream, the Chair will be calling for public
16 comments. This is the time to call in. The process for
17 making a comment will be the same each time, beginning by
18 dialing the telephone number provided on the livestream
19 feed, and following the steps as I just stated.

20 Again, these instructions are on the website, if you
21 would like to download them and use them. Thank you.

22 Chair?

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Raul.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Katie, I see we have some folks in the



1 queue. Can you let the first person in?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

3 If you wish to make a comment and haven't done so,
4 please press star nine to raise your hand. It's not on
5 yet. It's not letting me in. If you could hold on for
6 just one moment, please.

7 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Yes. Hello, this is
8 Lori Shellenberger. Can you hear me?

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

10 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Okay. It's a little tricky
11 getting -- hello?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We had -- so we had
13 multiple people unmute themselves. If -- I did. So one
14 moment. So the last two -- the last four, 2829, if you
15 could state your comment?

16 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yes. My name is Renee Westa-Lusk.
17 I live in Ridgecrest, California. I'm located in eastern
18 Kern County. I had two, I guess, questions that are not
19 on the agenda. One is, maybe the commission could
20 address this at a later meeting about the -- first of
21 all, the delay of the census. Will that impact the
22 redistricting's Commission's ability to meet California
23 state deadlines for redistricting, if the census data
24 isn't given to them in time to do the redistricting,
25 according to California state laws? There's a Brennan



1 Report that was on the last Commission's last meeting of
2 June 6th that reported the consequences of the delayed
3 census taking. So that is a major concern to me.

4 My second comment is, I hope all the redistricting
5 Commissioners have read over the redistricting 101. It
6 was a PowerPoint that was on that redistricting
7 Commission website that described the basis on which the
8 redistricting is to be done. And I hope they all take
9 into consideration about conti -- contiguity and
10 communities of interest, because those are really the
11 most -- or they call it municipal geography, which
12 incorporates communities of interest. And to be fair,
13 to -- the last commission paid huge attention to the
14 municipal geography and communities of interest.

15 And I believe that's the best way to make this
16 nonpartisan because I think the Commission did a great
17 job in the last redrawing the lines because they kept
18 politics out of it and based it on directives and proper
19 directives in redrawing the lines so they're fair and
20 stay out of political reasons for drawing lines. That's
21 my comment. Thank you.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: This is the court reporter.
23 Could the speaker please spell your name?

24 And can we be reminded when speakers do speak, just
25 please spell their name when they first log on?



1 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. It's Renee, R-E-N-E-E. The
2 first name has two Es after the N. And the last name is
3 W-E-S-T-A-, and then there's a hyphen, and then it's
4 Lusk, capital L-U-S-K.

5 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we're going to our
7 next caller.

8 If you could please spell your name after you state
9 it for the court reporter? You can hit star six to
10 unmute yourself.

11 MS. DIGUILIO: Hello? Can you hear me?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Can you please
13 spell your name --

14 MS. DIGUILIO: Okay.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- for the court
16 reporter?

17 MS. DIGUILIO: My name -- good morning. My name is
18 Michelle DiGuilio, M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E D-I-G-U-I-L-I-O. I'm
19 one of the former 14 commissioners from the 2010
20 Commission, being one of the no party preference members
21 who is now just an average citizen. I'm still in
22 Stockton, been here with my four kids, who are now
23 teenagers, and busy working for the Stockton Fire
24 Department.

25 It's great to see all the new commissioners.



1 Congratulations. And while initially reluctant to
2 address the Commission, I realized that some words of
3 wisdom may come in handy as you develop your own approach
4 to redistricting in 2020. I've broken it down to three
5 areas that can be summarized as people, process, and
6 pressure. I'll try to make it fast, but if you -- you
7 may need to indulge me a bit towards the end. The first
8 area is people. Basically, you, the Commissioners, you
9 probably realize that you'll be connected with one
10 another pretty intensely for the next year plus and the
11 following 10 years. And as 14 people with different
12 backgrounds and stories, I cannot emphasize enough the
13 importance of building relationships and camaraderie
14 early amongst your group. I know you have the added
15 challenge of COVID, but because you are all new to one
16 another as well as this process, building your
17 relationships with each other will be fundamental to your
18 success in many ways, because each and every one of you,
19 at some level, will have to work towards consensus and
20 even compromise at some point on some topic guaranteed.
21 And you can't do these things without a foundation of
22 knowing each other. Again, I can't emphasize this
23 enough. Normally I would say this will happen with meals
24 and travel and committees and meal, carpeal (sic),
25 carpools and even more meals. But trying to gather in



1 any form. But for now, just start somewhere. Get to
2 know each other. You'll need it later.

3 Okay. My next set of words of wisdom
4 around -- revolves around the process. I'll start off
5 with a suggestion. If you ever have questions about the
6 intention of the Voters First Act, ask them. Bring in
7 those that created the proposition. California Common
8 Cause, League of Women Voters, and others. They can be
9 extremely helpful.

10 Now, about the process. The first two lessons are
11 simple reminders. First, fundamentally, you can't draw
12 the lines and start mapping until you have the census
13 data in March, public input, and VRA Legal Assistance.
14 Securing these things early will help you tremendously.
15 The second reminder is that the line drawing criteria is,
16 of course, ranked. This is your guideline for
17 everything. You will come back to the ranking over and
18 over again, and you will have to prioritize some things
19 over others due to the position in the ranks.

20 The next key to the process is transparency, which
21 is very important to the legitimacy of the process. If
22 there is daylight, there is the opportunity for the
23 public to respond to the process as well as better accept
24 the outcome. In addition to legitimacy, transparency
25 allows for checks and balances. Transparency allows for



1 people to comment on previous issues. When the process
2 is open, people are held accountable.

3 An example -- a quick example is that a former
4 student brought to my attention Doug Johnson's
5 presentation to you from the Rose Institute, in which
6 Doug had multiple drastic mischaracterizations of the
7 last Commission's work. But that's the beauty of
8 transparency. Someone somewhere will call people out
9 when they are wrong or intentionally misleading to you.
10 That transparency loop will be a great benefit to you in
11 this process.

12 Finally, my last bit of procedural advice, but maybe
13 one of my most important, is to remember that you are the
14 line drawers. You are not hiring line drawers. You are
15 hiring an organization with technical capacity to help
16 the Commission draw the lines. To this end, I would
17 highly recommend not structuring it so the technical
18 consultants go off and draw the lines. That's way
19 too -- there's way too many applications with each line
20 movement, and all commissioners and the public must see
21 how each line comes into existence for the acceptance of
22 the process. To this end, I would just maybe briefly
23 suggest that you could have a quick look at the line
24 drawing sessions from the last commission, not because
25 it's how it should be done, but because you can get a



1 flavor of what it's like and how that nuanced line
2 drawing actually is. It's definitely a process worth a
3 peek.

4 And finally, my last section is pressure. It's
5 quick and can easily be summed up as the good, the bad,
6 and the extra. The good pressure, that is public
7 testimony input. Highlights include the fact that you
8 will have the privilege of hearing from your fellow
9 Californians. Your appreciation for California will
10 deepen, because you will learn something new about The
11 People and places of California, even if this has been
12 your home for decades upon decades. It will be one of
13 the most challenging things to do. But one of the most
14 rewarding.

15 The bad pressure. Some realities. Now, if it
16 hasn't already been said to you, let me be the first to
17 say it out loud. There are people that want you to fail,
18 not aggressively, and not to anyone specifically, but
19 generally speaking. This includes legislators,
20 lobbyists, line drawers, influencers, and not just from
21 California, but from other states. They want you, the
22 commission, to be unsuccessful in redistricting, because
23 one, if no net maps are adopted, then the responsibility
24 will go to the judges.

25 And two, more insidiously, if you fail, it will



1 prove their point that, quote, regular citizens don't
2 have the skill or ability to redistrict and that power
3 should be back in the hands of legislators; or in the
4 case of other states, it will be used as proof that
5 independent commissions won't work in their state. Don't
6 underestimate the powers around you that aren't always in
7 your corner; another reason you will need to trust each
8 other. You 14 are the most invested in this
9 success -- in this being successful, and you'll need to
10 lean each -- on each other heavily.

11 Lastly, the extra pressure. As a bonus, the
12 Commission also carries the extra weight on its shoulders
13 that you have each the embodiment of Californians placing
14 their trust in their fellow citizens. You will also be
15 an example of what has been lost somewhere in our
16 political culture; collaboration, compromise, consensus.
17 Working together, even when you don't agree, especially
18 when you don't agree, ultimately, your success means fair
19 representation. Something extra, but something very
20 important.

21 So that brings me to the end of my very long words
22 of wisdom for your consideration. If it helps inform
23 your discussions, great. If not, I've had my say, like
24 so many other Californians will do. Either way, I wish
25 each and every one of you the best of luck. Thanks.



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The next caller, if you
2 could press star six.

3 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Good morning. Can you hear me?

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Can you please
5 state, and spell your name for the Court reporter?

6 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Yes. Good morning. This is
7 Lori, L-O-R-I, Shellengerger, S-H-E-L-L-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R.
8 I'm the redistricting consultant for Common Cause, and I
9 want to say good morning to everyone. And I'm actually
10 calling in just with a -- a few words about public
11 participation and facilitating participation, and really
12 want to say, first of all, I appreciate the demonstrated
13 commitment that the Commission has toward being as
14 inclusive as possible and making sure the public has the
15 ability to participate.

16 And with that in mind, I had three things that I
17 wanted to flag for you. The first is notice regarding
18 your meetings and the agenda. There is a way to sign up
19 on the website for notices, but we aren't currently
20 getting those. And so we previously received emails from
21 the auditor's office about the selection process. We
22 don't get those emails anymore, and there aren't any new
23 emails being generated from the list that I'm assuming is
24 being amassed, but perhaps just not operationalized yet.

25 So I just wanted to flag that, because that's an



1 important way for folks to understand when meetings will
2 be happening and to -- and when the agendas have been
3 posted. And I want to preface this with recognizing
4 you're still getting up and running. And I know some of
5 this is just ramping up and getting staffed, but just
6 wanted you to know that folks are currently getting those
7 emails.

8 Second is regarding your agenda. And we raised this
9 during your last meeting, but to the extent that you can,
10 at the beginning of each meeting and at the end of each
11 day, let the public know what items you will be covering.
12 And for any items that are time certain, letting them
13 know so that folks can plan around that.

14 And then the third is regarding the dialing in which
15 actually this system seems to be a little bit easier, in
16 terms of folks getting into the queue. But I just want
17 to make sure that one of the things I know you were
18 working in that waiting period while people had the
19 opportunity to dial in. And I just want to make sure
20 that you realize it can be a little confusing and
21 cumbersome. This now includes a passcode that people
22 have to enter. So just being patient and allowing -- and
23 I would say up to five minutes for people to figure out
24 how to dial in and not include that instruction period
25 because some people are listening to that to understand



1 how to do it. Even to the extent you -- maybe you want
2 to take a short break while people are getting into the
3 queue. But to consider that it is -- there is a lag
4 time, and it can take a few minutes for people to figure
5 out how to get in that queue. And with that, I thank
6 you, and good luck with your meeting over the next few
7 days.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is everybody in the
9 queue at this time.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

11 So moving on to the next agenda item, Commissioner
12 Updates. So items of interest to the Commission. For
13 this item, we can just popcorn. So any of my colleagues
14 have anything that you would like to share that would be
15 of interest to the rest of the Commission? Please raise
16 your hand, and we can start that conversation.

17 Yes, Commissioners Sinay?

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't know what the intent
19 is, if it's just our personal life or if it's actually
20 things that are on the agenda for this. So if you could
21 clarify that a little bit more.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: I believe this item was in response to
23 just general updates that would be of interest to the
24 whole Commission, whether you define that as personal, I
25 think, it is up to you. But I would like to keep it

1 somewhat consistent with the Commission work.

2 And yes, Commissioner Fernandez, and then back to
3 Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think -- I remember from
5 the last time, the way I had proposed it would be, you
6 know, we talked about making sure we all know what's
7 going -- what we're doing, just to make sure we're
8 transparent. So I think part of it also had to do, like,
9 if you speak at any event or you went somewhere or you
10 read something, just to kind of keep us all up to date in
11 terms of the activities that we're doing that are related
12 to this redistricting process, just glad that we're all
13 transparent.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So on that note, that's what I
15 thought, but I wanted to make sure. I did notice that on
16 the agenda, the Public Education Outreach and Engagement
17 Committee -- Public -- Advisory Committee or
18 what -- subcommittee that Vasquez and I are on does not
19 show up in today's agenda, nor the October 5th agenda.
20 And I was also concerned that we created an October 5th
21 agenda without the input from the Commission. I thought
22 that was part of the work that we would do at the end of
23 each one for the next one. So I did want to put that out
24 at the very beginning.

25 As part of the outreach subcommittee, I checked

1 with -- checked in with counsel and was told, yes, you
2 and Vasquez together can talk to some of the groups out
3 there and get some ideas. I will tell you that sometimes
4 I wear multiple hats, so I may be on a call with one hat
5 and other information comes up. So I am on a share --
6 information share, so I apologize if you get too many
7 emails from me. Just delete them if they're not of
8 interest. But I do believe in sharing what I can.

9 And I'm looking to -- one of the emails that I
10 just -- one of the webinars I went to was on the Census
11 Legacy. It was a funders-only webinar, but I do have the
12 access to it. And that had a lot of interesting
13 conversations around the census blocks and how to
14 con -- to build them, especially in the state of
15 California for other things. And redistricting did come
16 up in that conversation, so that might be of interest. I
17 did speak with the former Commissioner, oh, I'm
18 forgetting Connie's last name. I apologize.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Ms. Malloy.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Malloy. She used
21 to work with the Irvine Foundation. And I also spoke
22 with Amy Dominguez Arms, who also -- she was the
23 consultant for the funding for the 2010, as well as the
24 funding now for the 2020. And she, I think, would be a
25 great speaker at our next meeting, just because she



1 worked the landscape both times, and she can tell us how
2 much funding is out there for outreach, what worked, what
3 didn't. And my main question for folks was what worked,
4 what didn't last time, as well as if they had any best
5 practices out there around how to engage people in the
6 time of COVID.

7 And I also spoke to -- yesterday
8 Commissioner Vazquez, and I spoke to Ben Williams from
9 the National Committee of State Legislatures. No, the C.
10 I got this wrong. But anyway, again, the same type of
11 conversation they were sharing, that there's a lot of
12 commissions out there that probably the commissioners
13 from different commissions would love to just sit around
14 and talk about this in different states because it's such
15 a big question. But I am putting together a kind of a
16 literature review, as well as I will have a report when
17 we're on the agenda. Thank you.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I just wanted to
20 address a couple of the issues or concerns that
21 Commissioner Sinay brought up. First of all, yes, the
22 subcommittee for outreach wasn't there, and I did bring
23 that up. But unfortunately, what happens is the agenda
24 has to be posted two weeks prior to the meeting, and it
25 had already been posted. And I realized that they had

1 left the Outreach Subcommittee that you and
2 Commissioner Vazquez are on. So it should be corrected
3 for future meetings. And in terms of the agenda already
4 being out for the next meeting, again, it has to be
5 posted 14 days prior. And that was as of yesterday,
6 which is prior to our meeting today. So it's -- it's
7 kind of if we're going to have almost weekly meetings,
8 it's going to be very difficult to try to have the full
9 Commission contribute to that, other than if, you know,
10 we do some other format. So I think it's good, once we
11 get to agenda item number 11 to maybe really talk about
12 that, like, having a meeting every week. That means
13 we're posting agendas every week. So I'm sure there's a
14 way that we'll be able to do it. But I think as we're
15 learning right now, we're trying to figure it out, and
16 it's not intentional. So we just kind of went with what
17 we had discussed last time, in terms of what we wanted to
18 be on agendas for -- be on future agendas. It's kind of
19 how we posted it for the next one.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Just to add to that with the whole
21 staggered agenda posting. So as of today, myself and
22 Commissioner Fernandez are leading, but
23 we -- Commissioner Fernandez was only Vice Chair starting
24 today, but the agenda was posted yesterday for the
25 meeting that she will be chairing next time. So there's

1 a little passing the baton trust game that we have to
2 play with each other, that we would be chairing a meeting
3 that we might not necessarily have put the agenda
4 together for. Do we have any other commissioners'
5 thoughts on this item before we move on?

6 Commissioner Sadhwani?

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I -- for future, I feel
8 like, well, maybe we want to go back and revisit. I know
9 we adopted last time our understanding of how long the
10 chairs would hold their position. Please correct me if
11 I'm wrong, but I think we said a minimum of three
12 meetings or something like that, or I forget the wording
13 that we had. But perhaps we want to -- we can talk about
14 it later, but perhaps we want to think about having
15 commissioners -- if we're doing these two days every week
16 moving forward, perhaps a commissioner takes two weeks.
17 So there's four days there, and then there's a little bit
18 more continuity across. Just one suggestions.

19 In terms of updates, for full transparency, I teach
20 a class in California politics, so we were talking about
21 redistricting. We have a guest speaker coming in this
22 week, who's been the long-time redistricting scholar at
23 Stanford (unintelligible).

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Any last-minute thoughts on this
25 agenda item before we move on? And there's plenty of

1 room at the end also to share as well.

2 Commissioner Andersen and Sinay?

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick on the
4 subcommittee. It actually says, "Subcommittee Updates".
5 So I don't quite understand why we can't put all the
6 subcommittees in there. Just because one -- a particular
7 one isn't listed, I don't see -- we certainly -- what
8 we're putting together we're, you know, that -- it's
9 certainly under the topic. And I think that's certainly
10 within the purview, which is when we originally were
11 talking about these, understanding that the 14-day
12 requirement, we are putting topics together.

13 And to say, well, since we didn't specifically say
14 that particular one, I -- I think that's, you know,
15 getting sort of too nitty pick, like, it's too specific.
16 And I don't think we need to limit ourselves quite that
17 much. I mean, I -- I'd like Raul to please clarify. But
18 I think we're really being, you know, over -- it should
19 just be updated, you know, when the -- and re -- when we
20 repost.

21 You know, it, like, that's -- because I think most
22 people don't actually print out the agenda until the
23 meeting before. And it's not like we're adding a new
24 topic. It's just being a little bit more specific. And
25 as one of the -- I think Lori Shellenberger just

1 ca -- called in and said, you know, at the day -- at the
2 beginning of each day, if you could tell us what's
3 happening when, that certainly says now, notice that
4 there is a highlight. It's still under the same topic.
5 We're just being a bit more specific. I don't think -- I
6 think that's certainly within the intent of the Bagley-
7 Keane Act, keeping things open, so.

8 CHAIR SINAY: I'm not sure that's accurate. What I
9 have heard often is put as much as you can in the agenda
10 so you're as clear as you can. And so it would be
11 listing all the subcommittees so that the community knows
12 what we're going to talk about. So we do need to be
13 careful about that.

14 Regarding creating the agenda, I'm not sure why
15 Fernandez could not work. That was kind of why we had
16 the chair and the vice chair. You can have up to two
17 people working on things, so the vice chair should be
18 pulled in when creating the next agenda. And I would
19 recommend not putting the let's talk about the next
20 agenda last because I tried to talk about the last -- the
21 agenda.

22 Last time I worked really hard on collecting what
23 everybody was saying through all eight days or seven days
24 of meetings and really felt like I was cut short. And --
25 and no one asked me for my notes. I had -- I worked

1 really hard on that, and nobody came back asking for it.
2 So I do recommend that we move it earlier, and we
3 actually take it seriously about let's look at all of
4 October.

5 And we also, I know Commissioner Sadhwani and I and
6 others, we really need our dates planned out through
7 December. It's not working for me to have just October.
8 So because people are in such a hurry to finish the
9 meeting, can I please ask us to move that item closer to
10 the beginning?

11 I also would like this not to feel rushed about
12 selecting staff and all that and to talk about that
13 during that. But I'm really feeling at times that people
14 are rushing us when we don't need to be rushed.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa?

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: If I can just make a
17 suggestion about the Committee Updates. Given that the
18 likelihood, at least for the next few meetings, is that
19 the committees will have updates. Can we just have them
20 as a standing item on the agenda, at least for right now?
21 And if for whatever reason, there isn't really a
22 substantive update that the Committee wants to report on,
23 they can always say, you know, we don't have anything to
24 report at this time. And then that way then, you know,
25 we don't have to be concerned about, oh, this wasn't on

1 the agenda. That -- that's just one thought about just
2 making sure that then people know that there will be an
3 expectation of a conversation. And if there isn't, there
4 isn't.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And -- and that's -- that
7 is what we talked about. And in terms of me developing
8 the agenda for part of the next meeting alone, I did not.
9 It was actually started with Commissioner Mod, and then I
10 was brought in towards the end of it, which was fine. So
11 I wasn't in a bubble. And so it was very rushed, and I
12 really did not like that feeling. And I think not -- I
13 don't think any of us like that rushed feeling. But in
14 terms of the subcommittee, that was something we talked
15 about that we would definitely, one, want to include all
16 of them. I even have it on here. I have my outreach
17 English for there and that it would be ongoing and an
18 ongoing agenda item until at some point it might not be
19 needed. Because once we fill certain positions, you
20 know, that subcommittee will no longer be needed. Right.
21 But yeah, I will definitely keep it on there. And you're
22 right, if there's nothing to report, there's nothing to
23 report.

24 And I do agree with the others where I would like to
25 have a schedule out to December. But I guess we can talk

1 about that later when we talk about 11, unless we move
2 that up, which would be a great idea. And I would also
3 like to say, as Commissioners Sinay, that I did feel
4 rushed last time. I felt like every time we were cut off
5 because we're -- we're going to be -- meet at -- be at
6 the hour and a half mark. Okay. So we go -- we take a
7 break, and we come back. That's what we signed up for.
8 I'd rather feel comfortable that everybody got to say
9 what they needed to say. And -- and I feel comfortable
10 coming back, that I -- I feel comfortable knowing what
11 we're going to do for the next meeting, then okay, it's
12 one and a half hour, and we're done. So, yeah, I don't
13 mind going beyond -- taking a break and coming back.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other commissioner updates? Yes,
15 Commissioner Akutagawa?

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I have a question, and it's
17 just more about process. But to Commissioner Fernandez's
18 point about going beyond, you know, I'm fine with that.
19 I think I have a question in terms of -- and maybe this
20 is more directed to Raul and Marian. Our scheduled time
21 is to end at 4:30. Is there a -- is there a limitation
22 or a restriction that we have to be conscious of if we go
23 beyond, let's say, 4:30, 4:45, and then go to 5:00 or
24 even 5:30?

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: So you have contractors in place

1 providing services. And so really the fallout, if you
2 even want to call it that, is it would -- is just be
3 additional costs. It's always good to have folks advised
4 you could go over, but most of your service providers
5 have been very accommodating. So I don't -- I don't
6 think that's as much of an issue. Did that -- did I
7 respond to your question, Commissioner Akutagawa? It's
8 costs. That's -- that's the -- and it's not a limiter.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

10 MR. VILLANUEVA: That's the impact.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. All
12 right. Thank you. That was helpful. I just -- I think
13 I just want to be able to make sure that we're understand
14 that we're not going to be running up against, like, we
15 have to finish by a certain time regardless of where we
16 are if we're going to go further. I think -- I guess the
17 question I would have is, is given that we've run over
18 all of our meetings, is stating that 4:30 as an end time,
19 is that realistic? Because I am -- I -- I'm scheduling
20 meetings around it, so -- and I'm sure others may be
21 doing so. And I'm perfectly fine. Just tell me what
22 timeline I need to be on, and I will be on. I just want
23 to be able to also balance that with also understanding,
24 you know, are we going to run up against other personnel
25 time costs, restrictions, labor laws, things like that.

1 But I'll totally honor the idea that I think the
2 conversations that we're having, especially because
3 we're, you know, because of the -- we have to give so
4 much notice. We can't just tap on let's meet tomorrow
5 because we didn't finish this conversation. You know,
6 so, you know, I just want to be conscious about how do we
7 balance all of those things and -- and still be able to
8 ensure that we have that kind of robust conversation that
9 we've been having and honoring everybody's, you know,
10 ideas and thoughts too.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner?

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

13 Commissioner Le Mons, I'm aware you were ahead of
14 me. Do you want to go?

15 (No audible response.)

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. The thing I think I
17 wanted to say, I appreciate the comments from everyone
18 ready for a new week and all. I think what will be
19 beneficial is as we get an opportunity to learn each
20 other's kind of personality and work style and what have
21 you because, for me, a lot of it has to do with
22 discipline as well. Discipline and comment,
23 participation, et cetera. And I think there are a lot of
24 repeated thoughts throughout our day that sometimes it
25 feels like each person feels that -- I can recall a

1 conversation or a comment that -- I believe was
2 Commissioner Fornaciari said, you know, I wish I had
3 something different or additive to say. I'll probably
4 just listen. And that's kind of a little bit my
5 personality as well. But it seems that throughout our
6 day and perhaps if we can be more mindful of this, not to
7 necessarily rush people in your thought process. I
8 understand people process and think through things
9 differently. But it does appear that sometimes there are
10 times throughout our day that could perhaps have been a
11 little bit more disciplined in how we approach it. That
12 does push us into the end of the day. And we do have
13 contractors working, and we do not have the luxury of
14 just continuing to push things out to the next day.

15 So as chair, it gets to be difficult. You're
16 watching time. You're watching the calendar. You know
17 what's on. You want everyone to talk and -- and then
18 sometimes it seems like, okay, that was good, because it
19 came from a different person, but it really was the same
20 thing that was said before. And so I just think that as
21 we learn personality types, styles and learn to value
22 everyone's input, that's great. And I'm hoping and
23 hopeful for the magnitude of what we need to learn and
24 get accomplished. But we're also being a little bit
25 aware and disciplined of the comments as well.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional comments at this time?

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Just a suggestion on the agenda. If
3 something comes up that was not mentioned in the meeting,
4 it is perfectly appropriate for a commissioner to send an
5 email to the chair and vice chair suggesting items for
6 the -- to be included on the agenda. And the chair and
7 vice chair can -- can do that, even if it did not come up
8 during a full meeting.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Fernandez?

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I'm not sure if
11 this is part of this agenda item or later, but Marian and
12 Raul, I mean, can't -- once you post the agenda and then
13 if you notice that maybe there's issues or things that
14 are missing or it changes or you want to move things
15 around, can you repost an agenda? Or once you post it,
16 you can't make any changes in that two-week block before
17 the meeting?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: You cannot -- you cannot add items to
19 the agenda. You could have a discussion, if not an
20 action item, on your general -- in your general
21 announcements, if you wanted to have a discussion of
22 something, but particularly anything that's going to be
23 an action item must be on the agenda. That cannot be
24 changed after the 14-day notice. It can certainly be
25 moved around. There's nothing wrong with adjusting

1 the -- when each item comes up.

2 MR. VILLANUEVA: Marian, excuse me. So for my
3 clarification, you can't make an -- a revision or an
4 addition? An addition meaning, like, clarification. So
5 here --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: You can do a clarification.

7 MR. VILLANUEVA: So well --

8 MS. JOHNSTON: You could not do an addition.

9 MR. VILLANUEVA: Let me give an example. So there's
10 presenters that haven't been obtained yet for one of the
11 items on October 5th, and so there's a placeholder there
12 for that to add them and to post that. So that would be
13 permissible, yes?

14 MS. JOHNSTON: The topic and that there will be a
15 presentation is notice that they said the name of the
16 presenter does not need to be included in the initial 14-
17 day notice.

18 MR. VILLANUEVA: Thank you for the clarification.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes? Commissioner Vasquez?

20 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: So to that end, we can add.
21 If we had items we wanted to discuss but not take action
22 on, could we then not add that? So for example, the
23 Outreach Committee, because there's no action. There's
24 no action. That does (unintelligible).

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I agree with Commissioner Andersen

1 that you can have a report from the -- all subcommittees
2 under that general agenda item. And as
3 Commissioner Fernandez said, in the future, we'll make
4 sure that it's listed as a standard item on every agenda.

5 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Right. And so but then,
6 likewise, if there are discussion pieces we thought had
7 been added, we're not -- we get to the meeting and we
8 realize, oh, we wanted to finish this conversation, or we
9 wanted to have this discussion, et cetera, that's
10 approp -- we can still have that discussion as long as
11 we --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Not a discussion. You could have an
13 announcement under the general announcements of items
14 that you wanted to bring up to the general information of
15 the Commission.

16 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Okay. All right. Thanks.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy. I saw the
18 yellow box circle your square. Do you have anything to
19 share at this time? Any thoughts you would like to
20 share?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm here and still struggling
22 with technology. I did listen in to the first meeting,
23 or at least part of the first meeting of the Michigan
24 Redistricting Commission last week. That was an
25 interesting experience, learning how there are

1 similarities and differences between how they're
2 structured and how we're structured and so forth. But
3 for those who -- who didn't, I would -- I would encourage
4 you to take the opportunity whenever their next scheduled
5 meeting is, to listen in and get a -- get a sense of how
6 they're dealing with things.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional comments at this time
8 related to item number four?

9 Yes, Commissioner Taylor?

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. Not to be repetitive or
11 not judicious with my statements. To add on to what
12 Commissioner Kennedy stated, the Michigan Independent
13 Redistricting meetings are available on YouTube, the
14 entirety of both their first two meetings.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So in the spirit of
16 sharing how our personalities are or working styles, I'm
17 very much so a go-down-the-list kind of person. And my
18 hope is that as we go through the agenda items, we have a
19 substantial amount of time for item 11, in which we can
20 discuss what we want in our future meetings or any
21 suggestions or recommendations on structure, et cetera.

22 So if it's okay with folks, I'd like to move on to
23 number five, which is the update on the 2020 census. So
24 the report on the progress of California Census. So
25 there is and there is a publicly-available website,

1 2020census.gov, that reports self-response rates. As of
2 this morning, the national self-response rate was 66.2
3 percent, and the California self-response rate was 68.6
4 percent. The website also includes a map of the
5 different counties, congressional districts, cities, and
6 then also by census tract as well. And in 2010,
7 California's self-response rate was 68.2 percent.

8 Currently, the highest reporting count -- or the
9 highest self-response rate by county is sitting at 77.8
10 percent, and the lowest self-response rate by county is
11 sitting at 21.7 percent within the state of California.
12 If you are curious, I highly encourage you all to go
13 check out that publicly-available website. Again, that's
14 2020consensus.gov. I will hand it over to Marian to go
15 over the various litigations related to the census.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. And I think I'm going to
17 review a little bit, since some members of the public may
18 not have been aware of the -- all the developments
19 happening with the census. Early this spring, the
20 federal census did announce that they were going to delay
21 for some four months. In response to that, there was
22 litigation in California, which actually gave the
23 Commission an extra four months also to prepare the maps
24 if the census were delayed for that amount of time. So
25 you are relieved from those statutory deadlines, if the

1 census does come to the state late?

2 Subsequently, the Census Bureau announced that it
3 was -- instead of delaying, it was moving up the process
4 of collecting the data and was going to end it early.
5 Not surprisingly, there's been litigation over that as
6 well. There are two lawsuits currently pending; one in
7 California, one in New York that deal with the proposed
8 speed up. One had a hearing on Monday. The other had a
9 hearing on Tuesday. I've not heard of a result in either
10 one of those cases. There was a news report saying the
11 judge seemed inclined to grant an order to the census
12 that it continue until through October, as the federal
13 statute indeed requires. And as soon as we get a ruling
14 on that, I will pass it along to the commissioners.

15 Interestingly, in the case in California, there was
16 a hearing a couple of days ago where the judge really
17 criticized the Census Bureau for not producing documents
18 that it was supposed to produce, and indicated that in
19 the meantime, it would extend the temporary restraining
20 order until it could have a full hearing with all the
21 necessary documents. That hearing did happen yesterday.
22 And as I said, the press reports indicated the judge seem
23 inclined to issue the preliminary injunction compelling
24 the census to continue, but I don't know the exact result
25 of that.



1 There's also been legislation proposed. We talked
2 about two of those bills last time, and perhaps
3 Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo would like to give a
4 report on the letters they sent out concerning those two
5 bills. There's also a new two bills that are bipartisan
6 efforts in the Senate and the House of Representatives.
7 One final note, as I -- we talked about last time, the
8 litigation over whether or not the census would ask for
9 undocumented status.

10 There was an injunction issued requiring the Census
11 Bureau not to ask that question. The Administration has
12 filed a petition with the Supreme Court to seek a review
13 of that order and has asked for a speedy resolution. The
14 Court has not ruled on that request yet. The Court has
15 had other things on its mind, obviously, in the last few
16 days. But as soon as there's any the decision on whether
17 there's going to be hearing in the Supreme Court on the
18 undocumented immigrants issue, I will pass that along.

19 Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo, do you want to
20 report on your letters?

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perhaps Raul can report. I
22 only learned this morning that it was sent out. I
23 haven't seen it.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: So the letters were sent out, a
25 hard copy. I haven't had a chance to post them yet. But

1 I don't know what else there is to really to report on
2 that.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Unless there are any questions.

4 (No audible response.)

5 CHAIR AHMAD: No question? All right. I'm sure we
6 will hear more about this later on this week if there are
7 developments. So moving on to item six.

8 Back to you, Marian, about counsel updates.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't really have anything further
10 in addition to what I've just said.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

12 So at this time, our 90-minute break is actually at
13 11:20. I'm sorry, 11:05. And we will be going into
14 closed session now to address item seven on the agenda.
15 Do you all think it's okay for us to take our break now
16 so that when we return, we are not interrupted for
17 another hour and a half?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: That's fine.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Sinay?

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do we -- do we want any public
21 comments be -- on item seven now, before we go into
22 the -- or -- I know it's awkward because we're going into
23 private, but if people have thoughts on questions and
24 stuff, do we want to hear about it now or later?

25 MS. JOHNSTON: It's up to you. You can hear -- have

1 public comment now if you wish.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Any thoughts on that, Commissioners?
3 Yes? Commissioner Turner and then Andersen.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think my only thought was I
5 was actually wondering if we needed public comment
6 because of the other agenda items we went through.
7 Typically, I thought we would -- were to have public
8 comment after each agenda item.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: For any action item, it's required.
10 For other information items, you certainly may.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just for the record, my
12 question was exactly the same as Commissioner Turner.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: If there's no one saying no,
15 then I would recommend -- I would ask or whatever for us
16 to do public comments now so that the public feels like
17 they had their say.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure.

19 Raul, can -- or -- yeah, Raul, can we hear the
20 instructions to call in?

21 MR. VILLANUEVA: Certainly.

22 So the Commission will advise the viewing audience
23 when it is time to submit public comment. The
24 Commissioners will now allow time for those who wish to
25 comment to dial in. To call in on your phone, dial the



1 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. When
2 prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also
3 provided on the livestream feed, using your dial pad.
4 When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the
5 pound sign.

6 Once you've dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue
7 from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to
8 submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic
9 message to press star nine to raise your hand, indicating
10 that you wish to comment.

11 When it's your turn to speak. The moderator will
12 unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message, "The
13 host would like you to talk and to press star six to
14 speak." You will have three minutes to provide your
15 comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or
16 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
17 during your call. And once you are waiting in the queue,
18 be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And please
19 remember to turn down the livestream volume.

20 The Commissioners will take comment for every action
21 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
22 stream, the chair will call for public comments as they
23 are now. The process for making comment will be the same
24 each time. Begin by dialing the telephone number
25 provided on the livestream feed, and follow the steps as



1 they've been described. These instructions are also on
2 the website. Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, are you ready for
4 public comment?

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, we are.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Please state and spell
7 your fir -- for your name for the court reporter.

8 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Yes. Hello, this is Lori, L-O-
9 R-I, Shellenberger, S-H-E-L-L-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R,
10 Redistricting Consultant for Common Cause. And
11 I'm -- I'm just calling to reiterate, once again, if you
12 could share, give us a little bit of a sense of
13 what -- of where you're going for the rest of the day. I
14 know you're going into the closed session. If that means
15 you'll be conducting interviews for the rest of the day,
16 will you be -- do you have a sense of when you'll be
17 coming back online? It would be very helpful for folks
18 who are watching and engaged in and following this.
19 Because many of those folks are, you know, busy, and many
20 of them working on the census and improving the count.
21 So to the extent you can let us know what the schedule
22 for today, tomorrow, and Friday before you take your
23 break today, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank
24 you very much.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Please state your name.



1 Spell your name for the court reporter.

2 MS. HUNTER: Hi. My name is Anne Hunter, A-N-N-E H-U-N-
3 T-E-R. And I have the same comment as Lori
4 Shellenberger. How -- do you have any sense of how long
5 you will be in closed session or do I need to and other
6 people need to check back incessantly to see where you
7 are? So just a very general timeframe would be super,
8 super helpful. Thank you very much.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

10 If you can press star six. Please state and spell
11 your name for the Court reporter.

12 MS. CUESTA: Yes, this is Renee Westa-Lusk, R-E-N-E-
13 E is the first name. Last name is W-E-S, like in Sam, T,
14 like in To, A, like an apple, hyphen, Lusk, capital, L-U,
15 like in umbrella, S, like in Sam, K, like in kitten. I
16 just wanted to ask the question of the council, the
17 litigation in California that you said relieved the
18 deadlines if the census data is not distributed in time
19 to meet the original California laws deadline on
20 redistricting, did that happen in the state legislature?
21 Like, did something pass there to allow that?

22 MS. JOHNSTON: To allow the extra time?

23 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: No, it was a decision by the
25 California Supreme Court. The legislature brought the



1 litigation against the Secretary of State, and the Court
2 asked for a response from the 2010 Commission. And after
3 receiving all the information, the California Supreme
4 Court issued the order giving the Commission more time.

5 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you will please state
7 and spell your name for the court reporter.

8 MS. COTO: Hi. Good morning. My name is Jacqueline
9 Coto, J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E, last name is spelled, C-O-T-O.
10 I am calling on behalf of NALEO Educational Fund. Good
11 morning, everybody. I wanted to briefly share that we
12 have a collaborative work group joining forces together
13 to offer a letter of recommendation to the Commission on
14 best practices related to community engagement and
15 outreach. And we would love to partner with you and be
16 happy to make presentations on different recommendations
17 set forth on the letter that will be submitted to you.

18 So the workgroup includes organizations with
19 expertise on community engagement and other civic
20 engagement efforts that will be including information on
21 census and engaging underrepresented -- represented
22 communities. And some of the organizations were very
23 active during the last redistricting in 2011. So I
24 wanted to just comment, make a comment on that so that it
25 won't take you off guard. We are really looking to



1 partner with you and move forward with being a really
2 great resource. Thank you so much.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that's everyone in
4 the queue at this time.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thanks, Katie.

6 We'll just stand up for one more minute in case
7 other folks want to call in.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, I -- it's hard to
9 predict how long item six is going to take, but I think
10 it would probably be safe to say they would -- the
11 Commission would not be coming back into open session
12 today, if you and Commissioner Fernandez agree with that.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Fernandez?

14 VICE CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think when we initially
15 talked about, I think Commissioner Kennedy and myself, we
16 talked about what we're going to go into closed session.
17 We didn't anticipate it -- we anticipated going into
18 closed session in the afternoon and hoping that in the
19 afternoon we could, you know, get ready for tomorrow.
20 And so what I'm wondering is, do we want to maybe move,
21 like, either agenda item nine up now before we go to
22 closed session, or do we just go to closed session and
23 just decide when we're done, we're done and then we go
24 in? Because, yes, I agree with Marian. I don't know how
25 long it's going to take. And I would hate if we're going

1 to -- if we have the possibility of coming back after
2 closed session, maybe we move that item now so that
3 whoever's listening can listen now instead of trying to
4 wait until we're done with agenda item number 7. Does
5 that make sense? Am I just -- okay.

6 Anyways, so that's just my recommendation. We could
7 maybe move agenda item 9 up. I think agenda item 11
8 might take a little bit longer, because that, I think,
9 all of us really wanted to take a lot of time on. But
10 I'm thinking that's one that we could potentially move
11 now. And then agenda item 10, I know that Raul had said
12 something to the subcommittee. We're going to plan to
13 discuss that on Friday. So anyway, that's just my
14 suggestion -- or two options, I guess.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other thoughts? Commissioner
16 Sadhwani?

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think Commissioner Sinay
18 had her hand up first.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Commissioner Sinay.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just had a quick question,
21 and it might have been sent to us; but when are the folks
22 coming to talk about the redistricting software?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Friday.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: Friday morning.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: About what time?

1 MR. VILLANUEVA: Friday morning.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Friday morning.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. Just if you can have
4 that on their agenda.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Go ahead, Commissioner
6 Sadhwani.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I had the same
8 question as their -- I mean, it sounds like what people
9 are asking in public comments is there a specific time
10 for this -- like, what time is the person who's going to
11 give this --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: After public comment, I would -- is
13 it 10 o'clock that they're scheduled for?

14 MR. VILLANUEVA: So if you open with public comment
15 Friday morning, it will be right after that.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

17 MR. VILLANUEVA: I do --

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It'll be approximately 10
19 o'clock for, I think, folks listening in who wanted more
20 of that information. And then I support before we --
21 Commissioner Fernandez's recommendation to move something
22 up, whether it's item number 9 or item number 11 which
23 has been mentioned as well. Kind of thinking a little
24 bit more about future agenda items; it doesn't really
25 matter to me which one it is. But if we have that

1 additional time; if we think that that afternoon closed
2 session is -- we only need the afternoon, then I would
3 say let's get that moving now. So I support that.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez?

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. Could we maybe ask
6 Raul if -- because it also sounds like what people are
7 asking for on public comment -- when we get speakers
8 scheduled, can we amend the agenda with their time
9 certain? So that way, again, at the beginning of each
10 meeting, folks have time certain, Friday at 10,
11 presentation.

12 MR. VILLANUEVA: Right. And that was the nature of
13 the clarification question that I was asking Marian
14 precisely. I had left a -- I had a left a space on the
15 agenda for that, and that's why.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, Raul. I think
18 Commissioner Vazquez -- what she was asking is now we
19 know it's going to be on Friday at 10, so could we amend
20 the agenda now and show that it's going to be on Friday
21 at 10; that way, if anyone else that's interested, knows
22 what time that's going to be discussed. I don't think
23 that's an issue from what Marian said because it's
24 already an agenda item. We're just adding a specific
25 date and time.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Are you requesting that it be
2 reposted with that change or just that it be announced
3 with that change?

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Posted. Is that what you
5 wanted?

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Reposted. Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Posted, right? Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I would like it
9 reposted.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That would be great.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Are you able to do that?

12 MR. VILLANUEVA: It won't happen immediately.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's okay. We already
14 said it. We've already said; they're aware of it. But
15 for those that aren't viewing right now, it'll be good
16 information for them.

17 MR. VILLANUEVA: And if I may; the asterisk on that
18 is -- is that presupposes that any discussion that we end
19 with on Thursday, there's no carryover into Friday
20 morning. And so that's a caveat there. So saying that
21 it's going to happen at 10 precisely is kind of a
22 misnomer.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, at least we know it's
24 going to happen on Friday. That's --

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: Right. Friday morning. Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's a good starting
2 point. And then --

3 MR. VILLANUEVA: (Indiscernible, simultaneous
4 speech), yes.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So it's better than
6 not knowing if it's going to be a Wednesday, Thursday, or
7 Friday. So it's a good starting point for people that
8 are interested in that specific agenda item.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani?

10 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thanks. Perhaps one -- I
11 mean, the other piece that we haven't discussed -- I
12 mean, I hope I'm not, like, saying anything that
13 shouldn't be public knowledge. I think it all should,
14 but, I mean, our intention then is to be in closed
15 session Wednesday afternoon and all-day Thursday. I
16 don't think that is quite written anywhere on the meeting
17 agenda. But I think if those kinds of things, like, you
18 know -- folks who are trying to listen in from around the
19 state should probably just know, tomorrow we're not
20 intending to have an open session because we have all of
21 those interviews lined up and stuff scheduled.

22 And then the other piece, if it takes that long to
23 post things to the internet, perhaps -- I don't know how
24 you all -- I'm happy to, like, tweet out, like, that
25 we're expecting folks at 10 a.m. Certainly, that's not

1 the whole list of everybody that we have there. But I
2 think we've heard this comment several times from folks
3 that they want more transparency in terms of our agenda.
4 I know it's difficult because we'd have to, you know --
5 we're trying to put so many things together, but I think
6 that we have to find solutions for this. We want an open
7 and transparent process.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'd like to hear from
10 commissioners that have recommendations on solving this.
11 I feel like a lot of people are sort of complaining. But
12 think about your concern and offer a solution, because
13 there's a lot of variables that prevent this. And I
14 think to frame it in a transparency context is a little
15 off-putting to me. Because in no way is this about us
16 not wanting to be transparent. We have to be very
17 careful about us sitting here saying that, you know,
18 people want transparency as if we aren't being
19 transparent. I think we're trying to work out details on
20 how to make this happen with all the variables that we
21 have to consider. So I think we need to talk to staff.
22 And I don't know how this happens; whether it happens
23 with the subcommittee who is putting together the agenda,
24 to understand all the mechanisms by which we can adjust
25 it. Because to have, I think, these conversations with

1 fourteen people, I don't know if it's really a good use
2 of time, in my opinion. I think that we establish
3 subcommittees for a reason. So we raise these concerns;
4 who's going to do the solutions? Because I don't hear
5 that. I just hear, you know, this is wrong, and that's
6 wrong, and we need to do this. And how do we get it
7 done? I guess I like to jump to that discussion. How do
8 we get it done, and who has the answers to the how? And
9 I don't know if that's Marian and Raul or someone who has
10 done this before. But I really would love to hear more
11 of that.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: I saw Marian's hand and then
13 Commissioner Andersen and Vazquez.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Part of it -- a lot of it
15 is just staff limitations. Raul and I are just part-time
16 employees, and we're all you've got right now. And when
17 you're having a meeting, we have to be here. So to ask
18 us to do things now that -- to happen right away, just
19 can't happen. So if you would understand that. It will
20 improve if you hire more staff.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, Commissioner
22 Kennedy.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I didn't know whether there
25 was anyone else in line before me.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Vazquez and Andersen, are you okay
2 with giving Commissioner Kennedy some space to talk?

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Absolutely.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry. Commissioner Kennedy, go
5 ahead.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
7 sorry if I sound like a broken record on this, but the
8 State Auditor's Office is obligated to provide us the
9 support that we need until we are fully functional. And
10 you know, if we need more support now, then the State
11 Auditor's Office should provide us more support now. We
12 can't be hobbled by these limitations in the meantime.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen and then Vazquez
15 and then Le Mons?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
17 Kennedy and Commissioner Le Mons. I really appreciate
18 those comments, because it is sort of a frustrating
19 process. I would like to, Raul, sort of facilitate this
20 conversation a little bit. I was talking to Raul about
21 how do we do these things, and it turns out that because
22 of the way it's posted, there's a delay. It isn't just
23 as simple as, you know, what we're used to -- the general
24 public is used to -- is I want to change this document; I
25 change it; and then I replace the one that's on the

1 website. It isn't that simple. And that's the basic
2 issue that we're dealing with here.

3 Raul, is that -- am I just summing it up really
4 quickly and condensing exactly what's going on?

5 MR. VILLANUEVA: In part, Commissioner Andersen --
6 to the group, that conversation was in regards to the
7 posting of the recruitments, and those recruitments
8 connect to actual state processes. And so making a
9 change to one of those -- that's why it took so long to
10 establish it, and that's why it takes so long to make any
11 kind of change; because there's a whole lot backend
12 processes that are attached to it.

13 In regards to -- just focusing on the agenda and
14 members of the public wanting to know exactly when
15 something will occur, that's very difficult unless you
16 set everything by a timetable, and then you limit the
17 discussion and put the timetable first. So while that
18 can be done, there's a choice to be made on, like I said,
19 stopping the discussions. Otherwise, what you have is a
20 general time. On the other side with that, is as a
21 commission, if you choose to make changes and take an
22 agenda item in a different order, like has been suggested
23 now, instead of going into closed session immediately to
24 bring some things up to the front and put the closed
25 session after that, that's a choice that you have. Can

1 it confuse the public? Yes, but that's also your choice
2 in terms of how you order your meeting. You can only
3 announce things in real-time up to a certain point. You
4 can make accommodations up to a certain point. There is
5 those give and takes. But unless you limit your
6 discussion and go on a timetable, people will always be
7 asking you, so when exactly is that going to occur. So I
8 can post something that says it's going to occur at 10
9 o'clock on Friday, but if something happens Thursday and
10 you need to do additional work with that Friday morning,
11 it's going to impact that. That's just the nature of the
12 work.

13 And so I kind of agree with Commissioner Le Mons; I
14 don't think we're trying to not be transparent; I don't
15 think that's the issue. I think the issue is managing
16 the discussion, scheduling how you approach things, and
17 as your doing, to let the public know each step of the
18 way, here's what we're doing today. This is our intent.
19 And carrying out that intent as honestly as you can,
20 knowing that things can change. Anyway, my two cents.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank you very
22 much, Raul. What I was actually specific -- is going
23 more to the specifics of the details of how. And in
24 terms of our just general information -- in terms of what
25 we put down, what we want to summarize, and how we'd like

1 to make modifications on the agenda, then there's a time
2 frame in which modifying that and updating it onto the
3 website -- there's a bit of a delay there, and I think
4 that's what we're trying to address. Just trying to
5 shorten that up. And I totally agree with Commissioner
6 Le Mons; we are not -- it's not as though we're trying to
7 prevent that from happening. We just want to facilitate
8 that to happen. And I'll be the first to nominate if we
9 need a subcommittee. I will lead that subcommittee. So
10 I'm going to put that in -- out there. If I need to make
11 a motion to do that and whatever that would take, whether
12 it be, get someone from the State Auditor's to do this.
13 I think that's what Commissioner Kennedy -- and what
14 we're sort of indicating we'd like to go to. If that's
15 an action item that we should do. I'm asking for --

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez? Oh, I'm sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No. So I'm asking for if
18 other commissioners or specifically Raul, or -- do you
19 think that needs to be moved to that level?

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: So one of your agenda topics, item
21 number 10, is looking at contracts and procurement. I'm
22 going to skip ahead real quick, not to talk about that,
23 but to mention one of the contracts is to have an interim
24 IT person.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. That's all we need to



1 hear.

2 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Let's say -- then yes, we're
4 going to talk about that in item number 11 -- or in item
5 number --

6 MR. VILLANUEVA: Item number 10.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- 10.

8 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Perfect. Thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Le Mons, and
12 then Kennedy, maybe?

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So to reiterate my specific
14 request, it may be -- understanding it may be a moot
15 point given that there is quite a bit of lag in the IT
16 department; the extent that we know a general time that
17 things are scheduled, can we update today's agenda to
18 reflect those time approximates -- maybe not time
19 certain, but time approximate, and have those uploaded as
20 soon as you are able, Raul, given everything that you're
21 balancing. And then in the future -- for future agendas,
22 as presenters get scheduled, if we can take that into
23 consideration whether we need to update agendas before
24 the meeting starts.

25 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I was going to say --
3 I was going to support Commissioner Andersen and say, if
4 we want to establish a troubleshooting subcommittee, I'd
5 be more than happy to join her on it, or we can --
6 actually, there's a lot of things that are going to come
7 up. And we talked about the meetings going long et
8 cetera. Part of the reason is, we spend a lot of time on
9 things like this, which is fine, it's not that these
10 things shouldn't get addressed, but I think we need to
11 have a better mechanism. I also think patience is
12 important. We don't have our staff, that's why we set up
13 these interviews. We're trying to get there. I think
14 that there's also little bit of a differential between
15 the first eight's experience and the additional six
16 experience. Last session was you guys' first meeting,
17 and so you're kind of jumped into this and probably are
18 having a very different -- well, you are having a very
19 different experience than we have in terms of, you know,
20 navigating each other's personalities, being accustomed
21 to how the processes kind of work so far even though it's
22 bumpy and cumbersome, kind of waiting it out. So I get
23 that today is a reaction to your experience from the last
24 meeting, and I respect that -- and I am sensitive to
25 that.



1 I think in order for us to move these foundational
2 things that we need to get in place -- we'll be sailing
3 soon much more smoothly, but it's going to be a little
4 rocky for these first few meetings until we get our staff
5 in place and other things. And if there is -- like for
6 example, the troubleshooting committee can reach out to
7 the State Auditor's Office and pursue Commissioner
8 Kennedy's recommendations so that everything isn't just
9 dumped on the staff; that's something that I'm absolutely
10 prepared to do or any other things that we need to
11 navigate. But I do want to point out that we only have
12 two staff people right now, and our first order of
13 business is to get staffed up so that we can move
14 forward.

15 So let's just keep a little laundry list of all of
16 our upset and the things that we don't like and what's
17 not working, and we'll start to tick away at that list of
18 getting it fixed. So I want the public to know that we
19 stated from the very, very beginning how important public
20 comment is to us. And I think everything that has really
21 been raised, we've tried to adjust and make sure we have
22 public comment at the beginning. So we're listening,
23 we're committed, and transparency is at the forefront of
24 what we're doing. And I just want to caution that we
25 don't suggest anything other than that, because I haven't



1 experienced with any of you anything other than that. So
2 that's all I'm going to say on that.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy and Fornaciari?

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The only thing that I would
5 add to this at this point is, we've known for a while
6 that tomorrow was going to be fully occupied with
7 interviews, so, you know, the public can be aware of
8 that. And how we reflect that on agendas in the future
9 is something that we can troubleshoot. Thank you.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari, did you have
11 your hand up? And then Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Actually, I was just
13 scratching my head, but since you called on me, I'll -- I
14 think part of the challenge we're having here is that we
15 haven't put together a set of ground rules on how we're
16 going manage our meetings, you know. We just haven't
17 done that. We haven't had time to do it. It seems like,
18 you know, hiring and staffing up is, you know -- it's
19 something we need to do and something we need to get
20 going on, and obviously, we're doing that. I'm looking
21 at the agenda for the next meeting, and maybe there's a
22 little room in agenda item 14 for doing that. But, you
23 know, I think maybe at least in the subsequent -- one of
24 the subsequent meetings, we need to make some space to
25 have those kinds of conversations.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't think you meant it this
3 way, Commissioner Le Mons, but you have pushed a few
4 buttons today, and I think we all need to be a little
5 careful. I have not felt a division, and I thought -- I
6 was very happy to be part of the fourteen. I never felt
7 a separation between the six and the eight. And you
8 brought it up a couple of times last meeting as well, and
9 I would like us -- you also are the one who said hey,
10 let's just jump into this and not have the selected and
11 the lucky, you know. We haven't used those names, so I
12 would like us not to bring it up since we have worked
13 well together. We do have different ways of working, and
14 I think it was unfair -- Commissioner Sadhwani did give a
15 solution by saying hey, I'll tweet it out if that's
16 helpful; I can tweet it out as well. Solutions had been
17 put out there, and we were told we were complaining. And
18 part of the reason that the first group got a lot of
19 pressure was because it wasn't as diverse and reflective
20 of the whole community. And so we, you know -- we are
21 going to think differently, and that's what we're
22 supposed to. We're all supposed to be a little
23 different.

24 I don't think you mean to press buttons, but I'd
25 like us all to try to build each other up and build on

1 each other's strengths. I know your strength is to move
2 us forward as quickly as possible, and I do turn to you,
3 and I use you as -- I think before I speak and say, how
4 much will Commissioner Le Mons roll his eyes? As a joke;
5 I'm not saying it harshly. Sorry if it came off harsh.
6 But I just want us all to just be a little kinder to each
7 other, because I think that is what we're -- you know,
8 when we use the word transparency, that might mean
9 something different for those of us who are more grounded
10 in the community. And for some community people,
11 knowing -- their time is precious. And so knowing what
12 time things are is being transparent for them. But we're
13 being very transparent; we're in a fishbowl right now.
14 So I apologize, but I just want to make sure that we're
15 all a little kinder to each other as we move forward.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez?

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. If I can offer a
18 language adjustment. I think when I've heard people say
19 transparency, I think we're really talking about access.
20 Transparency, I think, has some negative connotations.
21 We're trying to make this more accessible, and I think
22 that that is what this conversation is about. So maybe
23 we need an accessibility committee which is this
24 troubleshooting, right? Like we keep -- we'll do things
25 and we'll realize oh, this wasn't as accessible as we had

1 intended it to be. So there's nothing nefarious, which I
2 think transparency, especially when we're talking about
3 government, has particular connotations. Access; we are
4 trying to provide greater access. So accessibility.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So hearing the
6 conversation, what I would propose for your
7 consideration, is that we use the time we have now until
8 11:20 when we get our required break, to start agenda
9 item number 9, and work through that agenda item. Then
10 we will take our break at 11:20 -- I'm sorry; 11:05, and
11 we return at 11:20. So we have three minutes. So after
12 our break when we come back at 11:20, we start agenda
13 number -- agenda item number 9. We complete that agenda
14 item, hopefully before lunch. If we need to go on after
15 lunch, we will continue the conversation after lunch.
16 The idea I have is after that we will jump into closed
17 session, and we will be in closed session until Friday
18 morning. Friday morning we will return to open session.
19 We will present the summary of what occurred during
20 closed session and then move along the remaining items of
21 the agenda.

22 How does that sound to everyone? Do I see any
23 objections?

24 Marian and Raul, do you all have any thoughts on
25 that?

1 MS. JOHNSTON: That's perfect.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

3 MR. VILLANUEVA: Very succinctly stated. Thank you,
4 Chair Ahmad.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry there's no time stamps
6 associated with anything, but we will -- that's our
7 general idea.

8 So right now, it's 11:03. Let's take a fifteen-
9 minute break, and we can return at 11:17. And then we
10 will start with agenda item number 9.

11 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:03 a.m.
12 until 11:17 a.m.)

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back from break. We will be
14 jumping into item number 9 which is the Subcommittee
15 Updates.

16 So going down the list, Action on Census.
17 Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo?

18 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I can go. So thank you to all
19 the commissioners who contributed their edits and sent us
20 their edits via email or in person at the last meeting.
21 We used those edits to finalize the letters. The letters
22 were then signed and sent out. And currently, we're just
23 monitoring the litigation, and there's no recommendation
24 at this time. I don't know if Commissioner Sadhwani has
25 any additional updates.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I would just add that
2 there have been new bills sent out -- introduced. Marian
3 had mentioned those; they are bipartisan bills. In the
4 Senate, it's Democrat Brian Schatz from Hawaii and
5 Senator Lisa Murkowski from -- a republican for Alaska.
6 On the House side, it's Representative Don Young, a
7 Republican from Alaska. Also, Ruben Gallego, a Democrat
8 from Arizona. Again, it's just pushing for the extension
9 to the census figures that would require the census to
10 continue its work through October and push that deadline
11 for the data to come to the states to August 2021.

12 You know, I don't have a strong recommendation
13 there. Certainly, we could, you know, do another letter
14 specific to these bills if we wanted to. I would love to
15 urge them to move that legislation forward. It's
16 basically the same kind of the thing as what we had seen
17 before, but this time a bipartisan approach. Certainly,
18 Senator Murkowski has been in the news of late, so I
19 don't know if this is like a top priority for her or not;
20 you know, I have no sense of that.

21 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I guess, one final comment
22 would just be that once we have a communications director
23 that may be publicizing the letters, either through --
24 our position, rather -- the position stated in the
25 letters may be a way to just -- to communicate with the

1 public our support for our position and get the word out
2 there a little bit more and include potentially these
3 types of legislation. So just having that additional
4 staff capacity would certainly help in communicating
5 these types of positions in the future.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any questions or comments
7 from other commissioners on action on census
8 subcommittee?

9 Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think once we're able to make
11 the letters public, which I understand we're getting
12 there, hopefully, our community partners -- those that
13 want to partner with us, and I do consider them a
14 community partners -- can share our perspective and, you
15 know, they have more of an infrastructure than we do
16 right now.

17 But I was shocked in talking to someone this week
18 that they just said that even if the census moves
19 forward, that there's going to be so much litigation that
20 we won't have any data. That was a lot more weak than I
21 had heard the information in the -- you know, heard
22 everyone talking to us -- who had talked to us. So that
23 just this whole idea that the litigation may stop
24 everything, it was kind of a shock. So if anyone
25 knows -- has any updates or thoughts on that.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari?

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So the assertion was that
3 litigation is going to stop the census data from being
4 released? Do they have any crystal ball to just -- when
5 or how long; or just indefinitely?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The sense that -- you know,
7 this was our conversation with Ben (ph.) at NCLS. And he
8 had said that a lot of people in the world of is really
9 feeling that the litigation will prevent the data from
10 coming out because the litigation will be around the
11 quality of the data.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Marian, I saw your hand up.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: I was just going to suggest to the
14 subcommittee, I think the action at the last meeting was
15 to authorize you to send letters on legis -- pending
16 legislation. I don't think you need new authority to go
17 ahead and send it on the two new bipartisan bills if you
18 choose to do so.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Is there a
20 consensus amongst the Commission that that is something
21 we want to move forward? Any objection?

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Particularly, I would
24 recommend that we do go ahead because it is consistent
25 with our mission, and particularly the bipartisan. That

1 is completely what our commission is about. You know,
2 this is -- this isn't a -- it shouldn't be a partisan
3 item. We should all have the correct information
4 equally, and that's what we're all about. So I would
5 certainly propose that we can -- that you do go ahead and
6 draft up the letters.

7 My only thing is, and I don't mean this as a stop,
8 but could you -- could the letter be sent? I don't know
9 if that was -- if that's within the purview of the -- of
10 our procedure, not that would be say, okay. Everyone has
11 to approve it before it goes, it's just if you have a
12 serious objection or something before it goes, but I
13 believe it would be very similar. So that was my two
14 cents.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, I have a
17 question for counsel, and this may actually require some
18 research, so I'm not necessarily expecting an immediate
19 answer. I know that in the past, cases have gone all the
20 way to the Supreme Court where one state is suing another
21 state over apportionment, and what happens if there is a
22 dispute over the apportionment? Do we go ahead and draw
23 maps on the basis of the initial apportionment, and then
24 if California were to be, for example, sued by Texas in
25 the Supreme Court over a disputed seat and Texas

1 eventually prevails, we would then have to redraw the
2 Congressional maps? Thank you.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: I think that is correct, and
4 hopefully that litigation would be on a fast track so
5 that you could take the decision into account when you're
6 drawing your lines the first time around, but if, for
7 instance, California were to lose a Congressional seat,
8 those maps would have to be redrawn.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions or comments at
11 this time related to this particular subcommittee?

12 Yes, Commissioner Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't know if -- I just
14 re-read the letter. Well, I don't know what action went
15 out, but I re-read the letter that -- the draft letter
16 from last time, and that was very well-written. I don't
17 know when we want to add a little bit more. You know, we
18 talk about COVID, but then especially in California and
19 some other states, those communities that have been
20 displaced because of the fires. So now again, there's an
21 added obstacle to having a reliable member. So I don't
22 know if that's something that we want to consider.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think that's a great idea,
24 and I'd be happy to add language to that effect.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: I have a question. Maybe this



1 question is for Raul or the subcommittee. There were
2 several iterations of the draft addressed to various
3 people. Do we have a clear sense of which letters
4 actually went out and which ones we did not send out?

5 MR. VILLANUEVA: So there were a lot of iterations,
6 and we depended on the subcommittee to direct which ones
7 were the final ones, which from my perspective, they were
8 well able to do so, and those were the ones that were
9 then printed and sent to the Chair for signature because
10 I think all the information, excuse me, was coming into
11 them and not to Marian and I. They were coming in to
12 them directly.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry. Maybe I should clarify.
14 So the -- who did we send the letters to? There were
15 several people. We had senators on the list. We had --

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: -- census bureau staff, if we had that
18 information. If you need time to look that up, that's
19 fine too.

20 Commissioner Fornaciari, and then Kennedy, and then
21 Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Just to comment, I'm
23 really quite comfortable with the job that the
24 subcommittee did in drafting those letters and putting
25 them together, and I'm completely comfortable with them,

1 you know, making whatever minor tweaks they feel they
2 need to make to a draft to send it in support of these
3 bipartisan bills.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, and then Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Could I just jump in
6 quickly? What I actually meant to say is just more in
7 terms of can we just get a copy essentially so we know
8 the final thing that went out? That was more rather
9 than -- I didn't mean that we need to review it because I
10 agree with Commissioner Fornaciari.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: That was my question too. I
12 understand.

13 Commissioner Kennedy, and then Turner.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I have nothing further at
15 this point, Madam Chair. Thank you.

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: Then I'll send those --

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Now --

18 MR. VILLANUEVA: -- out to the group today.

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Madam Chair, I was just
20 go to add to your question. The letters went to Senator
21 Kamala Harris, Wilbur Ross, Representative Caroline
22 Maloney, and Senator Ron Johnson.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: And Director Dillingham.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Oh, did I miss one? Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any other questions,
3 comments, concerns for action on census subcommittee?
4 No? Okay.

5 Commissioner Le Mons.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I guess I have more of a
7 process question with regard to updates, particularly
8 since we've discussed subcommittee updates being a
9 standing part of our agendas moving forward, at least for
10 the time being. So the questions that were asked with
11 regard to the final letter, whom it went to, et cetera, I
12 guess my question is there seems to be like some un --
13 lack of clarity between who would report that.

14 So I guess my expectation would be that the
15 subcommittee would report that, like, they would have the
16 end-to-end understanding of everything that has gone
17 down, or they instruct staff to report that when raised,
18 but it just seemed to be confusion about who knew what.

19 So I'm just kind of putting that out there for
20 subcommittees in general that my thought is or my
21 expectation would be that the subcommittees who take on
22 whatever particular responsibility that they take on,
23 that they're reporting back during this process, you
24 know, end to end, what happened, outcomes, et cetera,
25 recommendations, so on and so forth.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional questions, comments at
2 this time? Seeing none, we can move on to item B, 9B,
3 which is the hiring of the executive director. So I will
4 hand the floor over to Commissioners Fernandez and
5 Kennedy to give the update regarding that item.

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, actually the update
7 on that is we'll be dealing with that the rest of today,
8 and then also tomorrow, and hopefully -- a hopeful
9 outcome is that we'll have a chosen candidate.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any questions or comments
11 for Commissioners Fernandez and Kennedy at this time?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: There is one matter that I think
13 should be discussed in open session, which has to do with
14 some of the commissioners not being able to be there for
15 the full time tomorrow and how the Commission wants to
16 deal with that issue.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So in terms of -- Marian,
18 if I'm understanding you correctly is there's a
19 possibility that all commissioners can't be there for
20 every interview, so they might be there for some of the
21 interviews, and my suggestion for that would be that they
22 obviously give feedback for the interviews that they were
23 present for, and then rely on the other -- the rest of
24 the commissioners in terms of feedback for those
25 interviews that they're not present for.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: And I think you expressed one other
2 concern, that if they miss an interview, they miss the
3 entire interview, they not come in during the middle of
4 an interview?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. And that was -- I
6 thinking more of it could be distracting somewhat, and
7 I'm not sure how especially doing -- it could be
8 distracting to the candidate, and I would hate for them
9 to be distracted. Also, if there's somebody else in
10 there. I'm not sure. I have no idea what this is going
11 to look like tomorrow, and it may not be distracting. So
12 I kind of have to wait and see, or we have to wait and
13 see.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I have nothing to add at this
16 point. Thank you.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, and then Sinay.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: We'll -- I just want to
19 confirm we'll have a quorum for each of the interviews,
20 yes?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. And then the second
23 thing would be that I would support not joining in the
24 middle. I think that is disruptive to a candidate, to
25 have a new party just join the interview process. So my

1 recommendation would be that if a commissioner is not
2 present for that interview, that they sit that particular
3 interview out, and again, following Commissioner
4 Fernandez's other recommendations, I support those as
5 well.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: We could ask Raul to let the
7 commissioners who are absent know when the next interview
8 starts so then they may join at that time. He's not
9 going to be participating in the interviews. So --

10 MR. VILLANUEVA: Someone would have to tell me, but
11 I'd be --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

13 MR. VILLANUEVA: -- more than happy to do that.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it will be when the one -- one
15 interviewee leaves, then we'll know it's over.

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, but then will the group then
17 need time to collect their notes?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

19 MR. VILLANUEVA: Do you want them to come in after
20 that?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, that's --

22 MR. VILLANUEVA: That's --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: That could give them time to.

24 MR. VILLANUEVA: Once you notify me, I'd be happy to
25 do so.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay, Sadhwani, and then
2 Akutagawa.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm one of the ones that won't
4 be able to be at -- I have a one-hour -- less than a
5 one-hour facilitation I need to do tomorrow. I had kind
6 of scheduled it thinking that I'd miss the end of one
7 interview and could jump in on the others so I wouldn't
8 miss any. I'm fine, I just want clarification if I
9 shouldn't even be on the one I'm going to have to jump
10 off of? Because I will be -- yeah. As I said, it's
11 about a half an hour, 45 minutes.

12 And second of all, if we keep our video off, we can
13 still hear the interview, and so I want that to be okay
14 because I don't -- I think it's important for us to hear
15 the interview. I also think it's important then maybe
16 today when we do the questions to also share -- I mean, I
17 have some concerns, and I have some positives and stuff
18 that I want to hear about certain candidates, and unless
19 those get answered, I don't think I can make a decision.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani, Akutagawa, and
21 then Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I think that my
23 question was the same, actually. I have an hour where I
24 have to step away. Would it be okay to start the
25 interview, at least for those first 15 minutes, and then

1 step away, or would folks feel like that is also
2 distracting?

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then
4 Turner, and then I think we should discuss the questions
5 on the floor.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I have a similar --
7 I have the same questions as Commissioners Sinay and
8 Sadhwani. I have to step away for a bit today, and then
9 for a very short time tomorrow. I was intending to just
10 leave my connection up, but to turn my video off, and if
11 it's preferable, I can just keep my video off for the
12 entirety of an interview where I know I'm going to have
13 to leave midway through, and then another interview where
14 I'm going to have to join partway through, I'm happy to
15 just keep the video off so it's not distracting, but I'd
16 like to be able to listen in.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Just for information for those of you
18 who aren't sitting here, all of you appear on a Brady
19 Bunch type screen. So the candidate will be able to see
20 people who come on and off of videos, but it's still your
21 decision about how you want to handle, whether that's
22 going to be your procedure or not.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank You, Madam Chair.
25 I personally think that it is a good example of what will

1 happen in the field on a regular basis. I don't think
2 that it is such a negative to have candidates know up
3 front that there will be commissioners that, you know,
4 have over engagements that will come and go. I think,
5 Commissioners, where it could get disruptive if indeed
6 you're not going to be on for the full interview or have
7 an opportunity to perhaps hear a response to a question,
8 maybe you shouldn't necessarily ask questions, but to
9 come and go and have different people, I'm not concerned
10 about that for -- particularly for what we're asking our
11 executive director to be able to do and accomplish with a
12 lot of different variables as they move forward, number
13 one.

14 The other thing is is I guess I wanted to respond to
15 is that I'm hopeful not just for this situation, but for
16 anything going forward. For any time period that I'm not
17 going to be a participant, I do want to be able to rely
18 and trust on the other thirteen that's sitting on this
19 Commission, and not hold up any forward movement because
20 I was not -- I didn't choose or could not personally be
21 involved. So I'm making that comment specifically.

22 Commissioner Sinay, you mentioned, I'd like to be in
23 involved in a lot too. So that's a hard thing lose, but
24 I also think it's a trust issue for the other
25 commissioners, and we don't want to hold proceedings

1 because we've missed time and now we can't necessarily
2 move forward. This is where trust of the other
3 commissioners, I think will come in.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari, and then
5 Kennedy.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I just want to say, you
7 know, I agree with that. If we give the candidates a
8 heads up at the beginning commissioners may be coming and
9 going. You know, I think we have to be able to
10 accommodate that, we have to expect our executive
11 director to be able to, you know, deal with minor
12 distractions like that.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commission Kennedy, and then Andersen.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, my only concern
15 with a number of people indicating that they might have
16 to be out at some point is Commissioner Le Mons' question
17 from earlier. Are we certain that we are going to have a
18 quorum at all times? Because we have to -- we have to
19 make decisions on personnel matters through our super
20 majority rules. Thank you.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: As far as I know, that's only -- the
22 three that are absent will not pose a problem. If there
23 are others of you who are not going to be here for the
24 entire day, if you would let us know, we can ensure that
25 we do what's necessary.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I would like to say
3 since I was the person who was actually attending in
4 person all of the first seven -- the first eight group,
5 the idea -- and it's hard not being in the room to see
6 what it would look like in terms of it being distracting.
7 It's basically a television screen that you're looking
8 at, and I think there will be, I think I believe it's
9 three commissioners in attendance as well as Marian, and
10 then, you know, court -- a few reporters, things around,
11 and the person being there then to look at a small screen
12 if someone changes or something, I really don't think
13 that's a distraction other than, which we -- Commissioner
14 Turner and Commissioner Fornaciari mentioned that that's
15 something they should definitely be able to handle given
16 the position that we're requesting them to do.

17 So I really don't see -- I know it's kind of a
18 respect thing about coming in and out of even during the
19 middle of an interview, and if it was in person, that's a
20 completely different thing. No, I don't think -- you
21 know, that is distracting. In and out on a little tiny
22 screen, particularly when there's a group, because what
23 you don't understand is sometimes just on the screen
24 itself, like we see it how it rearranges as times even
25 when it isn't like someone's just going off. At times,

1 it will just sort of rearrange. That's what it would
2 really look like, and it's far away from you. You can
3 see it's far away from you.

4 So I really don't think that's a distraction, and I
5 think it would be actually helpful, even if the people
6 would just like to listen in, to get as much information
7 to as many of the commissioners as possible. So I know
8 we've sort of said, well, you know, we really shouldn't
9 be listening in, or -- but I do agree with the questions.
10 Maybe if you're not there, then don't -- maybe don't you
11 invite or ask questions, but I just can't see that as a
12 problem having been in the room.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Just one clarification about the
14 process. There will be no court reporter. I'll be
15 taking minutes, and that will be it.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So -- but there still
17 we be technical in the room, correct?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: The vid -- yeah, videographers,
19 right.

20 MR. VILLANUEVA: But no video.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: What?

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: So they can broadcast it to everyone,
24 the web -- Webinar.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Could we hear a little bit more



1 about how the actual questioning we expect to proceed
2 with that? I mean, is the subcommittee going to put
3 questions to the candidates, and then, you know, other
4 commissioners perhaps add additional questions? Is that
5 what we're thinking or what?

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Marian, you can correct me if I'm
7 wrong, but this is an items for discussion during closed
8 session?

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: So we will get to that soon,
11 Commissioner Yee.

12 Any other questions? Commissioner Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: My only other comment is if
14 we do -- you know, if those commissioners that won't be
15 there for the whole time and, you know, they mute, which
16 is fine, I just want to remind everyone that is closed
17 session. So if someone else is in the room or maybe wear
18 headphones because no one else is supposed to hear what's
19 going on during the interview. So that would be my own
20 concern if we move forward that way.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: So for those commissioners who
23 will be stepping away at times, I mean, just let us know
24 if there are things that you absolutely want and need to
25 have asked, and we we'll try to do our best to do so.

1 Yeah.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: I would like to bring back to the
3 group for discussion just because I didn't get a sense of
4 clarity on how we are going to proceed. So are those
5 commissioners who will be absent for a portion of the
6 interview, whether it be at the beginning or the end of
7 an interview, are they sitting out for the whole
8 interview, are they going to come in at some point and
9 remain silent, or are they going to jump back in as if
10 they were there the whole interview? I just want to make
11 sure that we're all on the same page with that piece.

12 Commissioner Turner.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. My hope is that they
14 will be allowed to come in and out to be able to hear as
15 much as possible, and I'm also hoping that they will not
16 ask questions because often, they'll ask a question that
17 could have already been visited while they were gone, and
18 so I love what Commissioner Yee said. If -- as we're in
19 closed session, if there are specifics that need to be
20 asked, et cetera, we can have that discussion at that
21 time and ensure that we cover all ground to make everyone
22 comfortable.

23 So I guess my view of what I'm hoping would happen
24 is that commissioners should be able to hear as much as
25 they can for the time period that they are, and we will

1 curate the space in a way that says those asking the
2 questions will be those that are able to be there for the
3 full time and hear responses.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Le Mons.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think there was one more
6 point on that, which was their participation in the post-
7 interview discussion after each candidate. My thought
8 would be if they're in and out, then they should
9 participate based on what they heard because that would
10 be the whole point, right? So I just wanted to make sure
11 that that piece of the consideration was also covered in
12 whatever decision we end up with.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I think it sounds like
15 what we want to do is move forward. They can come
16 forward, but they'll remain silent and not ask questions,
17 but they will be involved in the discussion, obviously.
18 So I think that's what was majority, right? I'm set.
19 Okay.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Can I get a thumbs up if we're all
21 okay with that? Okay.

22 I'm assuming, Commissioner Kennedy, you have your
23 thumbs up?

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes, I do.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Any remaining questions or

1 thoughts on 9bB. Seeing none, let's move on to 9C,
2 hiring of chief counsel.

3 Commissioners Anderson and Toledo, do you have any
4 updates for us?

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, we do. Basically, we
6 got together and had a quick meeting. We ended up
7 writing a -- basically, a posting, which is now on it's
8 called the dailyjournal.com. It is essentially the legal
9 mag gene that that's used throughout California. It's
10 actually posted in -- they actually have fourteen
11 different essentially newspapers, and it's online as
12 well.

13 If you go to dailyjournal.com, you will see that
14 posting, and it refers to -- we actually got -- I can
15 read that, if you'd like. It's quite short, and then it
16 refers to the job bulletin, which is still on the We Draw
17 the Lines, and then it has for inquiries, which is how
18 they actually apply, it's called votersfirstact. -- but
19 it's a CLCD.CA.gov, that way it all funnels to the same
20 mechanism, and they all come in looking the same in terms
21 of their interview documents.

22 That got posted, I believe it was actually just
23 yesterday, and it will be -- the way they do this, is
24 runs for a certain period of time. It will also include,
25 there's -- on Fridays, they do a very large sort of a



1 special where they highlight different job opportunities,
2 and this is one that will be highlighted.

3 So that went in, and it is sort of running its
4 course, and that's where we are, but what I would like to
5 do at this time, which is why I think it's very important
6 that this is the general meeting here is we'd like to get
7 any of our community partners out there who are listening
8 to please spread the word for the details of this. It's
9 dailyjournal.com. They probably are -- since many of
10 those groups actually have redistricting personnel,
11 they're very familiar with this publication, and it
12 essentially refers everyone to how to do -- basically how
13 to take it from there. So if we could just get our
14 community partners who are listening to please help us
15 post this everywhere, that would be great.

16 So Pedro, did you want to say additional?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to add that any
18 commissioner who wants to forward the advertisement,
19 they're more than -- you're more than able to on social
20 media or otherwise forward the announcement to your
21 networks, and we did reach out to Professor Lovett and
22 just ask that them to -- and other speakers to ask them
23 to publicize the announcement, just as we are doing all
24 of our community partners, just to get the message out
25 there and to try to get a qualified pool, a larger

1 qualified pool of candidates.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Do you have any additional points to
3 add to your update before I move to questions or comments
4 from the group?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, just questions or --

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. So questions or comments from
7 the group?

8 Commissioner Fornaciari.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So the announcement gets
10 sent out to the mailing list that we have?

11 MR. VILLANUEVA: That will occur today.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I can find out by just
15 going on the -- our website, but when's the final filing
16 date for the new advertisement?

17 MR. VILLANUEVA: For both, it will be September 30.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So it just went out to our
19 mailing list today, and it's due September 30th, Raul; is
20 that right?

21 MR. VILLANUEVA: It didn't just go out to the
22 mailing list. It went out on the newspaper ad --
23 advertisement, it's been on the State website. Actually,
24 I heard from an organization in New York who's interested
25 in wanting to participate in the recruitment. So it's

1 gone out fairly widely. So with the mail chip -- mail
2 chimp, I'm still learning that. So I learned it last
3 week, and so I should have one out today while you're
4 enclosed session.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions or comments for
6 hiring of chief counsel?

7 Commissioner Sinai. I'm not sure if I saw your hand
8 go up, your hand up. Okay.

9 Commissioner Kennedy.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 I just wanted to check with Raul. I had submitted a
12 number of other options for posting these job
13 applications, California Association of Counties,
14 California Association of Clerks and Election Officials,
15 electionline.org. I just want to know if those went out
16 to them or if I'll need to send them out to them.

17 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: So what I did with those
18 is, I forwarded those to the subcommittees who then made
19 the decisions regarding where things would be posted,
20 where the advertisements would go.

21 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Okay. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, Commissioner
23 Kennedy, it was a little hard -- I didn't have the actual
24 notes on that quite as well. So if you could go ahead
25 and forward that, we'd appreciate it. Unless Pedro is --

1 I did not actually go ahead and send that to that to
2 those troops, because I didn't have the details. So
3 unless Pedro did.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I didn't forward it to those
5 groups. Happy to do so, or if you have connections with
6 those groups, we're happy to go down the list as well.

7 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: And actually, I thought
8 a lot of those suggestions were for the Communications
9 Director and not for the Chief Counsel.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Now, there were some that
11 were specific to Chief Counsel, but then others that were
12 for any and all of the postings.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So Commissioner Kennedy,
14 could you -- whatever's more efficient. The ones for the
15 counsel, if you can either take care of that yourself or
16 let one of us know which particular ones those were,
17 that'd be great. So

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'll go ahead and -- I'll go
19 ahead and send them out once I can get to the
20 announcement itself.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, great. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: I have a question for Marian and Raul.
24 So at this point, since we are publicizing very wisely
25 the hiring of a Chief Counsel, we as a Commission can go

1 into our own independent networks as well to advertise
2 this position, correct?

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. It's a public announcement.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: So in case folks have a network that
5 you would want to share that information with.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: The wider, the better.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

8 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: And I sent the -- I sent
9 the Commissioners a copy of the ad this morning, so
10 everybody should have gotten that.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a process question. I
13 understand that with the subcommittees is the
14 communication between only two Commissioners. And so I
15 want to be clear that I understand to what degree other
16 Commissioners can communicate with the subcommittee
17 directly versus processing communication with the
18 subcommittee through staff.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: We would like it to come through
20 staff, and then we will forward it so that we are kept in
21 the loop, so to speak.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And so that means that --
23 let's say, for example, that I had some resources that I
24 wanted this particular announcement to go to. I would
25 send them to staff with my desire for them to be

1 submitted to the subcommittee for consideration for
2 distribution, and then, yeah, kind of walk that through
3 for me.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, that's how it should work.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And then the subcommittee
6 would, of course -- now, what if they had questions about
7 what I submitted?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: They could come to you directly with
9 those questions. Right?

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: They could come directly to
11 me with those questions?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Now, would I respond to those
14 questions to them directly, or would I send my response
15 through staff to them?

16 MS. JOHNSTON: How about a compromise and you send
17 it to staff and the subcommittee?

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't want to pose an extra lag
20 time in there. I just want to be sure that we're kept
21 informed.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Marian, could I say -- could
24 I, again, just clarification, this would apply to all the
25 different subcommittees. Is it okay to send it to, like,



1 say, Commissioner Le Mons wants to send something about
2 the council? Is it okay to essentially send one email
3 copying the staff and the subcommittee?

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, that would be okay.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Clarification on that. Would
6 it be more appropriate to send it to staff and copy the
7 subcommittee, or the other way around?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Your preference. There's no magic
9 rule on that.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. And then, Madam Chair,
11 I have one more subcommittee -- not the ones listed --
12 question for when it's appropriate during this agenda
13 item.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: On the same point, I think,
16 for the Census subcommittee. At what point does it then
17 become a serial meeting? So if another Commissioner is
18 emailing the two members of a subcommittee and the staff,
19 the subcommittee cannot respond; is that correct?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: You can respond as long as you don't
21 get to be a quorum. So if it's just the two of you to
22 one of the commissioners, there's no problem with that.
23 But then that should not be distributed to everybody on
24 the Commission.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So sorry. I think this will

1 clarify; say like, specifically, on your letters. Say,
2 if I have comments and I send them to the staff and to
3 both you and Commissioner Toledo. And then you might
4 say, you know, we didn't like it, clarify, get it all
5 cleaned up, and then send it back to me. But then I
6 never see anything that goes, say, from Commissioner
7 Fernandez that does the same. And so not until the
8 document is completed, and then you will be showing it to
9 everybody. That's the time when everyone hears about it.

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Is that correct?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: That's correct.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. Thank you for that
15 question. I feel like we have had a situation in which
16 another commissioner had -- I can go back and check my
17 emails, but the response was, careful; this is becoming a
18 serial meeting, so I appreciate that clarification, and I
19 will go back --

20 MS. JOHNSTON: And the other option, if you wish
21 something you consider important enough to have everybody
22 involved, is to do it during a notice meeting.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Right. Of course.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa and Kennedy.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So I want to make sure I'm

1 understanding this correctly. So I think I heard that if
2 we wanted to share something with the entire Commission
3 (audio interference) staff so that you're kept in the
4 loop versus just sending something to staff to then
5 redistribute to the Commission?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. If it's through the entire
7 Commission, because that will do as a warning on there,
8 not to discuss it with each other, but just to reply to
9 the staff.

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Got it. Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this time, Madam
13 Chair. Thank you.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any additional
15 questions/comments on hiring of the Chief Counsel?
16 Seeing none. The next subcommittee is the hiring of
17 Communications Director. Commissioners Taylor and
18 Commissioner Vazquez, do you all have an update for us?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So we have made the edits as
20 per our discussion from our last meeting to the
21 Communications Director recruitment posting. We then,
22 let's see, the Royal Week, Raul has been doing the work
23 to get that advertised, get that reposted across several,
24 hopefully, wider spread distribution lists.

25 So specifically, it went out in The Nooner and the

1 Capitol Morning Report. And those have pretty wide
2 circulation in Sacramento and political government
3 circles, so hoping to get a wide distribution there. And
4 then the website, idealist.org, which has wide
5 circulation around community groups and nonprofits.

6 So especially because the discussion around the
7 Communications Director was really centered around their
8 ability to support and even lead outreach to several
9 diverse communities and ethnic communities, hoping that
10 that really widened that, gets us some high-quality
11 candidates, in addition to the candidates that we had
12 gotten sort of through the first wave.

13 So we did commit to keeping folks in the pool who
14 had already applied via the first process. I don't
15 believe that we heard back from anybody around
16 withdrawing their application. We did also offer the
17 option of amending their materials based on the new
18 posting, if they so wish.

19 So hopefully, like I said, we are on track to
20 growing our pool for the Communications Director
21 position.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Taylor, do you have
23 anything to add?

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No. Commissioner Vazquez said
25 it very well and succinctly. I also encourage us to use

1 your channels and our partners to reach out. Our goal is
2 to have this done fairly shortly, within the two weeks
3 that we agreed upon, so that we can begin to filter the
4 applications and we can move on to the next phase.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any questions or comments
6 from the group regarding the hiring of Communications
7 Director? No questions? Commissioner Sadhwani.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Very quick. Is it possible
9 for someone to send us the link of where we can find it
10 so we can send it out? I know several different places.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I've got it open. Is it okay
12 for me to send it --

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- or not? Okay. I'll send it
15 out right now.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Commissioner Kennedy, just
17 checking in with you. Do you have any thoughts or
18 questions on this particular subcommittee or for this
19 subcommittee?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm looking at the job
21 posting, and it has a final filing date of Friday. Was
22 that intended or was this to be 30 September as well?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: If you're talking about the one on
24 the state website, I contacted them yesterday because
25 they changed the date on it, and I have directed them to

1 fix that.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Perfect. Thank you.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Thank you for that update.

4 Moving on to the Finance Subcommittee. Commissioners
5 Fornaciari and Fernandez, you have the floor.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Let's see. I don't think
7 we have a whole lot to report at this point. We want to
8 get with Raul and with the budget. Raul has been super
9 busy with other stuff. Hopefully, he's going to -- you
10 know, he'll come to us with the -- I think at the next
11 meeting with some interim temporary staff.

12 A couple of things, though -- updates that I want to
13 give that I did. One question was about whether the
14 computers we have will run ArcGIS, and the answer is no.
15 And so there's not enough memory on the hard drives to
16 download the software, plus, I'm pretty sure that the
17 processing horsepower is not -- it might run, but it
18 won't be adequate. I mean, no big rush on that. It's
19 something we need to think about.

20 The other thing that I didn't get a chance to talk
21 to Raul about that I thought about, I mean, I think part
22 of the problem some of the folks might be having is with
23 these cheap webcams that we have. And I'm just wondering
24 if we can get the folks who need better webcams, if
25 that's an option. And I didn't get a chance to talk to

1 Raul about that. But maybe what we can do is, is those
2 of you who are struggling with your microphones or having
3 problems with your webcam, maybe you can let Raul know,
4 and maybe we can look into getting some more decent
5 webcams for those folks.

6 Oh, and then Raul just sent out the historical
7 budget that we're going to talk about, I think, at the
8 next meeting. And so what the plan is here is to kind of
9 look at the historical budget, look at the burn rate that
10 we're -- the remote we're looking at right now, and
11 couple that with the Gantt chart that's coming out, and I
12 have an idea where we're headed with the budget, how many
13 meetings we think we can afford, that kind of thing. But
14 again, we're in the early days and we'll get on that, you
15 know, as soon as we can. But, you know, other things I
16 think are more pressing at this point.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any questions or comments
18 for the Finance Subcommittee? Yes. Commissioner Turner,
19 and then Fernandez.

20 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I just wanted some
21 clarification. Are we waiting for the Finance Committee
22 to update the computers, or are we needing to submit
23 something? I thought, the computers when they were
24 received, that once we had our full Commission they were
25 being switched out as well as the phones. And so it

1 sounds like I'm hearing something different, so I'd just
2 like that clarified, please.

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I hadn't heard
4 about the computers being switched out. I thought we
5 were just switching out the phones.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And it certainly could have
7 been hopeful thinking, I don't know. I'm just asking,
8 what is the plan?

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So you mentioned
10 you wanted a -- you were a Mac person, right?

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. And I understand that
12 the technology or the software won't work with a Mac --

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- so I did make peace with
15 that. But it's still a very heavy old computer to move
16 around. And so I just was still in the mindset that this
17 was a temporary piece of equipment that was going to be
18 upgraded with the phones.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Yeah, that wasn't
20 part of my thinking. I'll just share -- I guess I didn't
21 share. I thought we might be looking at getting, you
22 know, a few computers that can run ArcGIS, but I mean,
23 maybe that's not the right approach. Maybe we need to
24 think of a different approach there. And that's raising
25 a lot of hands.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, Sinay, and
2 then Kennedy.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I think in the last
4 meeting where we were with -- there's a few people that
5 are having issues -- I think that Commissioner Sinay is
6 having issues with her computer and there's a few others,
7 and those were going to be replaced.

8 And then I just wanted to add a little bit more on
9 the Budget Committee. Raul did forward some contracts
10 that we'll be reviewing for discussion on Friday, Agenda
11 Item Number 10. And again, in terms of the budget that
12 he's putting together, it'll show obviously, 2010, and
13 what their budget was and what their expenditures were,
14 and then we'll start a budget for 2020 showing the
15 expenditures and what expenditures and encumbrances
16 because obviously, that'll give us a good idea of -- at
17 some point in time if we need to go back and request
18 additional funds. But at some point in time, when we
19 hire the budget or finance person, hopefully, that'll be
20 their task in terms of continuing to look at those line
21 items -- that line item detail. So that's all I have.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I listened in on the NCLS free
24 webinar on technology and redistricting and there's a ton
25 of questions that we need to look through and think

1 through, and if we're each going to have one or if we're
2 going to do one that's online. And so maybe
3 Commissioner -- we could just have to wait a little to
4 make any decisions like that because I think there'll be
5 a lot of budget questions.

6 I do recommend the webinar. Karin, who has
7 presented to us, was one of the presenters, and there's
8 just a lot of stuff I didn't know about that helped me
9 feel like, okay, now I know what to do.

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can you send a link to
11 that?

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. I can send it out to all
13 of you. It was part of the link that was sent out last
14 meeting of all the different trainings, but I'll send out
15 the link to just that one again, because I know Google
16 Mail is not very easy to manage. So I'll get it out to
17 you all.

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So I mean, you
19 know, there are web-based mapping applications, too, but
20 then there's -- you know, we've got to consider security
21 issues in the big picture, too. I was also kind of
22 waiting, I guess -- I apologize, Commissioner Le Mons. I
23 should have my act together a little bit better than I do
24 right now, and I should be telling the full story.

25 We're getting this presentation on redistricting



1 software. You know, the state database is making a --
2 you know, it's putting together a free tool to use. You
3 know, I kind of thought we had a little bit of time to
4 better understand what was happening down the road and
5 make a decision on what we were going to do with
6 computers for mapping and that kind of thing. But it
7 sounds like there's two different issues here.

8 It sounds like some people have computers that just
9 aren't working for them at this point, and we should get
10 them computers that work. And then we need to come up
11 with a strategy and figure out what we're doing with how
12 we're going to manage mapping software and doing that
13 work.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Anderson.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You know, I understand the
16 idea that we definitely need to figure out the software
17 that the state is proposing, and that's why I thought we
18 were waiting on the computers. But if people are having
19 issues right now and need new computers, we don't want to
20 be getting different kinds of computers based on, you
21 know, oh, well, okay, that'll do. That's kind of good
22 enough, but not good enough. You know, it's like it's
23 okay, but not good enough.

24 And the idea that all of us don't have a computer
25 that can do the software, I have a real problem with.

1 That's because we can't -- you know, we can't do our
2 jobs. I mean, that's like -- you know, I mean, this
3 is -- our jobs are to draw the lines, and if our
4 computers aren't going to handle the software, then
5 that's a problem. I don't see any other way to put it
6 nicely. That's just inadequate because that's our job,
7 to draw the lines and we need to get the information and
8 everything around it, but that's a basic.

9 So we will have to have -- and it's not that
10 different in terms of, you know, if this doesn't -- these
11 computers, which are indeed heavy -- if it doesn't have
12 enough memory, you know, then that's something -- the
13 cost of getting a new computer that's updated and a new
14 computer that has enough memory is not that different.
15 And it's something that I think is a mandatory thing we
16 need to have. I don't think I can say it any more
17 distinctly that, you know, that's something we don't
18 have. I would rather then -- let's wait until -- let's
19 find out what the software is, what we need, and then get
20 the computers all at one time. And then I don't think
21 that needs to be too delayed. I just don't know in terms
22 of the cost how that will actually fit in, but that would
23 be my vote rather than getting people a couple of
24 computers now -- unless we're just temporary things -- to
25 make sure it's the same computer that everyone can work

1 with.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Kennedy, Taylor, and
3 Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point, Madam
5 Chair. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. So I agree. If we're
7 not going to move to something that's web-based map
8 drawing, I would think a simple point of litigation in
9 the future would be that these commissioners don't even
10 have a computer that can draw a map, and they're
11 responsible for a map. I would think that's something
12 that we'd want to cut off. That's it.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then
14 Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I'm going to pile on
16 that, and I'll also agree. One thought that I have is in
17 terms of the computers, as much as I would love to have
18 something that would be more (audio interference).
19 Excuse me. I'm with Commissioner Turner, perhaps --
20 sorry about that. Is there an option to upgrade the
21 memory -- the RAM on the current computer so that it can
22 handle the software? I just want to throw that out. I'm
23 not very computer savvy on these things, but that is
24 something that we've done at my organization where we do
25 need to have more computing power.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. Neal, did you
2 want -- I might just jump in. On a laptop, you know,
3 updating your memory, you know, the cost of taking it in
4 and updating it doesn't -- adding more memory isn't much,
5 but if there are other glitches, then you kind of have to
6 have different memory with it. There's a downtime,
7 there's the -- basically, the cost of putting it in.
8 It's typically more expensive than getting a new machine.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't think these
10 computers have the horsepower, even if they had enough
11 memory.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez and then
13 Vazquez. I saw your hand up.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just a quick question to
15 Raul. Raul, how long will it take to get new computers?
16 At the point in time when we decide, okay, we have a line
17 drawer, we want to make sure we have computers that are
18 going to be compatible with that. Regarding the
19 procurement process, I think it's somewhat lengthy, but I
20 remember you said something at the last meeting. I don't
21 have a specific time frame.

22 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: You can probably count
23 on about six weeks to get computers. As the discussion
24 is going on, two issues that I'm kind of having trouble
25 understanding. Two individuals indicated that they were

1 having trouble with their computers, and when I reached
2 out, well, specifically to Commissioner Sinay, who's
3 having the blue screen of death, the response I got back
4 was, I think I have it now. I'll let you know if I
5 continue to have any problems.

6 So I haven't really heard from anyone that they're
7 having these detrimental problems with the computers
8 being inoperable. And so I am a little surprised. And I
9 would like to let you know, if you are having issues with
10 your computer, please let me know because otherwise, I
11 don't know.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Kennedy, and
13 then Turner.

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I mean, I think that
15 we've got two separate issues. There's the immediate
16 troubleshooting of specific computers right now, and then
17 perhaps maybe -- I'm not sure which committee this would
18 go to, but it sounds like (audio interference) solve
19 include what our wish list would be for new computers,
20 besides that. And then either this interim, hopefully,
21 IT person or a committee or something comes up with a
22 proposal here, the last (audio interference) we can have
23 based on what we know, will need to be the minimum to run
24 the software.

25 You know, like for me, ideally, I would love to not

1 have an external camera, so I'd like to have a computer
2 that already has a camera built-in but also that is thin
3 enough and light enough that I can travel with, but also
4 has the horsepower to run the software. So it sounds
5 like we need to, like, come up with a wish list of what
6 our ideal mission/work computer looks like, and then go
7 out and get that for everyone.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy and then Turner.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point, Madam
10 Chair. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And I think good for the
12 conversation. I just wanted to say that, Raul, for sure
13 my computer, I don't believe, is broken. And I think
14 it's a matter of setting expectations. Our initial
15 Counsel that we had -- I can't think of her name right at
16 the moment -- but of course, when I initially reached out
17 at the surprise that it was not a Mac -- or just whatever
18 to talk about it -- the thing that I was told at that
19 time is that these were temporary computers and they
20 would be being switched out, which is why the age of the
21 computer, the not attached camera, and the ported mouse
22 and all those things to me and said, oh, okay, it's a
23 transitional computer.

24 So I've been waiting for it because if you are
25 mobile moving from place to place, it is quite

1 cumbersome. It fits in no computer bags that are
2 current. And so it just is a -- we need to be able to
3 get into them. We should not be pulling it up on our own
4 computers or what have you, and I'm trying to adhere to
5 that, and carry it around. So not that it's not
6 operational; it's just that I was expecting to have it
7 changed out and that's what I was looking for.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Fornaciari and then
9 Sadhwani.

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'll let Commissioner
11 Sadhwani go first.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Very briefly, to say that I
13 agree with Commissioner Turner. That was my
14 understanding as well from the previous counsel.

15 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Interesting.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, I'll just
17 offer then to take the action to get more deeply into
18 understanding the software and the requirements for the
19 software -- the variety of software out there -- to try
20 to get a hold of the statewide data -- or will, not
21 try -- I will get ahold of the statewide database and
22 understand, you know, what they're planning on doing with
23 their software and with the requirements are.

24 But I'll look around at the variety of different
25 software that may be used for mapping and make sure I

1 understand the computer requirements for that. And then
2 I'll get with -- well, Alicia and I will do this -- I'm
3 volunteering her too -- and then get with Raul to -- get
4 with Raul to, you know, understand the procurement
5 process and what -- you know, if there's some limitations
6 on what we can buy and bring that back. And Commissioner
7 Andersen's waving frantically.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm just waving frantically
9 because, look, you know, I'm a structural engineer who --
10 I do drawings and that's sort of in my wheelhouse in
11 terms of what you need and what's out there. So I would
12 be more than willing to help out with this. And yeah,
13 like, you know, I have a small, nice light laptop that
14 will fly and will do AutoCAD, which is way more
15 cumbersome than any of the GIS software.

16 So I will be more than happy, you know -- if we need
17 a subcommittee that's just doing that or the Line Drawing
18 Subcommittee or -- I would love to put in my two cents
19 because it's something that I think I can save us all a
20 lot of time.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Just one warning, that you need to
22 have a subcommittee of no more than two people. So if
23 Commissioner Andersen wants to get involved, maybe there
24 could be a separate computer research --

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm relinquishing that

1 piece of it to Commissioner Andersen. How's that?

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'll take it. But I think
3 there's other comments.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think that Commissioner
6 Andersen opened the door to the practice that I made
7 earlier about wanting to address something. So we had a
8 discussion earlier, and I was very serious about
9 Troubleshooting Subcommittee, Chair. So I'm actually
10 inviting you to appoint one. And it sounds like earlier,
11 it was Commissioner Andersen, who also expressed an
12 interest, and I'd be willing to support her. And we
13 could not just take this on, but I think other things
14 that need to be troubleshooted, and working with staff,
15 you'd have a dedicated team of people who are giving some
16 attention to that at your pleasure.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would totally love that
18 idea because it would be just specific troubleshooting
19 rather than an entire topic. Like, it's not the Finance
20 Committee, this is an element of that, you know, and
21 getting our communications cleared up. It's not part of
22 the communications; it's like the weird little pieces --
23 the trouble part of that.

24 And I would totally second Commissioner Le Mons'
25 idea that it could be a separate little subcommittee, and

1 I'd be more than willing to chair, if that's -- I mean,
2 to be on that subcommittee, if the chair will so approve.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Any questions, comments? Yes,
4 Commissioner Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So it would not be
6 Commissioner Fornaciari, it would be Andersen and Le
7 Mons? I just want to make sure that I clear it for my
8 agenda for next time, in terms of what they'll be
9 presenting. Yeah?

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Well, I just want to -- before I --
11 you know, I don't know what the formal process is before
12 I embark on the formal process. I just want to make sure
13 that we're all on the same page with this.

14 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Yes.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: So what is being proposed on the floor
16 is to appoint a new subcommittee, which will be the
17 Troubleshooting Subcommittee. They will take on tasks
18 that come up throughout our meetings and between
19 meetings, I'm assuming. Yes? Can I get a nod? Okay.

20 Do we want to clarify what kinds of troubleshooting,
21 or is that something that we as a group will just say,
22 hey, this looks like it belongs to the Troubleshooting
23 Subcommittee? Yes? Okay.

24 Commissioner Sadhwani.

25 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was going to say that it

1 would be very specific to the operational (audio
2 interference). That is the operation of line drawing
3 when we get to that point, right, or thinking about
4 community interest or something of that nature, that it
5 is a very specific to operational issues.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, I saw you
7 unmute.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I'm flexible on what
9 the topics are. I think little things are going to come
10 up. Like, what I'm not suggesting is that we're
11 circumventing the current standing committees at all. So
12 I want to be very clear. So I'm not suggesting to
13 replace what Commissioner Fornaciari is doing with
14 regards to finding out what's required for the software
15 on the line drawing. No, no, we're not -- I'm not
16 suggesting we take that part on; he's doing that. What
17 triggered it for me -- well, I had been thinking about it
18 earlier, because we had other issues that kind of sat out
19 there. And if there is some communication that needs to
20 happen specific to those issues, you know, fill in the
21 blank with staff, it may be a procedural thing that we
22 need to understand.

23 So we'd just be bringing, you know, that support
24 information to the council each time -- I mean, to the
25 Commission each time, so that that helps inform whatever

1 decisions. But it isn't specific to any of the other
2 subcommittees, and I think in this case, Commissioner
3 Andersen just happens to have expertise when it comes to
4 equipment, hardware, and software for laptops or portable
5 computers.

6 So this just happens to be one of those things. But
7 we can -- if you appoint it, we can more specifically at
8 each meeting, decide what that is and say, okay, we'd
9 like the Troubleshooting Subcommittee to look into X, Y,
10 Z, whatever that is. It could be broad or narrow as the
11 Commission wants.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. I already have a few items for
13 your to-do list at the end of this meeting. Commissioner
14 Fornaciari.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I think that the
16 requirements for the line drawing software are going to
17 inform, you know, the specifications for the computers
18 that we decide we want to get. So I'm happy to continue
19 to get those specifications, if you'd like, or I could
20 pass that on to the Troubleshooting Committee to do that
21 too, either way. But I'm not -- if I do it, I'm not sure
22 how to communicate that without breaking the rules.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I might just say that a bit
24 of coordination through our staff, I think, would easily
25 facilitate that because --

1 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- you know, I have -- look,
3 it should probably have this, you know, this, this, this
4 criterion, and I think it would facilitate -- it would
5 help your process going, you know, if I have this, does
6 all the software work? And they'll say yeah, or they
7 might say yeah, but oh no, we don't need that, you know,
8 particular chip capacity or amount of storage.

9 I think a bit of coordination through the staff
10 could help you in all the different softwares, just --
11 almost more like do a checklist, so it would help
12 facilitate that.

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I'll do that. I'll
14 look at the software. I'll get a summary together. It's
15 going to be a quad core i7 with --

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right, and memory --

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- with like tons of
18 memory and a huge hard drive and -- excuse me. Go ahead.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- and a good graphics card.

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: I see Commissioner Vazquez and Le
22 Mons.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. So my understanding
24 from other boards that an issue can crosscut committees
25 through that, correct? Like, so there's going to be

1 financial implications based on whatever the
2 Troubleshooting Committee finds us, like proper
3 computers.

4 So it seems like there should be some coordination
5 through staff, between two subcommittees, potentially, on
6 this issue or others, right? That the Troubleshooting
7 folks are going to take the lead and then whomever needs
8 to sort of weigh in will also be appropriately legally
9 looped in through staff, correct?

10 MS. JOHNSTON: That will work, yes.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I was going to say --
13 but I realize it won't work. I was going to say I'm also
14 willing to step back and have Commissioner Fornaciari and
15 Andersen run with it, but I realize they can't. So I'll
16 stay. That's all.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Nice try.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Nice try.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: And so I will go ahead and appoint
20 Commissioner Andersen and Le Mons to the Troubleshooting
21 Subcommittee. Yes, Raul.

22 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to add,
23 before you go too much further, IT is done through
24 statewide contracts, and so you have a pool of equipment
25 that's already there, been contracted, priced out, et

1 cetera. When you start stepping outside of that, you're
2 basically asking somebody to custom develop it for you.
3 And so go ahead and add a few more weeks onto that
4 process, plus delivery time, plus cost.

5 They don't make it easy. This is the first that
6 I've heard about these computers being temporary. These
7 computers -- I'll just leave it at that. That's the
8 first I've ever heard of that. So the fact that other
9 Commissioners were told that, I'm going to follow up on
10 that because these aren't temporary or that was not the
11 intention.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was going to say, like
14 this, what just happened right here, is a great example
15 of what the Troubleshooting Committee would do. Get to
16 the bottom of all these variables so that we know the
17 frame that we can and cannot operate within, and we know
18 the considerations and impact of all these different
19 variables. And then just bring that -- we're like fact
20 finders and bring the information back, so that, you
21 know, decisions can be made with the broadest swath of
22 correct information. So I just wanted to say that.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, do you have
24 anything to add at this point?

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point. Thank

1 you, Madam Chair.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So Commissioners Andersen
3 and Le Mons, you all will be troubleshooting for us.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. There is one subcommittee
6 that is not listed explicitly but does still fall under
7 Agenda Item Number 9, which is the Outreach and
8 Engagement Subcommittee. We must break at 12:45, so
9 hopefully, we can cover that subcommittee content in the
10 next ten minutes. Commissioners Vazquez and Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I feel like I already shared at
12 the beginning, so I don't know if you want to add
13 anything, Commissioner Vazquez. Basically, right now
14 we're just trying to understand the lay of the land in
15 2010, but also understand best practices -- you know,
16 thinking through what can help us all together think
17 through 2020. And I did want to publicly thank the
18 collaborative letter that we got from public comments
19 because I was getting ready to create something like
20 that. So thank you for doing a much better job than I
21 could have ever done it for everybody.

22 And you know, I think the only thing I would want to
23 add is I saw on the agenda we may have space to have a
24 speaker. I think it's important that the reason we start
25 our conversations with the philanthropy is because we do

1 have a two-million-dollar budget. And last time Irvine
2 Foundation invested three-million dollars, and that was
3 ten years ago. And so I think it's important to
4 understand where those outside of the Commission are
5 complementing the work we're doing, what we need to do,
6 and thinking through how we go deeper. There's different
7 levels (audio interference).

8 Commissioner Kennedy, for some reason, your phone
9 is -- okay.

10 So that's just why we haven't gone to community
11 groups and had any conversations. It's been more
12 understanding the big picture for figuring out how to
13 bring the big picture to you all. Commissioner Vazquez.

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. Thank you for that
15 summary. I also wanted to add that part of my lens in
16 this engagement is to increase access to folks, both sort
17 of in this fully most-strict quarantine time of this
18 pandemic, but also wanting to plan for this whole process
19 to be as accessible as possible across the state, because
20 even if, in an ideal world, you know, we're in a much
21 more socially open landscape across the state.

22 There will still be -- I think there's still
23 definitely an opportunity for us to build on what is
24 being created, in terms of virtual engagement, both on
25 the public side, but also privately through, you know,

1 online digital organizing, et cetera.

2 So that's how I have been approaching these
3 conversations with folks in terms of best practices
4 because I do think even in a post-vaccine world, I still
5 think that we as a Commission can do all we can virtually
6 to increase communicating to those folks who are not able
7 to attend in-person meetings, if and when we're able to
8 have them.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have questions or comments for
10 the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee? Yes,
11 Commissioner Le Mons?

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: My question is the community
13 collaborative letter that we received. And I know you
14 guys are working on the big picture portion right now,
15 but for example, something like that, how would you --
16 and this is -- I guess, so when something like that
17 comes, then would this be the appropriate committee? And
18 I know that that wasn't specific to just outreach. It's,
19 you know, global, but would you take that list and
20 explore it and then come back with recommendations?

21 Okay. So all right. That's what I was wondering.
22 Maybe give us just a little insight into how you would do
23 that, like what we can expect as a Commission around
24 something. This is just an example.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So we haven't had a chance to

1 really think through all the pieces. So we don't have an
2 official report. But my thought was -- kind of my
3 thought process has been -- we have that regional map.
4 Last time they broke up California into regions. I think
5 we need to look at that regional map together.

6 So that's kind of the first step is for all of us to
7 understand that regional map. Yeah, I'm not a big fan of
8 all of it, but think through the regional map because
9 that's going to be our guide then to the outcome -- you
10 know, to moving from there. Understand what's covered by
11 those community groups in that regional map. I was glad
12 that they gave their areas. And then thinking through --
13 there's national players, there's regional players, but
14 then we also need to think through the local players that
15 will help on the outreach.

16 And then on top of that, another layer on all of
17 this is how do we use technology and what technology is
18 working well out there, and how do we learn from -- how
19 do we use the census infrastructure that was created? So
20 those are some of the -- more than anything, what I've
21 been trying to do is just uncover those questions that we
22 can bring to the group with some speakers to answer those
23 questions. Based on the stuff that I had pulled out the
24 last time we all met, and things kept coming up. Does
25 that help?



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. It was
3 definitely along the -- sort of the regional lines, and I
4 was wondering -- that letter was wonderful, and I really
5 appreciated it. I was specifically looking at the
6 locations and regional, and I was wondering if the
7 Outreach Committee, you could possibly talk to some of
8 those groups and otherwise -- because what, of course, I
9 was looking at is where they all were and what was
10 missing.

11 And except for, you know, I think it was Pico and
12 obviously, Common Cause, Legal Women Voters, and I
13 believe it was Conservation Voters. They are like
14 statewide, but Pico was the -- and Pico actually heads up
15 north; everyone else is down south. And the areas that
16 we're really --

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Pico is actually -- Pico's
18 based up north --

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- but they have local groups
21 throughout. So like San Diego, or organizing causes to
22 local ones. So a lot of those do have locals.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: If you could possibly --
24 where we need help is particularly up north and
25 particularly given all the fires. Essentially, that

1 entire section of our state, even the organizations that
2 might already be there, have been or will have been
3 displaced.

4 So if any of those members have connections
5 elsewhere, you know, that's something I hope we could
6 certainly -- that people will be bringing to our group,
7 because I think that's going to be a really hard area for
8 us to work on. So I just want to make sure that -- I'm
9 sure you were aware of that, but I just want to make sure
10 we brought that up.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, and I think speaking with
12 Amy, who's the consultant both with the California
13 Philanthropy, who last time -- well, it was with Irvine
14 last time and with California Philanthropy this time --
15 one of the things that she said is that there are exactly
16 what you said, and their funding again, was 3 million
17 last time, and this time a million with only -- they've
18 already spent 600 on getting folks through kind of to
19 apply. So they only have 400 left for outreach and that
20 our piece is going out this week.

21 So that's a very different map than the map that we
22 had before. So when we have the conversation, how do we
23 make grants and contracts? A funding map. You can't
24 just ask groups to do work without giving them that
25 support and the money to have the outreach workers doing

1 that work. So that's why we need to have that
2 conversation of understanding the money and the regions
3 and all that. And then what can we do to support those
4 groups that are on the ground that need the funding to be
5 able to do this?

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think what I'm -- I just
8 want to make sure I'm hearing things correctly. I think
9 what I heard Commissioner Andersen perhaps asking about
10 is how are we going to reach those organizations -- and
11 they may not come with titles like, you know, with Civic
12 Engagement and those titles. It could be like a Humboldt
13 County Community Foundation that knows -- the really,
14 Michael players or the organizations that are in those
15 areas that perhaps don't necessarily come to the
16 attention of, like, the Irvine Foundation or even some of
17 the other larger players. And they may be in coalition,
18 but given everything that's going on, it wouldn't be
19 surprising that they're, you know, possibly offline right
20 now.

21 So I think -- I just want to say, I think we need to
22 really be expansive in who we're looking at and not just
23 limit ourselves to the civic engagement groups, that
24 there may be other organizations, in my experience, you
25 know, where they may not have the kind of right

1 organization name but end up doing a lot of different
2 things just because they're the only ones up there. So
3 just want to be mindful of that, in terms of particularly
4 the far north, so.

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I know we have --

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I've
9 been thinking about this quite a bit as well, trying to
10 come up with some thoughts on who has networks statewide.
11 And I know that last time there was a statewide network
12 of, I think, six redistricting information centers that
13 UC Berkeley started up -- or a statewide database set up.
14 But six of these is not nearly enough. And so thinking
15 about this, two entities that came to mind that the
16 Outreach Committee may want to consider and do some more
17 research on; one is the California Libraries Association.

18 So local libraries are throughout California. And
19 how can we engage with the Library Association to get
20 information out? I think this would also be very
21 important when we start taking public input on maps. If
22 every public library in California had equipment
23 available to members of the public to come in and draw
24 their own maps and submit them from their local public
25 library rather than having to find one of six information

1 centers statewide. To me, that would be an enormous
2 expansion of our outreach footprint.

3 And the other entity that came to mind was
4 California community colleges. There are ninety-some
5 California community college districts, and some of those
6 districts have multiple colleges. Many, if not all, have
7 political science faculty who could be trained by us to
8 provide information and assistance and information to the
9 public. And so those two networks, I think, if we can
10 find a way to engage with them, would really ramp up our
11 public outreach footprint down the road. Thank you.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Commissioner Vazquez.

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. If I could just
14 respond to both of the previous two comments. My goal
15 and my hope is also to do, again, a landscape analysis to
16 try to find where there are potential gaps in terms of
17 our direct connections to community groups, organizers --
18 anyone who's sort of civically engaged in these more
19 local areas, particularly up north. Because I have also,
20 a laundry list of potential folks, in terms of
21 categories, whom I think I would love to be directly
22 connected with in terms of the Commission.

23 So you know, schools, school boards, you know, as
24 Commissioner Kennedy said, the community colleges. There
25 are groups who are civically engaged at the hyper-local

1 level that I'm sure, you know, would love to hear from us
2 but maybe aren't engaged currently.

3 So absolutely, I don't think we should rely on sort
4 of the big -- rely solely on the big names and the big
5 players. But that also we -- I think it's on us, as a
6 Commission, to proactively reach into those and tap into
7 those local networks, especially those that aren't as
8 well represented at a statewide level.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: So we are right up at break. I wanted
10 to ask if we need some more time after lunch to continue
11 this conversation, or are we agreeing to continue this
12 particular conversation when we come back to open session
13 on Friday? What are thoughts around that? Commissioner
14 Turner and Sinay.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I can certainly wait until
16 later.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. As I said, since we
19 weren't on the agenda, we didn't really prepare anything.
20 But knowing what you all are thinking, I think it's very
21 easy for us to prepare something for the next -- for our
22 next meeting that's coming up, that will answer more of
23 the questions.

24 And the only reason I'm looking at Irvine was just
25 because they were such a strong funder. But my

1 background is all community foundations, United Way,
2 Giving Circles. And I also -- I'm really -- this time
3 around, the census blocks that were created are amazing.
4 And those are private public health care -- the health
5 care foundations -- I mean, not health care -- health
6 public clinics are very engaged in census and in voting
7 registration and all that. So there's a lot of entities
8 out there.

9 So I think we're in a good place to build on what
10 was started. So we'll get that all succinct for you guys
11 next time.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for your report.
13 Commissioner Turner, I just wanted to ask if your comment
14 was related to subcommittees or if it's on --

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I basically was going to say
16 that I am a Pico California Federation, and so I know
17 that they are throughout all of California, and they're
18 actually a federation made up of a lot of smaller
19 organizations. And so that's all I was going to add back
20 when that was the talk.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Thank you. I asked because I
22 think we need to make a very clear distinction of what's
23 going to happen next in our agenda. And this is also
24 related to our technical support and our videographers as
25 well. So we are now at 12:51. We will break for one

1 hour for lunch and then go into closed session.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Sorry. I'm wondering if
5 inviting public comments on the discussion that we've
6 just had might be useful/helpful, and then go into closed
7 session after lunch.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: So are you suggesting public comment
9 when we return from lunch?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Do we have any objections to
12 that or other recommendations? Are we okay with that?
13 Yes? Okay. So when we return from lunch at 1:51, we
14 will take public comments on anything and everything that
15 has been discussed so far on our agenda, and then we will
16 move into closed session. Just so the commissioners are
17 aware, please keep an eye out on your inbox. We will
18 receive further instructions on how to access closed
19 session. Any questions before we break? Okay. See you
20 all in one hour at 1:53.

21 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

22 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Seeing no callers in
23 queue, Christian, would you be so kind as to remind my
24 colleagues and myself what the process looks like for
25 joining into a closed session?

1 MR. CHRISTIAN: Certainly, Chair. So by now, you
2 should have hopefully received the instructions for
3 joining by Zoom. And so after we adjourn out of this
4 session, we'll go into a separate Zoom meeting, and you
5 should all have that information now.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. So in order to troubleshoot
7 some unanticipated -- if there are unanticipated
8 glitches, let's try to be on that Zoom link by 2:04. So
9 if you have any issues, please make sure that Christian,
10 Raul, and staff are also aware of that as we transition
11 into closed session.

12 And before we jump over, just so that folks are
13 aware, we will be in closed session for the remainder of
14 today and through tomorrow, and we will jump back into
15 open session on Friday. Do we have any questions or
16 comments at this time regarding this process?

17 All-righty. I will be --

18 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Chair Ahmad?

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

20 INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to note, I
21 will not be attending the closed session. I have recused
22 myself from the process. So if anyone is having any
23 problems, they could email Christian or Marilyn. I
24 won't --

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. You were closing. I
2 just wanted you to see Raul's hand.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh. Okay. Thank you, Raul, for that
4 update. All right. We will meet again in closed
5 session, and we will see everyone from the public back on
6 Friday.

7 (Whereupon the CRC Business Meeting recessed at
8 4:20 p.m.)

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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.



LISA HILL, CDLT-163

July 25, 2022
DATE

