

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

9:34 a.m.

Transcribed by:

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Jamie Clark
Michael Wagaman
Joel Yang, Senior Consultant for the State of California

Also PresentPublic Comment

Peter Cannon
Alejandra Ponce De Leon



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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 September 25, 2020

9:30 a.m.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome, everyone. Today is Friday,
4 September 25th. It is approximately 9:34 a.m.

5 Before we jump into items, can we have a roll call
6 attendance, please?

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad.

8 CHAIR AHMAD : Here.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Ma'am.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

22 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.



1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Present.

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Commissioner
5 Turner.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez.

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Hundred percent attendance.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much.

13 Before we jump into public comment, I thought it
14 would be appropriate to give folks a chance to start
15 preparing to dial in while we address the census update
16 that we got very late last night.

17 Counsel, I saw that you read all eighty-four pages.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Would you like to provide a very brief
20 update regarding census?

21 MS. JOHNSTON: This was the Northern District of
22 California decision in the National Urban League case,
23 and the court ordered a preliminary injunction to issue
24 barring Census from implementing its replan to shut down
25 the census early. There's already been an announcement

1 that there'll be an appeal of that. But for the time
2 being at least, the census will go through the
3 originally-scheduled date of the end of October.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Does anyone have any questions on that
5 brief update?

6 Yes, Commissioner Andersen.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just to Counsel, and also,
8 that didn't just apply to the October 31st date of the
9 census, but it also applied to when the census data needs
10 to be turned over to the President; is that correct?

11 MS. JOHNSTON: You're correct, thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And those dates, instead of
13 being December 31st, would now be April --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: No.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It --

16 MS. JOHNSTON: It did not order the time extended,
17 according to the first revision by the Commission -- by
18 the Census Bureau. It really merely said that they can't
19 end it early.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you. All right,
21 because it wasn't my understanding.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

23 Now, we will jump into public comment.

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: A question for Counsel.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes?

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Could you just say a little bit
3 more about the appeal process and how that could play out
4 or might play out?

5 MS. JOHNSTON: A preliminary injunction is
6 immediately appealable. They would appeal to the Ninth
7 Circuit. They can ask for a expedited hearing. Given
8 the significance of the case, it's a State -- it's a
9 nationwide injunction. I assume that the Ninth Circuit
10 would act rapidly on it. But that's all speculation at
11 this point.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Seeing no other hands, I
14 just wanted to provide a quick overview of what our
15 agenda looks like for today so that folks in the room and
16 the public can plan out their days. So we will jump into
17 general public comment and then we will address agenda
18 item number 8, which is scheduled currently to be heard
19 at 10 a.m. We will take public comment on that agenda
20 item, followed by agenda item number 10.

21 Raul has some updates and potential or possible
22 action for us to consider for contracts and procurement.
23 We'll take public comment on that agenda item as well.
24 Then we will jump into agenda item number 11, in which we
25 will discuss future meeting dates and future agenda



1 items.

2 And then after lunch, I'm thinking we will jump back
3 into closed session. And this is an update for everyone.
4 We do not have an update for you regarding our decision
5 yet on hiring of the Executive Director. We will
6 continue those deliberations today in the afternoon,
7 sometime in closed session. And we will make sure to
8 update folks as soon as we have an update.

9 Do we have any questions regarding the flow of
10 today? Great.

11 Raul, can we hear the instructions for calling in
12 for public comment?

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Of course, Madam
14 Chair.

15 The Commission will advise the viewing audience when
16 it is time to submit public comment. The Commissioners
17 will then allow time for those who wish to comment dial
18 in. To call in, first, on your phone, dial the telephone
19 number provided on the livestream feed.

20 Second, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number,
21 which is also provided on the livestream feed, using your
22 dial pad. Third, when prompted to enter a participant
23 ID, simply press the pound sign. Once you have dialed in
24 you, will be placed in a queue from which the Moderator
25 will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment.



1 You will also hear an automatic message saying to
2 press star 9, that's star 9, to raise your hand,
3 indicating that you wish to make a comment. When it is
4 your turn to speak, the Moderator will unmute you and you
5 will hear an automatic message that will say, the host
6 would like you to talk and to press star 6, that's star
7 6, to speak.

8 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
12 remember to turn down the livestream volume.

13 Commissioners will take comment for every action
14 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
15 stream, the Chair will call for public comments, just as
16 she has now. That is the time to call in.

17 The process for making a comment will be the same
18 each time. You begin by dialing the telephone number
19 provided on the livestream feed and following the steps
20 that I have just stated. These instructions are also on
21 the website.

22 Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have one person in
24 the queue.

25 You can press star 6, and if you can please state



1 and spell your name for the court reporter?

2 MR. CANNON: Yes, hi. My name is Peter Cannon,
3 P-E-T-E-R, Cannon, C-A-N-N-O-N.

4 Good morning. I've called during the last series of
5 meetings, and I've urged you to invite Commissioners from
6 the 2010 Commission to share their experiences with you.
7 When I saw that this meeting didn't include any of them
8 as guest speakers, and I see that the new meeting agenda
9 does not either, I decided to call in again.

10 The 2010 Commission has been recognized nationally
11 for its efforts, and I think that their experiences can
12 provide valuable insights and best practices. Printed
13 reports are just not the same as hearing firsthand from
14 individuals. And I hope you will please consider this
15 suggestion as you discuss agenda items for your future
16 meetings. Thank you for your time.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Are there any other callers? I do
18 have --

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There is no one in the
20 queue at this time.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- one correction and an apology to
22 Commissioner Andersen. You were exactly correct. I just
23 went and reread it. And the December 31st date was State
24 also.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Let's stand at ease for two minutes to



1 allow folks additional time to call in, since there is a
2 lag on the livestream.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Chair, Chair, Chair. Could
4 I just comment on that?

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just thank you, Counsel, for
7 that clarification. I guess I thought that had very --
8 that also was additionally very significant because in
9 terms, that would allow time, not just to collect the
10 data, but to verify the accuracy of it, which I think was
11 in -- particularly, in our instance, that it's extremely
12 impactful. Because we're all concerned with the
13 accuracy, and having that December 31st deadline still
14 there, then the data wouldn't be that good. So thank you
15 for the clarification.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you for noticing it. I hadn't
17 had my first cup of coffee when I read it this morning.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: Chair, if I could offer a census
19 tidbit. I'm looking at the 2020census.gov, and for the
20 enumeration report for California as of Wednesday, we're
21 standing at 97.7 percent enumerated. That is not quality
22 checked yet. So even though that seems like a very high
23 number, it's not -- may not be all it appears to be.

24 So that's 68.7 percent self-reported and 29 percent
25 from the NRFU follow-up. The lowest state looks like



1 maybe Alabama at ninety percent. Idaho is at 99.8. So
2 now, those are somewhat encouraging, at least in terms of
3 the initial enumeration.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Katy, do we have any additional public
5 comments in queue?

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So we will move forward.
8 Again, there's ample time for public comment throughout
9 the day, and we definitely encourage folks to call in and
10 share your thoughts along the way.

11 So the time is 9:45. I just wanted to check with
12 folks in the room if our presenter is here and/or
13 available at this time.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. They are on your cameras.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, perfect. Would our presenter mind
16 starting fifteen minutes earlier than anticipated, or do
17 you all think we should wait in case folks in the public
18 are also timing 10 a.m., as our clerks missed that time?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Your choice.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Any thoughts from my colleagues one
21 way or the other?

22 Yes, Commissioner Sadhwani and Turner.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I say let's proceed.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: In agreement. Let's proceed.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Well, our presenter for
2 agenda item number 8, you have the floor.

3 MR. WAGAMAN: Hi, my name is Michael Wagaman, and
4 I'm actually one of the three presenters on this item.
5 You heard from me previously, but as a reminder, I'm on
6 retainer by both the Assembly and the Senate to work on
7 some of the Legislature's mandates on
8 redistricting. I am joined by Joel Yang, who works with
9 the Senate Republican Caucus. So you do have a
10 bipartisan group here to kind of introduce the
11 presentation you're about to see.

12 To set the stage, three pieces of historical
13 context. First, when first adopted, the Voter's FIRST
14 Act, stated in part:

15 "The Legislature shall take all steps necessary
16 to ensure that procedures are in place to
17 provide the public ready access to
18 redistricting computer software for drawing
19 maps."

20 In the last redistricting, this mandate was
21 primarily met through funding from the Irvine Foundation.

22 By 2019, though, it was clear that the public would
23 not have the same level of access through privately
24 funded options this cycle. So the Legislature allocated
25 1.9 million dollars to the Statewide Database in part to

1 meet this specific mandate.

2 Second, in 2012, the Commission and Legislature
3 jointly amended the act to shift the starting date from
4 the Commission from December 31st to August 15th, which
5 is why you're all here able to meet now. Looking at this
6 change, though, relative to the mandate to provide
7 redistricting software, it meant that there would be a
8 longer period during which the Commission would be
9 formed, but before census data had been released, and
10 thus before the public could actually start drawing maps,
11 both specific districts or complete plans.

12 Third, like you, the Legislature reviewed the
13 handbook from the 2011 Commission. Under Section 4,
14 Community Input Hearings, Item 5, Formats for Receiving
15 Information, that report discusses challenges with
16 receiving testimony in multiple different formats. It
17 recommended, and I quote:

18 "Consider providing standardized and electronic
19 templates for comments and for maps that can be
20 easily integrated by mappers. The Commission
21 should decide whether this is the duty of the
22 Legislature through its responsibility for the
23 Statewide Database, or whether it will be up to
24 the Commission to work this out."

25 From these three pieces of historical context, the



1 software you're about to look at today was born. This
2 particular piece of software has a very specific and
3 narrow purpose: allow members of the public who want to
4 draw their community of interest to do so in a format
5 that can be easily used by the Commission. This was not
6 an option that was made readily available either through
7 publicly- or privately-funded options in 2011, and really
8 is something new for this cycle.

9 It is designed to allow that process of gathering
10 community-of-interest testimony to begin before, and I
11 emphasize before, the release of census data. It's a
12 web-based tool that can be used to solicit public
13 testimony both in and out of a public input hearing as
14 you move forward with that process.

15 It is designed so that the data that it creates can
16 be easily integrated into common GIS software so as to
17 remain neutral on both software and consulting decisions
18 in the future. The Voter's FIRST Act states, again and I
19 quote:

20 "Upon the Commission's formation and until its
21 dissolution, the Legislature shall coordinate
22 these efforts with the Commission."

23 So that's why we're here today.

24 The Statewide Database personified in this case in
25 the form of Ms. Jamie Clark is going to first, show you a



1 video that introduces you the software; second, offer to
2 demonstrate any aspects of the software you want to look
3 at. In addition, she'll walk you through options, should
4 Commissioners wish to participate in the current
5 usability testing going on on the software. And three,
6 she will introduce some questions where feedback from the
7 Commission is requested as part of that mandate to
8 coordinate between the Legislature and the Commission.

9 Before she begins, however, a few final notes.
10 First, to emphasize this is beta software, not yet ready
11 for public release. As I noted, it is going through
12 usability testing, which Ms. Clark will discuss. But
13 it's also because there are some places where there's
14 open-development questions, where feedback from the
15 Commission will allow the final software to be crafted to
16 best meet your needs.

17 Second, as noted, Ms. Clark is going to introduce
18 some questions for the Commission to consider. Please
19 note, we are not asking you to actually answer those
20 questions today. Indeed, many of those questions
21 probably should not be answered today.

22 For example, when to release -- actually release the
23 tool ties into your plans of when to begin the public-
24 input hearing process. What languages the tools should
25 be offered in is -- should of course be tied to the

1 Commission's decisions on what languages you're going to
2 offer. So we recognize those questions are intertwined.

3 What we are hoping for is we'll focus less on those
4 what answers but more on the how you want to get there.
5 For example, the last Commission had a technical
6 subcommittee that worked on issues relating to the
7 redistricting database.

8 Are you planning on having something similar? What
9 issues can be handled directly by staff? What issues
10 should be really brought back for consideration by the
11 full Commission?

12 And what issues, quite frankly, may you not care
13 about and you just want us to move forward, since you
14 have a lot on your plate and may not want to weigh in on
15 everything? Again, not looking for resolution today, but
16 hoping to add these to your running list as you move
17 forward with laying the groundwork for the Commission and
18 develop your vision for the future.

19 Finally, just to emphasize (audio interference) the
20 software is not. It is not designed to draw districts or
21 redistricting plans. Separate access options are being
22 worked on to provide that functionality. And when we get
23 closer to that part of the process, the Legislature will
24 again request to come back to you to show you those
25 options.

1 Because it came up during Wednesday's discussion, I
2 do want to add to emphasize that the Legislative mandate
3 here is to provide the public with access to
4 redistricting software. The decision of what software
5 the Commission wants to use for its work is yours and
6 yours alone. Different experts may recommend different
7 software packages and include those as parts of their
8 proposals.

9 As detailed in the 2011 Handbook I referenced
10 earlier, there were some legal questions raised by
11 Counsel about individual Commissioners using GIS software
12 to draw maps outside of a public meeting. That
13 question's resolution this time will obviously impact how
14 many licenses you need.

15 To be blunt, we don't want to be in the middle of
16 any of that. The goal of both the COI software and the
17 later redistricting software is to ensure the public has
18 ready access, that the data generated is transmitted to
19 you in a way that is vendor-neutral, easily usable, and
20 then get out of the way of your process.

21 So if there are questions about the future software,
22 we can touch on those. But hopefully today, we can
23 really focus on the tool before you, which is this
24 Community of Interest Tool. But please do know there are
25 other toys on the way.



1 With that, Mr. Yang, do you have anything to add
2 before we hand things over to Ms. Clark?

3 MR. YANG: I'd like to say that I got -- I've had a
4 chance to play with a COI for the last couple days and it
5 seemed pretty functional. It -- and pretty -- I mean,
6 there were two ways that we could have done it. And one
7 was instructions and/or just get -- getting to access it.
8 I wanted to see how it would be if I -- no one showed me
9 how to use it, how intuitive it was. Tool seems pretty
10 intuitive. If you ever had any experience drawing maps,
11 it'll make a lot of sense to you.

12 So I mean, like Michael said, it's a tool that was
13 designed to generically make your life easier because we
14 tied to the map drawing with, you know, an availability
15 to write your justification of why your COI should exist.
16 I think that's a good point so. That's it.

17 MR. WAGAMAN: Jaime, I think you're up.

18 MS. CLARK: Okay. Thank you so much to all the
19 Commissioners for having me. Thank you, Mr. Wagaman and
20 Mr. Yang. I'm Jaime Clark here again, representing the
21 Statewide Database. I'm here to present the Statewide
22 Database's COI tool, which we've been developing in
23 collaboration with the Legislature.

24 The tool, again, is intended to facilitate low-
25 barrier, user-friendly public access to participation in

1 the statewide redistricting process. I have been and
2 will be referring to it, I'm sure, as we discuss it today
3 as the COI tool, because again, its purpose really
4 exclusively is to provide the public with an online tool,
5 where they can create and define communities of interest
6 across California.

7 As Mr. Wagaman mentioned, it's under development.
8 We are carrying out continued usability testing, and
9 we're performing accessibility audits as we update the
10 software on an ongoing basis. The COI tool is designed
11 so that any resident of California, people who have no
12 redistricting experience, no background knowledge on
13 redistricting, maybe have heard about redistricting for
14 the first time, as it's coming up now -- so for really
15 any resident of California to be able to draw their
16 communities for the Commission using the census
17 geography, even down to the census logs.

18 So again, this is the same geography that the
19 Commission will be working on throughout the
20 redistricting process. That's kind of what's new about
21 this tool for this redistricting cycle is that the public
22 can have just super-easy access to the census geography,
23 can directly submit to the Commission their communities
24 of interest using the census geography itself.

25 We do have a quick video lined up. It's about six



1 minutes long. The video demonstrates how the tool works,
2 the level of detail that users can work with as they
3 create their communities of interest. And after that,
4 happy to answer general questions, do a live
5 demonstration if desired, and dig deeper into any
6 specific features.

7 And with that, thank you again for the opportunity
8 to share the tool with you today. And Kristian, could
9 you please play the video?

10 MR. MANOFF: Certainly. Just a moment while I
11 reconfigure audio for the video. And at the end of the
12 video, please give me a moment to switch us back to our
13 meeting mode. Stand by.

14 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

15 MS. MANOFF: And if the Commissioners could please
16 pin the CRC HQ video, that's where you will be viewing
17 the presentation. All right.

18 (Video played, transcribed to the best of the
19 transcriber's ability.)

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The community of interest
21 tool that is currently under development by the Statewide
22 Database. The purpose of this tool is to provide public
23 access to California's statewide redistricting process.
24 Our tool is designed to be a resource for users to create
25 public input and submit directly to the California



1 Redistricting Commission.

2 The key features of our tool are that it's free to
3 use, its user-friendly and accessible, it's available in
4 multiple languages, and it's available on the web. That
5 way, users can participate from anywhere that they can
6 get online and onto the internet.

7 Through our tool, users can create a map drawing of
8 their community of interest; include written testimony to
9 help the California Redistricting Commission better
10 understand who their community is and why they should be
11 kept together; and finally, export a shapefile of their
12 map and a text document of their written testimony
13 directly to the California Redistricting Commission for
14 their consideration.

15 Next, we will do an introductory overview of the
16 feature set of the Community of Interest Tool. At the
17 start, users will be prompted with an authentication
18 modal. They can access this tool through two options, a
19 guest account or through creating an account with us.
20 Regardless of which option they choose, any user on our
21 site will be able to create community of interest maps
22 and submit to the Commission. The difference is simply a
23 matter of saving work to revisit later.

24 The Community of Interest Tool will be available in
25 multiple languages, which the user can change at the



1 point of login or at any point during their use of the
2 tool. In this demo, we will be using the tool as a guest
3 user. Later on, we will highlight the distinguishing
4 features of a user account.

5 There are two main sections of the interface. The
6 first is the map area on the right. This is where the
7 user will be doing their drawing of their community of
8 interest. Users can pan or click and drag the map to
9 navigate to a specific part of California. Or they can
10 zoom in and out of the view using these plus or minus
11 buttons or by scrolling on their mouse or trackpad.

12 Another helpful navigation feature is this dropdown
13 menu on the bottom, left corner. Users can use this to
14 toggle between different base maps, which are the
15 underlying geography. One example is OpenStreetMap,
16 which provides a colorful view. Another example is our
17 default Stamen which is a black and white view.

18 I will demonstrate our drawing capabilities through
19 an example community of interest around the University of
20 California Berkeley campus. I'll show this in a
21 different tab so that you can see the area already zoomed
22 in.

23 Zooming in and out is used as a navigational tool.
24 What zooming also does is enable different census
25 geography to appear on the screen. These become the



1 selectable geography units by which the user can add or
2 remove shapes to their community of interest. For
3 example, we have County, Place, Tribal, Tracked, and
4 Block Geography levels.

5 You can preview which type of geography you're
6 selecting by in this top right corner. Right now, we're
7 at the Tracked Census Geography level, represented by
8 these red lines. If I zoom in a bit, we will be in the
9 Block Census Geography level, which are represented by
10 these black lines.

11 On the left side of the screen, we have the second
12 main section of the interface. This side panel contains
13 space for written testimony, as well as a minimal set of
14 selection tools for drawing your map. Within our
15 selection tools, we have four options.

16 The first is Single Select. The user can click and
17 add individual shapes to their community of interest.
18 Next, is Rectangle Select. With this, users can click
19 and drag an area to be added to their community of
20 interest.

21 Next is Lasso Select. With this, the user can do a
22 bit more of a freehand selection.

23 Finally, we have an Erase tool that allows the user
24 to remove units by clicking individually or by clicking
25 and dragging areas. There are also Undo and Redo



1 buttons, if the user would like to remove or revert
2 recent changes. At the top of the panel, there's a
3 Community Name section. For this example, I will call
4 this the UC Berkeley Community.

5 In the bottom section of the side panel, there's
6 space for written testimony. Here we provide two main
7 prompts: what is the mutual interest, and why should it
8 be kept together? These questions are subject to change
9 per Commission request or based on any requirements they
10 may have regarding what information should be included in
11 public commentary.

12 This entire section is designed to give the user
13 space to paint a picture of who their community is. When
14 you're ready to submit your community of interest to the
15 Commission, you can select the Submit button at the
16 bottom, left corner of the screen.

17 When you do so, you will be prompted by a final
18 modal that provides a summary of the written testimony
19 you included before, as well as a preview of your map.
20 This will be your final chance to review the written
21 testimony and the shape of your community of interest
22 before sending it off to the Commission.

23 Lastly, on the right-hand side of the screen, the
24 user will be asked to fill out their name, as well as a
25 recapture verification form. After submitting their



1 community of interest, users can be emailed a copy of
2 their submission, which they can then share with
3 neighbors, community members, or just keep for future
4 reference.

5 If a user does not want to immediately submit their
6 community of interest, they have the option of saving a
7 draft of their work to a user account using the Save
8 button on the bottom of the side panel. In this next
9 tab, I'll log into my account.

10 After a successful login, I am presented with the My
11 Maps page that will contain a history of my drafts and
12 submissions. This looks similar to our map-drawing page.
13 However, a key difference is that on the map on the
14 right-hand side, the user won't be doing any active
15 drawing. Instead, this map is just a display of old
16 drafts or past submissions.

17 If they click on a draft or submission, the map will
18 navigate to that geographical location. This helps users
19 see where their communities of interest lie in relation
20 to one another. Although past submissions can't be
21 revised, users may open the draft to edit and continue
22 working on them from My Maps, or they can start a
23 completely new map from scratch.

24 This has been a brief walkthrough of the things that
25 can be accomplished with our Community of Interest tool.



1 Thank you so much for watching. And if you have any
2 further questions, please contact Marinella (ph.) or
3 Jaime at the Statewide Database.

4 (Video ends)

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just a moment, Chair.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: All right, Ms. Clark --

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: -- back to you.

9 MS. CLARK: Thank you very much.

10 So again, that was a quick overview of our Community
11 of Interest Tool. Some of the features and functionality
12 that were noted in there, again, we do have questions
13 around those in terms of what would the Commission like
14 to see.

15 And you know, for example, the prompts, the
16 questions from the users, what languages to provide the
17 tool in? And again, I do want to note that when a user
18 submits, the Commission will receive geographic files
19 that could really quickly and easily be integrated into
20 mapping software along with a PDF or a sort of
21 visualization of the submission itself. And users will
22 also receive those files as well.

23 Again, if you would like to dig a little deeper or
24 have questions about specific features, I can demonstrate
25 the software live right now, with the caveat that the



1 demonstration might be a little bit slow. I live in a
2 rural county in Northern California, and there's no
3 infrastructure at where I live for broadband access --
4 something you might hear about when you keep discussing
5 public access, might even get some communities of
6 interest about it. But with the video running, it can be
7 a little bit -- everything else can be a little bit slow,
8 so the demonstration could lag a little bit. But again,
9 happy to do it.

10 As Mr. Wagaman and Mr. Yang mentioned, we also would
11 be happy to extend an invitation to all of you to take
12 part in our usability testing if you or your staff would
13 like to try the software directly. Testing would consist
14 of a one-on-one meeting with our developer, where you
15 would get a quick tour of the tool, run through some
16 exercises, draw a community of interest, and Statewide
17 Database would collect your feedback along the way as you
18 go. Meeting would probably take about an hour, maybe
19 ninety minutes, depending on how detailed you wanted to
20 get with discussing all of the features of the tool.

21 And I do know that the Legislature has consulted
22 with your Counsel, who concluded that your participation
23 in the user testing wouldn't violate Bagley-Keene or the
24 prohibition on communications about redistricting matters
25 outside of public hearings. So if anybody is interested



1 in testing the software, those requests can be routed to
2 Statewide Database through your staff, and we will set up
3 user testing around your schedules.

4 Given that information, knowing you can test it
5 directly, again, I am happy to look at the tool live now,
6 if there is a wish to do so. And I'm also happy just to
7 answer any general questions that you have about the tool
8 and what you just saw.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, Yee, Kennedy,
10 Sadhwani, Le Mons, Akutagawa, Andersen.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank you,
12 Jaime. I really appreciated that, the video and the
13 presentation and I had a question on your one-on-one. Do
14 we actually have to physically be there or is it a one-
15 on-one where it's kind of -- so I'm trying -- you know,
16 because all of us are from throughout all of California.

17 And do we have to go to a specific place for that?

18 MS. CLARK: My apologies. And to clarify, no, it
19 would be an online meeting.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you so much, Jaime. I'm so
21 glad we're going to have this tool for this round. It's
22 fantastic to have this kind of public access and
23 functionality. A quick suggestion and then a larger
24 question.

25 Quick suggestion, in the comments, why is -- what's

1 the mutual interest and why keep it together? I suggest
2 you also have an open box, "Any other comments?" because
3 you just never know what other comments the person might
4 have.

5 Larger question, so in taking public testimony in
6 open meetings in 2010, you know, members of the public
7 were not required to say their names or have, you know --
8 or have their names recorded in any way, but they had to
9 be physically present. Here, maps can be submitted by
10 anybody, anywhere, not even, you know, in California
11 necessarily.

12 You know, is there any -- I don't know how to
13 approach that; what's the risk? What are some possible
14 ways of -- I don't know. Do we need any kind of control
15 on who can submit a map?

16 MS. JOHNSTON: One question about that, also tagging
17 along.

18 Can they use a made-up name so they don't have to
19 give their real name?

20 MR. WAGAMAN: This is Mr. Wagaman. And just to
21 chime in and when I mentioned early on, we'd have some
22 questions for you, those are the types of questions where
23 we are looking for that kind of feedback. To clarify,
24 last time people didn't have to come to a meeting to
25 submit. They could submit testimony electronically, and

1 people did. So this is kind of an extension of that.

2 But as Ms. Clark said, one of those bullet points
3 for us is what information do you want asked of the user?
4 Do you want to ask for their name, email, location? Do
5 you want to make those required, optional? That's where
6 Commission feedback is really going to be helpful.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: I believe Commissioner Kennedy was
8 next?

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 And thank you, Jaime, for the presentation. A
11 couple of questions and a comment.

12 First of all, what languages are currently available
13 in the interface?

14 MS. CLARK: Currently, we -- currently, English is
15 available. We're developing it in English.

16 And then that's also one of our questions for you is
17 what languages do you intend to provide outreach
18 materials to or any materials that will be publicly
19 available? And to the extent possible, we will mirror
20 those languages through our tool.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. On that, I go back to
22 my discussion in previous meetings about my wish list or
23 my objectives as far as staying as providing language
24 access for everything that we do, basically, and looking
25 at the list of languages that California statewide or

1 individual jurisdictions within California are required
2 to provide language assistance in beyond English.

3 So you have in Spanish statewide and then various
4 counties within the state are required to provide
5 election-related information in Chinese, Filipino,
6 Vietnamese, Cambodian, Korean, and various Native
7 American languages. I mean, this is obviously just my
8 own position, but I continue to urge the Commission to
9 take this up as broadly as possible and ensure that we
10 are providing as much access as possible.

11 Second of all, I came across a link to a, I guess, a
12 similar tool -- similar online tool, not California-
13 specific called Representable.

14 I haven't gone in and tried to use it, but is the
15 system that we are going to have for our purposes as far
16 as managing input, going to be sufficiently interoperable
17 with other systems so that, you know, somebody is not
18 going to end up drawing something on another system and
19 then end up having to redraw it in our system or reinput
20 the COI description?

21 MS. CLARK: Certainly. So I also have seen
22 Representable and used it a little bit. We've also
23 looked at other COI softwares that are out there.
24 Something that is specific about this software is that
25 users will be able to submit their communities of

1 interest directly to the Commission.

2 With other tools, there are sort of different --
3 different routes, I guess, that users would go to be able
4 to sort of download their COI to their own computer, if
5 they have their own computer, and then would have to
6 email those files that they receive from that software to
7 the Commission. And so that -- that's one of the
8 distinguishing features is that -- is that through this
9 tool, the communities of interest would be submitted
10 directly to the Commission and drawn on the Census Block
11 level.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. Okay.

13 Are you also developing or will you be developing an
14 online tutorial to go along with this?

15 MS. CLARK: We will be developing robust, online
16 tutorials. We will be developing videos and written
17 tools.

18 And you know, when somebody logs on for the first
19 time, if they're an authenticated user or any time that
20 an anonymous user logs on, sort of like a screen that
21 pops up with slides that's, like, first things first,
22 here's where you define your community. Second things
23 first, these are the drawing tools and what they do and
24 sort of looking at all of the features.

25 We will also be providing technical support. So if



1 users are running up on questions, we'll have a phone
2 number or potentially, like, a live email -- or not a
3 live email chat, but a live -- a live customer service
4 chat option so that users can get help immediately as
5 they're using the tool.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay, great.

7 Next is, as far as the left-hand panel, and again,
8 this is my own personal position on this, I think as far
9 as being positioned and prepared to look at the
10 possibility of coalition districts, I would think that it
11 would be useful to have a box with a prompt to ask users,
12 you know, if your community of interest were -- you know,
13 wasn't big enough to constitute an entire district,
14 whatever category of district it is, you know, which of
15 your neighboring communities of interest would you most
16 like to be joined with? I think that's going to be
17 really valuable input for us in this process, and I don't
18 want to lose the opportunity to gather that information.

19 MS. CLARK: Thank you for that suggestion.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. And finally, I mean,
21 I've worked on two large database system development
22 projects. It's been a while, but I got good familiarity
23 with the process. I also spent eight years of my career
24 as basically a knowledge manager.

25 So A, I would strongly suggest to the Chair that a



1 subcommittee be appointed to liaise with the group
2 developing this, not to exclude all other Commissioners
3 from interacting, you know, on the one-to-one basis that
4 we were talking about earlier. But I really think that
5 we need a subcommittee on this, and I would be willing to
6 serve on that. Thank you.

7 MR. WAGAMAN: Madam Chair, before you move on to the
8 next Commissioner, just really quickly, Senator -- or
9 Commissioner Kennedy, to your points. So you know, we
10 actually, after your discussion on language access at
11 your previous meeting, the database actually did pull
12 both the Section 203 and Section, I think it's, 14-201
13 language requirements as -- so we would have that,
14 knowing that might be where you go so that they could at
15 least see where they might be going. So I wanted to give
16 them credit.

17 And one thing Ms. Clark kind of glossed over, but I
18 think is important as you look at the tool, and
19 considering what feedback you may want to give on the
20 tool, when she talks about making sure that it gives
21 access directly to Commission, it actually goes a little
22 bit beyond that, in that it does look at how to make sure
23 that information is given to you in a way that is most
24 useful when you start actually applying that testimony.

25 So for example, it will create a GIS electronic

1 boundary of a potential community of interest, but it
2 will also generate a PDF of that testimony as well. And
3 on both of those, there's a unique identifier associated.
4 So for those Commissioners who are paper people, they'd
5 be able to say, I'd like to see this community of
6 interest, and here is the identifier on it.

7 And then your consultant would then be able to bring
8 that up in the GIS software and zoom in and do whatever
9 else you're doing at looking at those coalitions and
10 those kinds of issues. So they -- they are focusing not
11 only on that user piece, but also you as users as well.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Of I can follow up, are there
13 standardized reports that have already been
14 conceptualized as part of this?

15 MR. WAGAMAN: They -- and Ms. Clark, you should jump
16 in, but they are working on those.

17 But again, that's one of those items where we would
18 request feedback, is how do you want those to look?

19 MS. CLARK: Yes, thank you. That's accurate.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: I messed up the order of questions.

21 So please correct me; Sadhwani, Turner, Akutagawa,
22 Andersen, Sinay, Vazquez? Le Mons, you're in there
23 somewhere? Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I had --

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Sadhwani.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much. So
2 first, thank you for the development of this tool thus
3 far. It's really exciting. I think it's -- you know, it
4 really takes the sophisticated mapping and makes it
5 really simple for regular folks to use, which I think is
6 great. I did have just some questions.

7 First, I think at one point we were looking at
8 Street Level, did that actually -- I couldn't see closely
9 enough.

10 Are those actual street names that are being listed
11 there? Do we have freeways that are identifiable?

12 MS. CLARK: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes? Okay.

14 MS. CLARK: So that's -- that's one nice thing about
15 the base maps, is that --

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

17 MS. CLARK: -- they can pull up the street level
18 boundaries. And it's a way for users to interact with
19 the map in a way that is familiar when you're, you know,
20 looking at online navigation tools, et cetera.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Right, perfect. But I just
22 wanted to make sure, because I think otherwise sometimes
23 it could be hard for folks to navigate themselves and
24 figure out exactly where they're -- to locate themselves
25 on a map.

1 And then other questions; are other demographic --
2 is other demographic data available through the mapping
3 system? So for example, can people identify geography
4 score for racial and ethnic communities or socioeconomic
5 status or anything of that nature? Are we following any
6 of that sort of, like, ACS demographic data into it at
7 all?

8 MS. CLARK: We have developed the tool with just the
9 census geography for a couple reasons. One reason is
10 that often when people are presented with data, sometimes
11 people can fixate on the data or think that it means that
12 their community would need to look a certain way or have
13 a certain amount of population or you know, et cetera.

14 And so we haven't provided that -- and of course,
15 because a community of interest doesn't necessarily need
16 to be backed up by other data. If the Commission wishes,
17 this is something that we could talk about with the
18 Commission or with a subcommittee if a subcommittee is
19 formed.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, I would be interested
21 to think through that. But I can think of both pros and
22 cons for doing it. So I certainly understand that.

23 I was also curious about other kinds of locations,
24 things like schools, other sorts of transit ways, you
25 know, train tracks, those kinds of things. I'm assuming

1 none of those are going to be available in these maps,
2 but can sometimes be, you know, of interest to folks when
3 developing communities of interest.

4 MS. CLARK: Those are available in the Base Maps.

5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

6 MS. CLARK: And we also have a, like, no imagery
7 option that would just have census layers. And there are
8 census layers or you know, geography that is created and
9 provided by the census that does include things like
10 schools, places of worship, parks, lakes, you know --

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah.

12 MS. CLARK: -- that -- and of course, street levels,
13 railroads, et cetera. And those could also easily be
14 integrated into the no-imagery or no-base--map view for
15 the user.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. That's great. And
17 then just a couple of other things. In terms of the
18 other comments of Commissioners, I very much support
19 Commissioner Kennedy's idea in terms of language access
20 and using those languages that are required in certain
21 counties for election purposes.

22 The outreach, I think, will be really crucial. And
23 I wanted to find out if you all -- I mean, obviously, you
24 are soliciting our feedback and we need to get that to
25 you. But is there a generalized time line in terms of

1 the development stage that you all are thinking about and
2 looking at that the State --

3 MR. WAGAMAN: I'll --

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- ligated?

5 MS. CLARK: We --

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: (Audio interference) yeah.

7 MR. WAGAMAN: Go ahead, Ms. Clark.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Well, either of you.

9 MS. CLARK: We are looking to finalize functionality
10 as soon as possible so that we can start with
11 translations. One of our questions for you is when you
12 would plan to start actively engaging with the public
13 to -- to receive public input. And to the extent that we
14 could, we would mirror, again, our deployment, our
15 public-facing deployment with your timeline.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Got it. That's helpful.

17 So I would be also -- just to throw out that I'm
18 happy -- would be very interested to do the one-on-one
19 session providing feedback and learning more about how to
20 use the tool. If a subcommittee is formed, I would be
21 very happy and interested to serve on that as well.

22 And then finally, in terms of the security issues
23 that Commissioner Yee had raised, I do think that that's
24 a real concern. And I think it puts us in that position
25 of, of course, we want this to be as widely available as

1 possible to the citizens and people of California.

2 And yet, at the same time, we live in this era in
3 which you could imagine some sort of external actor,
4 whether that be someone from another state or another
5 country coming in, creating communities of interest and
6 amplifying it, right?

7 We'd receive 500 maps, kind of all amplifying this
8 idea that there's one community of interest that we
9 should be paying attention to, when maybe that's not
10 entirely accurate or that might be coming from somewhere
11 else. I think that that's an issue on our end that we're
12 going to have to think about and think about, what's the
13 best way to sift through the massive amounts of
14 information that we're going to be receiving.

15 But I just wanted to out that out there for the
16 Commissioners to start think about. Thank you so much.
17 This is great.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner and then
19 Akutagawa.

20 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Jaime, thank you so much
21 for the presentation, and I appreciate the comments that
22 were already made by fellow Commissioners. So I don't
23 want to repeat some of that.

24 I am really anxious to know beyond the outreach,
25 once the tool is available, I'm -- and maybe that's on

1 our end -- but I'm interested of knowing when do we start
2 to almost market the tool to ensure that it's widely
3 known that this tool is coming. So for those that's
4 familiar with it, that keeps up, that's great.

5 What I love about the tool is that it is also easily
6 accessible by people that may not know about map drawing
7 or what have you. So I'm super stoked about that.

8 But then it makes me think, okay, if they don't know
9 about map drawing, et cetera, how do we ensure that
10 people know that this is a tool that's coming and to
11 broadly share the benefits of them actually taking the
12 time to go in and do it? And so I'm thinking in terms of
13 that type of marketing and what have you.

14 Now, in addition to that, just on a practical level,
15 when you were showing the selection process and showing
16 the various tools of, you know, the Square, the
17 Rectangle, the Lasso, et cetera, and real quickly, you
18 also talked about something where one of the tools that
19 allowed you, of course, to undo -- but before the undo,
20 there was a clip. I was just curious, just practical,
21 because that's how my mind works.

22 On the Lasso, if you drew out something and if there
23 was just one part of it that you wanted to unclick, if
24 you draw a lasso, are you now able to unclick boxes or
25 you have to unclick the entire lasso and start over



1 again?

2 MS. CLARK: Great question. We have an Erase tool,
3 where a user could draw, as you're describing something
4 really large. Oopsies, I didn't mean to add this area up
5 here, so I'm just going to grab my Erase tool and click
6 just the area that I want to be removed from the area
7 that is selected.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum. Great. And yes,
9 definitely interested in being in any sort of one-on-one
10 or further sharing of the tool. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think I'm next. I think
12 I'm going to try to give Commissioners Kennedy and
13 Sadhwani a run for their money in terms of the amount of
14 questions that I'm going to have, because as I heard
15 others speak, I actually came up with other questions.

16 So Jaime, Michael, and Joel, thank you very much for
17 your time and for this presentation. This is really
18 interesting and just really curious about so many
19 different things.

20 So first off, let me just start with the test. I
21 know, and I appreciate the offer to do one-on-one; does
22 it make sense for it to be done with the whole Commission
23 together doing the tests versus one-on-one so that we're
24 all also experiencing at the same time and sharing the,
25 you know, the differences in our user experiences? One-

1 on-one is fine, but I'm also thinking that we may all
2 experience it differently and us being able to see how
3 others are experiencing it may be helpful in terms of
4 thinking about, you know, how this suggests different
5 solutions. So that's just one kind of
6 question/suggestion.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: That would have to be done at a
8 noticed meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Then that gets to my
10 other question then, which is around timing, because the
11 question about timing came up. I know that, I think,
12 Jaime, you also -- or maybe Michael, you're the one that
13 asked this question about, you wanted to formalize the
14 functionality so that you could start on the translation
15 work. I'm seeing that there's going to be kind of like a
16 domino effect, that the timing will affect translation,
17 which will then affect when we could start outreach, you
18 know, and usability, et cetera, et cetera.

19 And also with the formation of the subcommittee,
20 because we would, I assume, the two Commissioners would
21 work on it but -- it has to be agendized I believe,
22 right? So that that means that the earliest we're going
23 to be able to have this conversation is going to be mid-
24 October.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I'd --



1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And so what's that do to
2 your time line? I think I'm just trying to understand
3 some of those questions. And then also how does this
4 affect, you know, this user experience kind of thing
5 that, now it sounds like one-on-one is going to be faster
6 and easier.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: I think that could be done on any
8 meeting under your Outreach Committee Report.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: For the subcommittee or for
10 the -- if we were to do a Commission-wide user experience
11 part?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: I think you could do it as part of
13 your Outreach Committee Report to do it. If it's the --

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The test?

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. That's something for
17 us to think about and for the Commissioners to discuss.
18 Okay. So my next question is around the language. I
19 appreciate that you're, you know, you're keeping in
20 mind -- and I had just looked up that, I think it was the
21 14201 requirement that the Secretary of State had put
22 out.

23 I also noticed that there's a document that also
24 lists out by not only statewide, but also by county,
25 there are multiple languages and within even multiple

1 languages, like, for example, Chinese, there's both
2 Cantonese, Mandarin, and also, I think they had
3 Pekingese.

4 And then under the Filipino languages, they had both
5 Tagalog and Ilocano. There are also additional --
6 Eastern European, like both Russian but also Armenian.
7 They also had a Middle Eastern language in terms of Farsi
8 and Persian.

9 So how many languages is feasible for this tool?
10 Because there's a lot of languages. And I think I'm also
11 thinking that if you think about the whole host of
12 languages, which is fabulous, if you're going to have it,
13 it's not going to be obviously broken down by county. It
14 doesn't make sense. It'll be a statewide option, right?
15 So how many languages can you allow that will ensure
16 that, you know, the full complement of Californians will
17 be able to easily create and provide comments based in a
18 way that's comfortable for them?

19 MR. WAGAMAN: This is Mr. Wagaman, I'll try to chime
20 in here. I don't know that we have a fixed number of
21 five, ten, three, that -- that place -- that's where I
22 think you as a Commission, quite frankly, are going to be
23 struggling with some of those same decisions.

24 I believe I know which report you're looking at.
25 And -- and the way you think about those various language

1 requirements is, they're kind of tiered out. There are
2 some requirements that are statewide, particularly
3 Spanish.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Um-hum.

5 MR. WAGAMAN: There are some that are countywide for
6 some counties in the -- in the State, which cover, I
7 think about seven languages statewide. And then there
8 are languages that are required on a precinct-by-precinct
9 basis, depending on if there are concentrations in
10 specific precincts, which cause -- to where there's that
11 much longer list.

12 And being very conscious about not wanting to look
13 like we're biasing the process, that's where that
14 preliminary feedback from the Commission is something
15 we're looking for. So that to the extent practicable,
16 you're steering that -- that -- that ship. You know,
17 we'd appreciate that being held to a higher standard than
18 you're holding yourselves to. But that standard you want
19 to live up to is a standard we'd like to -- we would
20 strive to live up to as well.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I have some more
22 questions. So my next question was around what I would
23 call, like, the schools. I call them landmarks.

24 I also remember that we had conversations, or
25 earlier presentations around certain neighborhoods that

1 are formed in different areas. Like, so for example, you
2 know, like in, in Los Angeles, there's Little Tokyo,
3 there's Chinatown, Koreatown, the Arts District, and all
4 of those kind of places.

5 Will this tool not only have like those landmarks,
6 like, schools and other major buildings that people may
7 use as kind of a framing or a context for the areas that
8 they're looking at, but will you overlay it by the kind
9 of, I don't know, neighborhoods that, you know, some
10 people would agree or disagree whether or not those are
11 the real boundaries, but it does provide a starting
12 place? Is that something that would be included?

13 MS. CLARK: This is an excellent question, thank
14 you. So we have not yet integrated any neighborhood
15 layers. As I'm sure you will all recall, neighborhoods
16 are -- is one of the geographies that the Commission
17 could look at to keep whole when creating districts. If
18 there are certain definitions of neighborhoods in various
19 jurisdictions of California that you as a redistricting
20 body agree are, like, okay, this is the -- this is our
21 San Francisco neighborhoods layer that we're going to be
22 looking at, we could integrate that into the map and --
23 and potentially even make it a selection layer so that
24 people can select by neighborhood.

25 However, we haven't integrated that yet because



1 again, who -- you know, whose definition of -- whose
2 definition of the Mission District in San Francisco are
3 we really talking about? And you know, the, like, real
4 estate has different definitions than the official city
5 definitions. And yeah, so again, we -- that's a question
6 that we would look to you for guidance in terms of, if
7 you want neighborhoods to be included, what -- what are
8 the neighborhoods? What are the definitions of the
9 neighborhoods?

10 MR. WAGAMAN: Okay, and --

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: But actually, that's really
12 interesting because I'm thinking that if you were to put
13 that layer in and give it as an option for a layering,
14 then somebody who, let's say, disagrees with the current
15 definition can -- could they then create their definition
16 or community of interest based on that neighborhood and
17 then put in an explanation of why they think this is
18 really more reflective of that neighborhood?

19 MR. WAGAMAN: Commissioner --

20 MS. CLARK: Certainly.

21 MR. WAGAMAN: Oh, go ahead, Ms. Clark.

22 MS. CLARK: Oh, I -- certainly, somebody could --
23 somebody could sort of highlight or select the entire
24 area that is, let's say again, the Mission District in
25 San Francisco according to the layer that is presented.

1 And then they could, you know, add area, remove area from
2 that selection and say, you know, in -- what's the name
3 of your community of interest? Say, my community of
4 interest is the Mission District. And this -- this
5 potentially could be a good place for the open.

6 Commissioner Yee's suggestion of having an open text
7 field that says something like, I disagree with the
8 definition that you're working with.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. And this
10 gets to my next question. I know that different county
11 and city regions have their own -- some of them have
12 their own redistricting commissions.

13 And so is this a tool that those bodies can also use
14 too?

15 MS. CLARK: So this tool is really intended for use
16 with the statewide redistricting process. We are not
17 going to have an option, for example, for users to submit
18 their communities of interest directly to any other
19 redistricting bodies. Users -- and -- and we're not
20 going to be providing technical support for users who are
21 looking at it from a perspective of a more local
22 jurisdiction undergoing a redistricting.

23 There is, however, the option, again, when users
24 submit their -- their communities of interest to the
25 Commission, they'll get their geographic files, they'll

1 get their PDF, and they could very well, you know, take
2 that PDF and email it to their redistrict -- their more
3 local redistricting bodies. But this -- this tool is not
4 intended for that purpose. And really, the intention is
5 public access to the statewide redistricting process.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right, just two
7 more things. I said I was going to compete with the
8 others. Okay. So next question is around, are you the
9 only vendor that's doing this or are other vendors being
10 considered?

11 MR. WAGAMAN: So I'll chime in here. So again,
12 under the law, a mandate is placed specifically on the
13 Legislature to ensure this access is provided based on
14 knowing that there is going to be less private funding
15 than last time. Based on the feedback from the last
16 commission, we took the proactive step to develop this
17 and provided that funding to the Statewide Database to
18 divide -- to provide this tool and to meet that mandate.

19 That obviously wouldn't stop other private
20 organizations from developing their own tools to do
21 stuff. But this is to make sure that that, at least that
22 minimal threshold is met.

23 I will note, on that point, though as part of the
24 usability testing that has been mentioned, one of the --
25 the Statewide Database has been working with a lot of the

1 same organizations your Outreach Committee has
2 identified. And they've been participating in that
3 usability testing to hopefully be able to make sure that
4 this tool meets their needs and to make sure that there
5 is kind of that buy-in to the tool, that this is the one
6 that can best serve their stuff.

7 Last point, I think it goes to both your question
8 and Commissioner Sadhwani's. And this may show a bias on
9 the part of the Legislature, but we are very conscious
10 about not doing anything with the tool that looks like we
11 are trying to bias the process. That's why in some ways
12 you aren't seeing lots of extra bells and whistles here
13 because those would involve policy choices.

14 So for example, the ACS data that was referenced is
15 not in this tool, does show up -- will show up in the
16 redistricting tool where that might be more useful, not
17 wanting to impart these additional layers necessarily
18 because those wouldn't -- choose -- basically picking
19 winners and losers between various ways of just defining
20 communities of interest.

21 And finally, the tool here is designed, really
22 looking towards a value-add and where is that missing
23 gap. So you're all obviously have access and have people
24 submitting previously defined, data-driven communities of
25 interest. Here is the layer for The City of San

1 Francisco. They're officially defined neighborhoods.

2 You're going to get that already.

3 This is looking particularly to make sure that you
4 also have access to other ways of defining communities of
5 interest for other people that are defining communities
6 of interest who may not define their community in those
7 ways. And that's why it is a more of a blank slate tool.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you. And my
9 last thing is, I'd like to actually propose separate
10 subcommittees. I think that we're uncovering a number of
11 different issues. And so I think to have one
12 subcommittee try to grapple with all of these, I think
13 there's a language one, there is at least a security one.

14 And I think we can even, you know, perhaps, you
15 know, I don't know if it makes sense to also have a --
16 yeah, I guess, it would because that's the one that I
17 think Commissioner Kennedy proposed is more around the
18 usability, the user experience version of this tool and
19 looking at what else goes on there. So I'd like to
20 propose at least, you know, those three subcommittees be
21 considered. I'm done now.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Just a quick time check.
23 We are fifteen minutes from our required break. So once
24 we get closer to 11, I will check in with our guest
25 speakers, if they are willing and able to stay with us

1 until after our break when we return at 11:15.

2 So just keep that in mind, Commissioners, as you
3 continue your lines of questions. So I have Andersen,
4 Sinay, Vazquez, Le Mons, and then Turner.

5 No? Okay. I saw a few folk's hands going up
6 multiple times. So the floor is yours, Commissioner
7 Andersen.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you very much,
9 everyone. And this is great. You know, as I'm going to
10 get -- I'm going to go quickly, you know, because of
11 time. Number 1, okay, I have a couple of different
12 categories of feedback that you would like from us. It
13 includes the prompts, it includes languages, and includes
14 security, both about how veracity of the information
15 is; also the hacking ability. So two items for the
16 security.

17 Do you want those infos from us now or you're
18 actually just looking for us feedback soon? And I got
19 kind of, like, a little time frame on that. And you
20 don't have to answer these right away.

21 But then on the information, this is particularly
22 sort of to put up in what I'm calling the prompts. In
23 the information about the COIs, you know, who is it, you
24 know, who's gathering it, that sort of information, you
25 know, who's submitting, what are they? What is that

1 information?

2 Will that be in a separate database that we can
3 then -- that's the information that we will be needing to
4 evaluate essentially the COIs. You know, are they, you
5 know, how legitimate are they? How, you know, do we feel
6 like, you know, essentially almost, not really ranking
7 them, but to evaluate that?

8 So will that be in a separate database? And then
9 the -- actually redistricting software, I'm assuming that
10 that is also going to be in -- so we can incorporate that
11 in an overlay of information that we use.

12 Is that correct?

13 And then I just -- something about the neighborhood.
14 So can you go ahead and start answering some of them?

15 MS. CLARK: Certainly, thank you. In terms of
16 whether the written testimony that's associated with the
17 communities of interest would be included in a separate
18 database, I think right now the answer is not
19 necessarily.

20 So again, the Commission, when a user submits
21 their -- their input, the Commission would receive, you
22 know, a -- a PDF essentially where the user can -- or
23 excuse me, where the Commissioners would be able to see
24 an image of the community. So like, okay, here's, you
25 know --



1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right, you know --

2 MS. CLARK: -- whatever, whatever community of
3 interest.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Let me be a little
5 more specific. I'm actually talking about the prompt
6 information. Obviously, we'll get the picture, that's
7 clear as a bell. The prompt info that you're actually
8 getting us feedback on, what kind of prompts we'd really
9 like, how can we -- how will that be categorized so we
10 can access that later to, you know, essentially say we
11 need more categories, you know, we need more for
12 different prompts?

13 MS. CLARK: I understand. I understand to sort of
14 be, like, searchable, almost, like --

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right.

16 MS. CLARK: -- response -- for a (audio
17 interference)?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Correct.

19 MS. CLARK: So the GIS files that will be sent to
20 the Commission will also have a field in them so that
21 each shape, each polygon that could be a map layer would
22 also include a -- the written description that's provided
23 by the user. And I -- I believe that that would be very
24 simple to put into a database that could be searchable by
25 Commissioners.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, or we could compare.
2 And in terms of those, could we have, you know, similar
3 how essentially purple layer has, you know, you go to a
4 little spot, like the community of interest. And you can
5 click all that, and then you can incorporate that right
6 on the visual map of some information on it.

7 Were you thinking of doing it in software
8 development, considering to do it that way? You know,
9 basically it would have essentially, if you click on a
10 community of interest, then you can get a pop up next to
11 it of, you know, a quick summary of different -- of its
12 data. So the reason is, so we can easily compare when
13 we're working on the maps.

14 MR. WAGAMAN: So Commissioner Andersen, I think --

15 MS. CLARK: So do you -- you need --

16 MR. WAGAMAN: Oh, go ahead.

17 Commissioner Andersen, I think what you're asking is
18 with the GIS layer, the electronic layer, is there an
19 ability --

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right, just --

21 MR. WAGAMAN: -- to associate whatever memo fields,
22 basically whatever is associated with that in that, so
23 that your demographers, whoever they may be, would then
24 be able to bring up that information on the screen?

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Correct.



1 MR. WAGAMAN: That's -- that's the kind of feedback
2 we're looking for. We can't commit to it here, but we --
3 that's certainly the kind of thing that --

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

5 MR. WAGAMAN: -- where we're looking for Commission
6 feedback.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great, okay. And then -- in
8 terms of then the neighborhoods -- oh, actually, I think
9 we -- that should not be a field that we give to our
10 people because we want the -- that could be interpreted
11 as, this is something that we're already drawing for you.
12 And we're not supposed to draw the maps before we get the
13 information from the people. That's just a particular in
14 terms of the ruling.

15 So if people put it in, then could we actually
16 ultimately put things down as a -- what people often
17 refer to, you know, essentially, can use dropdown menus
18 in parts of this? Say, if you dropdown for the language,
19 you know, is that how you're envisioning putting in the
20 languages, putting in different prompts that they will be
21 getting in -- essentially dropdown menus?

22 MS. CLARK: If I understand your -- your question
23 correctly, then sort of at -- at the beginning of -- we
24 sort of, like, the intro screen start anonymously or sign
25 in. Then there will be an option with a dropdown menu

1 that lists all of the languages that the tool is
2 available in. And sort of from the get-go, the user can
3 choose which language they would like to work in.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Um-hum, right.

5 MS. CLARK: Additionally, we can add that same
6 functionality once you're already inside the tool. So
7 say that you started in a certain language and then want
8 to switch languages throughout, then you could -- you
9 could change that as you work.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, great. And now,
11 finally, in terms of our -- the using it and working with
12 other people, in terms of feedback, would this be
13 beneficial to you at all if we actually, it would
14 probably be -- it might have to be middle of October --
15 but actually created a workshop where we as a Commission
16 brought in, say, some of our community partners, like,
17 say Common Cause, we're also helping you work through,
18 you know, the usability testing.

19 And actually tried to work together how, essentially
20 almost doing a -- as a workshop but -- of how we actually
21 are trying to -- to get the community of interest and how
22 we would interpret that. Would that be, you know, that
23 would give you a complete hands-on of, instantly you
24 would see, ah, the Commissioners, you know, -- need this
25 kind of information and here is a glitch where the

1 communication accessibility is not working out.

2 Would that be beneficial to you?

3 MR. WAGAMAN: Commissioner Andersen, those community
4 partners I think you referenced, as I mentioned earlier,
5 are actually already part of the usability testing. So a
6 lot of those groups are already -- been doing that exact
7 experience that has been now offered to the
8 Commissioners.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right. But would that help
10 you, for us to actually try and do it together?

11 MR. WAGAMAN: I can only answer from my own personal
12 experience and Ms. Clark can then jump in. But as a
13 tester, I -- I did the usability testing myself. Mr.
14 Yang has -- that reference he has as well. It's actually
15 kind of helpful to do this as a one-on-one. The reason
16 being is it avoids you falling into that group-think
17 scenario.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

19 MR. WAGAMAN: And it's real easy when you're doing
20 usability testing for like, ten people to be, like, oh
21 yeah, that makes total sense to me. Like, I totally get
22 that. And then you lose the other four people.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

24 MR. WAGAMAN: Where, like, and is there a way that
25 you could do it that maybe makes sense to thirteen



1 people? And the Database has been very conscious about
2 trying to make this as a tool as accessible to as many
3 people as possible. So that's where that one-on-one
4 testing makes sense because it might cause the bell to go
5 off when you're watching Commissioner Turner, do it.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Um-hum.

7 MR. WAGAMAN: But if Commissioner Turner is not
8 going to be the one sitting there at the time, it may
9 not. That bell might not have otherwise gone off.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right, no. Thank you. Then
11 I would definitely be doing -- I'd definitely do a one-
12 on-one. And I would definitely be interested in the
13 subcommittee. Drawing lines is something I definitely
14 want to do. So thank you very much for the great
15 presentation.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Right and we are five minutes before
17 break. Commissioner Sinay and then Vazquez. But
18 Commissioner Sinay, just letting you know, I will cut you
19 off at 11.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was actually going to say,
21 why don't we take break now and I will start after the
22 break?

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just because I, you know,
25 because of part of the outreach, there's a lot in what I



1 want to say right now. So that's why.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: If I may suggest --

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: -- to the Commission, we could
5 schedule this for a longer period at the next meeting,
6 since you're under a time crunch now. If it's going to
7 be extensive input --

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. I can just say quickly
9 what I was going to say then.

10 I would hope that -- let's not run ahead of
11 ourselves. This is a tool we're being given that is
12 going to be incorporated to our public education, public
13 civic education, outreach, and engagement. And we need
14 to think of all those pieces.

15 You know, as I said, I have been thinking of
16 framework. We don't have a staff person to think about
17 that. And Commissioner Vazquez and I are really -- want
18 to get our heads together because we're both thinking
19 about it separately so that we can bring a framework to
20 you all.

21 So this would be one of the tool, you know, in our
22 conversation throughout, we were wishing we would have
23 this. Now we have that tool.

24 So if you can all just let us create that framework
25 and how that would be incorporated into that bigger

1 picture, I would encourage us not to have the tool out
2 there outside of our outreach and engagement and efforts,
3 but that we work on our language, work on our campaigns
4 and all that when we hire the right people and this is
5 brought into it, including how do we, you know, create
6 this as part of -- at the public libraries, at the
7 community colleges?

8 And I would like us also to look at government
9 classes in high school because those are future voters
10 And there's easy ways to do that and in all of this.

11 I would also hope that we would all want the one-on-
12 one. And also, we would do a training and create a
13 presentation that we would each have because we talked
14 about before that we're the ambassadors out there and we
15 will be doing public.

16 And at first, I was like, oh, what are we going to
17 do? But this is a concrete thing that we can all go out
18 there and we can go to the Rotaries, we can go to the
19 Kiwanis, we can go to the League of Women Voters, we can
20 go to the Grassroots meetings, the --boat and the yachts
21 clubs, and all that and share this and say, here is a
22 concrete tool, you know, here is the -- this is what we
23 can do, you know, so we can do -- and we can even go to
24 classrooms and walk them through it.

25 So I don't want to throw this out there to the



1 community. I do have very important questions around
2 barrier. What -- I love the language you all use. Thank
3 you so much. You know, you guys hit all my points that
4 it was vendor friendly, I've -- we've got a huge issue on
5 that in the nonprofit community data is not vendor
6 friendly. So I was glad that you could use it with
7 different vendors. I was glad to hear that you were
8 talking about low-access barriers.

9 But when I saw it, I did not see low-access
10 barriers, I saw it very academic. And so I think we've
11 created different subcommittees. And I would say these
12 subcommittees are under the outreach education
13 subcommittee type thing. But I would like to hear from
14 you all what those -- how you're defining access
15 barriers.

16 And also, can we in -- we are looking at data -- we
17 haven't had a conversation about data. And I've been
18 really struggling with this. We need to put a face to
19 data and we're still looking at data as numbers and maps
20 only without basis. This is a tool, but if you're --
21 even if you make it language accessible, some folks
22 aren't literate, even in their languages.

23 So can we -- some folks may not -- be able to type
24 it up. I mean, can we put a video component in here
25 where they talk video-wise?

1 And also, we're making a huge assumption that people
2 understand what a COI is and what a community of
3 interest -- even if we write it out and say community of
4 interest. You know, there's a whole report that I had
5 asked staff to send out to all of you that the University
6 of Michigan did I think, regarding how do we define
7 communities of interest?

8 I would like us not even to use that wording, maybe,
9 but figure out how we talk about this in a way that a mom
10 dropping off her kids at school at kindergarten will
11 understand it, or the neighborhood shop. So -- we still
12 have a lot of language, -- how we're using it in
13 vocabulary, I guess, access, but also thinking about how
14 to use a video.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay, thank you so much.
16 I don't know if you want to hold on to your thoughts and
17 potentially continue after break. We are at our required
18 break.

19 I wanted to ask our guest speakers if they're
20 willing to stay with us and we will return at 11:15. I'm
21 seeing nods.

22 Okay. So we will continue this conversation at
23 11:15.

24 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:00 a.m.
25 until 11:15 a.m.)

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back from break. We will
2 continue our discussion.

3 Commissioner Sinay?

4 She might not be at her computer. So we will move
5 on and come back to her. So Commissioner Vazquez, you
6 were next in line.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Commissioners Sinay had many
8 of the points I did, and so did others. So my specific
9 direct request is to ensure we're using plain language.
10 So to Commissioner Sinay's point, you know, I think one
11 of the prompts is, like, what is your mutual interest, or
12 something like that. So to the extent possible, across
13 all languages, to use plain accessible language, simple.

14 And do we have on here an explanation of again, a
15 plain-language explanation of census blocks and what they
16 are? Like, -- an explanation for why the geographies are
17 somewhat limited. Because I imagine, again, as a
18 community member, you know, I want this street; this is
19 where I want that boundary. And so curious if we have an
20 explanation for why.

21 MS. CLARK: Thank you for that question. So we --
22 we don't have copy for all of the educational materials
23 written out just yet. This is also something that we
24 would love to work with the Commission on to have that.
25 The plain language definitions in there that are really

1 accessible and understandable to members of the community
2 and you know, happy, again, to collaborate on that, or
3 really, to use your words, to present the tool to the
4 public.

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Got it. And if I could just
6 make a follow-up statement that I hope -- probably
7 through this subcommittee process -- I think there are
8 some pieces that we don't want to leave for sort of --
9 maybe not external, but like, additional complementary
10 materials and that there are certain explanatory things
11 that we think -- even if you haven't been through a
12 tutorial -- if you just hear about the website, open it
13 up and you're drawing a map, what things does a community
14 member need to be known or made aware of that appear on
15 the site itself and not just exist in sort of
16 complimentary educational materials?

17 MS. CLARK: Yes, absolutely. So again, this is the
18 type of feedback that we would love to hear from all of
19 the Commissioners. I -- I do hope that Commissioners all
20 decide to take part in the one-on-one testing. And that
21 will be really an excellent opportunity to collect that
22 feedback from each of you.

23 MR. WAGAMAN: And I just want to add because it --
24 it came up with Commissioner Sinay's comments about kind
25 of what's the philosophy here? The philosophy here is to

1 make sure that a tool exists and have that tool not be a
2 barrier to participation.

3 The other part of the philosophy that is outside of
4 both the Statewide Database and the Legislature's mandate
5 is fundamentally providing a tool doesn't mean you've
6 provided access. You can put a slot -- what -- we can
7 put this up on a website, and it doesn't mean you're
8 going to be able to reach everyone because this -- these
9 do involve complicated criteria, complicated law. And we
10 don't want the software to be a barrier.

11 But there is going to need to be that outreach piece
12 to support this. And that is really beyond what is
13 mandated to the Legislature to do. It's what's mandated
14 for the Commission to do. So we want to provide that so
15 that you can do that work. It's part of the reason those
16 two million dollars of outreach funds were given to the
17 Commission so you could pick those pieces.

18 And you know, this -- as complicated as this is with
19 the community of interest tool, it's all the more
20 complicated when we talk about the redistricting tool
21 because that is a much more complicated tool, right?
22 Because drawing districts is much harder than just
23 drawing, here is my neighborhood.

24 So that's why the funding levels for the database
25 and one of the things we're dealing with right now is



1 making sure that we have as much support as possible for
2 people who do want to use that tool, and it's not just
3 slapping software up on a website. So it is a challenge.
4 The good news for you is that the Database is somebody
5 who really does know and have that commitment. It has a
6 long standing as part of their philosophy.

7 So one thing I left out to Commissioner Kennedy's
8 question earlier, it's actually the Database that does
9 the calculations for those 14201 language access. So
10 they're the ones that do the language access
11 calculations. So it's just kind of hard-wired in over
12 there. Joel and I do very little. We just take credit.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for the
15 presentation. One of the things that I've struggled with
16 in this conversation is process. And I think in how --
17 and I notice that a lot of this has to do with how our
18 meetings are structured. And I'm inviting us as a
19 Commission to really figure out how we can stay within,
20 of course, our requirements in the frames of our
21 meetings, but be able to tackle these very important
22 issues in a way that's productive.

23 We were presented with the presentation and you
24 know, we were given some instruction. I think the most
25 important thing we haven't gotten to, we've asked some

1 questions about it, but what is going to be the process
2 for us to be able to accomplish getting the
3 Legislature -- I mean, excuse me, getting the Database
4 the information they need from us? What is the hard time
5 line? What are our considerations as to how this is
6 going to get integrated into our outreach and education
7 program, which will drive the time line?

8 Like, this is almost a project that needs to be
9 managed. And it can't be managed in this format. Like,
10 this is not the format that it can be managed in.

11 So that's a bigger question that we don't have to
12 solve right now. But we're going to face this again with
13 other issues.

14 And this is one that I think maybe we can try to
15 come up with a process to be able to, not just with two
16 people in a subcommittee -- I mean, we got to kind of
17 really explore, what are our options? How do we tackle
18 something like this as a Commission?

19 So I want to say that. And I think we've got to
20 figure that out before you guys leave or -- I don't know,
21 we got to figure that out so we know how to move forward
22 with making sure that this gets done and on time.

23 So for me, I guess my big question to Jaime and
24 Michael is what is your drop dead -- I realize it's
25 driven by us and all of that -- but what is your drop-

1 dead deadline for having this ready for consumption with
2 all testing and everything, like, realistically, from a
3 development point of view? So that's one.

4 I'll go on and also offer my -- I think that we all
5 should do the one-on-one, whoever can, so then we can
6 have an intelligent conversation about our experience of
7 the tool -- not that what we're talking about now isn't
8 intelligent. But we'll have actually -- that'll prompt
9 questions.

10 I can just see if this prompted questions, I can
11 only imagine the questions that will be prompted once we
12 actually start working with it ourselves. But then we'll
13 have a mechanism by which to manage those questions, to
14 prioritize those responses, et cetera, in order to move
15 forward.

16 I guess the question I had about the assurance that
17 this tool, it's been mentioned that it will integrate
18 very comfortably with the redistricting tool, no matter
19 what redistricting tool we choose because we haven't
20 identified what redistricting tool we're going to use
21 yet. And so I just was curious about your ability to
22 offer assurance that, you know, we're going down a pretty
23 significant commitment path to this.

24 And will it have any impact as we look at line
25 drawers and their softwares? And I don't know what the

1 various ones that are out there. But I would want
2 assurance that this tool is going to integrate with
3 anything we choose and we don't end up being limited. Or
4 if there are limitations, those limitations are made
5 known to us in the beginning as we get ready to go into
6 that process very soon as well. And I'll stop there.

7 MR. WAGAMAN: So Commissioner Le Mons, to your --
8 your first point about a process, that's obviously up to
9 the -- the Commission. A suggestion you may want to
10 consider, based on the feedback -- because we honestly
11 didn't know how many of you would want to do usability
12 testing or not -- but hearing that there is great
13 interest, one thing for you to potentially consider is,
14 we can move forward with getting those usability testings
15 done as quickly as possible.

16 By the time of your next meeting in October, if you
17 can hopefully get to a place as a Commission where you
18 can determine what subcommittee or subcommittees are
19 going to work on which parts of this so we then have
20 somebody to interface with, and then once all of that,
21 you -- everybody's had the opportunity to do their
22 usability testing, you may want to then, at that point,
23 schedule a line item, just to discuss, what is your kind
24 of group feedback?

25 Which I think -- I can't remember which Commissioner



1 talked about, kind of talking about it as a whole and not
2 just as individuals. And then ultimately, the time line
3 we are working towards is twofold.

4 One, we want to make sure the tool is available
5 before census data is released so that before that, your
6 time line happens, the public can start participating
7 with you and -- and start generating data. And
8 secondarily, we do want to make sure that the tool is
9 available absolutely no later than when you start your
10 public input hearing process.

11 So if you're talking about establishing a deadline,
12 you know, as a Commission, thinking through what is that
13 rough marker you're working towards -- and then we can
14 reverse-engineer what are our development time lines from
15 that. That's not something you need to do today, but
16 just, that's the way to think it through from a process
17 standpoint, which I appreciate as a process person
18 myself, that that's the way you're approaching this.

19 And then finally on the GIS question -- and Ms.
20 Clark would know far more than me -- there are certain
21 standardized formats that ninety-nine percent of GIS
22 software are designed to import. So if it's in this
23 format, almost all the software will import and cross-
24 import.

25 And so that's what we're fundamentally doing, is



1 trying to make sure that it's in one of those
2 standardized formats. So then that vendor can do that
3 because it was something we were very conscious about, is
4 that it didn't look like we were a part of that
5 conversation because we shouldn't be.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

7 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Clark, did you have
9 additional comments yet?

10 Commissioner Fernandez.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. And thank
12 you for Commissioner Le Mons. Yeah, I was really curious
13 about the time line. And you might have mentioned this
14 already, but is there also a dollar limit? I mean,
15 because if we say we want a hundred languages but yet
16 you're limited to, financially, like, how much
17 development or how many additional functionality features
18 can you add before you just, oops, sorry, we reached the
19 limits. I think that would be really important for us.

20 And then also -- oh, I had another question. Oh,
21 and thank you, regarding the standardized format because
22 that's something that as we move forward, we want to make
23 sure as a Commission that we include that in the RFP.
24 That they'll be able to merge or read that information.
25 So I was actually just more curious about the funding

1 because that will affect the languages and whatever other
2 features we may have.

3 MR. WAGAMAN: And I guess this is probably again on
4 my side more than Mr. Clark but yes, there -- there is a
5 point where if the Commission's requests exceed the
6 funding available, that's why the law says this is a
7 collaborative process. Ultimately, it's the
8 Legislature's responsibility. We want to be as
9 responsive as we can be.

10 But as you know the State's finances are a little
11 bit more fun these days. So you know, that's where, to
12 Commissioner Le Mons's point, having those points of
13 contact within the Commission that aren't all fourteen of
14 you, whether it's on staff or a subcommittee level, will
15 help us work through -- through those points.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you. And it
17 just really does bring up the fact that we need to
18 prioritize in terms of the additional features or
19 whatever it is that we would like to be added to what
20 you're building.

21 But I mean, at some point in time, you also have to
22 let us know what that number is, because right now it's
23 just kind of out there. But I guess you'll have to, like
24 you said, re-engineer it going backwards to show, okay,
25 if you want this, this is what the cost is, and then this

1 is what the cost is, and okay, you've already reached
2 your limit. So I just want to make sure that we, you
3 know, we're mindful of that. Thank you.

4 MR. WAGAMAN: And again, as I referenced earlier,
5 one way to think about this is, it's easy to get -- to
6 fall the trap of the tool and focus just on this one.
7 This is just one of many things. And rather, look at it
8 in the context of everything else you are trying to do.

9 So don't let the tool development time line drive
10 your process. Let when are you are going to start your
11 public input hearings drive the process. Don't let, how
12 many tools is -- languages is the tool going to be able
13 drive -- the process drive -- what are the languages that
14 the Commission is going to want to offer that they view
15 as a minimal standard? Those decisions will then give us
16 the information that we need to further develop the tool.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I want to say,
19 Michael, like, wow, I hear that and respect that. And I
20 know everyone is very much in deference to us and it's
21 what we want and. But we also don't mind -- we might not
22 like the rails you give us, that we might say, we're not
23 going to adhere to them. But I really would advise that
24 everyone not come in with this, anything and everything
25 point of view.



1 We get that. We know that we're empowered to make
2 certain decisions. We know that. We can say, yes, no,
3 we don't want that. But I think that that helps us focus
4 when we know that. Because we could say, okay, we're
5 going to launch our outreach campaign next Friday.

6 Are you going to really have the tool available next
7 Friday? Probably not with all the languages.

8 And so if we're going to be collaborative, we've got
9 to know really what we're working with realistically.
10 There are some realities about how long it takes to
11 develop certain things. There are realities about how
12 long change orders take -- all of that. And I think
13 having a practical sense of that process helps us.

14 So it's not we're going to be limited by it. Like,
15 to give us information, in my mind, should not be
16 inferred that we're going to somehow now be -- I won't be
17 limited. And I know there's a lot of other people in
18 this room that is not going to be limited.

19 So that's not the point of it. And I do respect, I
20 know where you guys are coming from. But I don't want
21 that kind of a response to be a disservice to us because
22 we ultimately don't get the information that we need.

23 So with that said, I'll make sure that -- I'll
24 recommend in this case, that anything that I want to know
25 specifically, we'll make sure that we funnel that through



1 staff or whatever communication mechanisms are in place
2 so that we get very specific responses to some very
3 specific questions that we have that will inform our
4 process.

5 MR. WAGAMAN: And -- and I think what we can convey
6 at this point and -- and may reassure you is, assuming we
7 do get this individualized feedback in -- in a timely
8 manner, and assuming that a mechanism is put in place for
9 feedback from the Commission outside of all fourteen of
10 you, whether that's on a staff or a -- or a subcommittee
11 level, and we get that preliminary first-cut feedback
12 from the Commission, I think we can commit to saying,
13 okay, this is a realistic time line and this is what we
14 would need to meet that time line.

15 This is, as you know, the first time we're hearing
16 from any of you on this issue. So it's hard to do that
17 without at least getting this first conversation. But
18 that's something that's a fair request for the future.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I think
21 Commissioner Akutagawa was first.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. I just want to
23 also piggyback on what Commissioner La Mons is saying.
24 And I don't, I -- Michael, I hear what you're saying. I
25 still feel like what you just said still doesn't help us

1 any better. And I appreciate Commissioner Le Mons just
2 trying to be as direct and as specific about what is the
3 deadline and what do we need to do?

4 I think what I'm hearing him say and I think if
5 maybe, I'm just going to -- maybe it just bears repeating
6 is, I think if you give us something to react to in terms
7 of a time line, then we can then determine whether or
8 not, hey, is that reasonable? Or we will, as has been
9 said, we will say no, we're going to move it up. We want
10 to move it down a bit.

11 At least then we can then work in that collaborative
12 way to give you more of a reaction that is based on
13 something that -- because you and your teams are doing
14 the work.

15 You know, I think like the example that Commissioner
16 Le Mons gave, we may be just kind of shooting in the dark
17 and making up things that have no basis in reality. And
18 I think we need that for you to give us something to
19 react to first. And then we'll tell you whether or not
20 it's something we want to work with.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez and then Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Michael, you had mentioned,
23 you know, we'll do these one-on-ones and you'll get
24 feedback from each one of us individually. And what I'm
25 hearing is that you're going to take that information and

1 go with it. So my only concern is, potentially you'll
2 have fourteen different, obviously fourteen different
3 viewpoints. And at some point, you might run to the
4 limit of what the funding is. And maybe I'm number 14.
5 So too bad, I'm out of luck because you know, we already
6 have too many other wish lists or requests.

7 So I'm just wondering how you would manage that
8 piece of it versus us managing a priority?

9 MR. WAGAMAN: Well, to be clear here, I am not a
10 part of usability testing. That would be a conversation
11 with -- between you and the developer. I'll -- I -- Ms.
12 Clark probably can test -- talk more about how that
13 process works. But it isn't a checklist of, you know,
14 Bob said this, so we have to do that then Jane said that,
15 then we have to do that. It's looking at the totality of
16 that feedback, again, not only from the Commission but
17 from all these other groups and all these other people
18 participating in the process.

19 You all obviously have a unique role in that -- in
20 that so we want to make sure we capture that that
21 information. You know, there are funding caps. And as a
22 practical matter, I don't think during usability testing
23 there is going to be a commitment to making any change
24 during those. It's going to be data capture at that
25 point.

1 And then out of that usability testing and out of
2 that feedback that we -- any further feedback we receive,
3 that's where we can identify, you know, this is going to
4 be practical, this is probably not. And -- and -- and
5 answer that question, it's hard to react to a
6 hypothetical, but I think that's where we're going to.
7 And there are going to be probably places where there's
8 going to be requests that aren't going to happen.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, so that's good.

10 MR. WAGAMAN: Just to reply.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That makes me feel better.
12 So thank you, I appreciate that response.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Sinay, Sadhwani, and
14 Vazquez?

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm, like, sorry. My brain is
16 going a million miles per hour. I was looking at the
17 calendar because everyone's, like, hard deadline, hard
18 deadline. It's hard to think through the whole outreach,
19 you know, public education outreach and engagement.

20 When I say framework, it's what you were saying,
21 Commissioner Le Mons, and others, it's really a project
22 time line. But I like to use framework because that
23 allows for input engagement.

24 But if we won't have -- we need the communication
25 staff. And then the communication staff gets all the

1 input from us on what we want. And then they see if they
2 need to hire more of a team and consultants and all that.

3 The communication staff, if all works well, we would
4 have at least the three players, I think at the earliest,
5 for the October 12th meeting. At the latest for the
6 October 20th meeting.

7 And so just to put those in there for kind of hard
8 deadlines for you all to be thinking. Because what I'm
9 hearing now is we want this tool, I'm going to use
10 Commissioner Turner's word is awesome -- oh, no, stoked.
11 I'm stoked, too, about this. And we just want to make
12 sure right now that we have the best tool possible. And
13 then it's up to us to create the whole campaigns and
14 everything around it.

15 So if we can try to get by October 20th -- well, we
16 probably would need it by October 16th at the latest, the
17 best tool possible -- so yeah, there'd still be tweaks
18 and stuff. Our one-on-ones are how is it working and
19 stuff and giving recommendations.

20 But I would want us as Commissioners to be just as
21 equal as the community partners. And it's just different
22 users and our interface with it and trying to improve the
23 interface. And the developer hears from everybody, just
24 like we will be hearing from the communities of interest.

25 And then we need to sort out through all that, what

1 is something that I just want, I just want this bell and
2 whistle, but what actually will help us to get to the end
3 game? So I just wanted to put out there, maybe this
4 October 20th that we all -- by then we've all gone
5 through the one-on-ones. And you may not have the tool,
6 tool but you would have the next rendition for us to look
7 at and talk about. And so the subcommittees can work
8 around on that.

9 MR. WAGAMAN: And --

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner -- oh, I'm sorry. Go
11 ahead, Michael.

12 MR. WAGAMAN: Briefly, if you had an agenda for that
13 October 20. The big things that are Commission-specific
14 feedback, that are not just you as other people using it,
15 but where it really is the Commission that needs to
16 provide that feedback is this language question because
17 that does have a significant role on the time line
18 deployment. So be ready to say, we think we want
19 minimally X languages. Again, not committing to those,
20 but this is what the Commission is asking for.

21 And two, committing to trying to be able as a
22 Commission to answer the questions of, what are those
23 prompts? What are the user prompts as far as that self-
24 identifying information? And what are the prompts about
25 what you want to ask them about their polygon? What is

1 it that -- about that community of interest?

2 If the Commission can provide that feedback, Ms.
3 Clark, I've been a little vague, but I think you can give
4 a little bit more specifics about the time line we've
5 been working towards.

6 MS. CLARK: Yeah, absolutely. So in -- in our, you
7 know, in our -- in our working group towards creating
8 this tool, providing it publicly, we've been working
9 towards a January 1st deadline for public deployment. So
10 that includes having everything translated, having all
11 the educational materials provided, having tutorials, et
12 cetera.

13 Mr. Wagaman is absolutely right that for some of
14 those items, to get them finalized and publicly
15 available, we do need to know, for example, what are the
16 prompts that the -- that the public will be asked in
17 terms of defining their communities, and what languages
18 they should be provide -- what languages everything
19 should be provided in? But yeah, January 1st has been
20 sort of our internal drop-dead deadline that we are
21 working on right now.

22 MR. WAGAMAN: Capable to deploy, not necessarily
23 that we would because there was that prior discussion --

24 MS. CLARK: Yes.

25 MR. WAGAMAN: -- about when you want to --



1 MS. CLARK: Yes.

2 MR. WAGAMAN: -- actually launch it.

3 MS. CLARK: Absolutely. And also just a note about
4 the one-on-one user testing and collecting the
5 Commission's feedback is -- is that, of course, if
6 somebody said here's a complete rewrite of everything.
7 And like, this is what it's going to look like now, we
8 wouldn't be able to necessarily do that by January 1st.
9 But we can integrate sort of, like, the collective
10 consciousness, certain features into the tool.

11 I think that as Commissioners, you may also want to
12 consider that, yes, just because there might be fourteen
13 different opinions about one aspect of the tool or
14 fourteen different feature requests, if the goal truly is
15 to make this an accessible tool that is simple for the
16 public to use -- and when we're thinking of the public,
17 we're thinking of people who don't have any redistricting
18 experience at all -- then realistically, we don't want to
19 integrate everybody's idea -- every -- every single idea
20 that everybody has.

21 So I think that's also a way to sort of frame this
22 when you all are deliberating together about what
23 different features should look like or could look like,
24 as provided in this tool.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: I have Commissioners Sadhwani,



1 Vazquez, Le Mons, and then we will close this
2 conversation and then decide on next steps.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. This is super
4 helpful. January 1st has been the deadline I had in my
5 mind as well, especially given that the census originally
6 was going to be due December 31st. Today maybe that's
7 changing, I think, hopefully. But January 1st makes
8 sense to me.

9 Just to move us forward in terms of process, I
10 appreciate the time line, Commissioner Sinay -- put forth
11 for us, I would just recommend to my fellow Commissioners
12 that as many of us as possible do the one-on-one
13 training.

14 And then whoever is put on this subcommittee -- I
15 know several of us have offered to do so -- that that
16 subcommittee is responsible for coordinating all of the
17 feedback from everybody and synthesizing it so that it is
18 not so random. And I'm thinking that there's some common
19 themes here and we could put together, like, a very short
20 document of what are the main things that we would like
21 to see out of this.

22 Of course, there will be a separate outreach
23 component to it. I think that that's a separate
24 conversation. And I think as we continue to talk about
25 our future meetings and our long-term planning, again to

1 plan everything else, that this -- we now have more
2 information. This can be a part of it.

3 And I like the time line of everyone having their --
4 you know, having all of this information synthesized by,
5 I think it's October 20th, 19th or 20th.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Vazquez?

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: My point has been addressed.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Le Mons? Commissioner Le
9 Mons?

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I'd like to request
11 that Ms. Clark provide us with the scope of work that
12 they are currently using, as well as the time line
13 associated with that scope of work so that we can have
14 that as a part of our internal discussions.

15 I would prefer that we not commit to any deadlines
16 at this point. The subcommittee, that will be part of
17 their task is to come up with how we back into this
18 deadline, one of our consideration sets, et cetera. It
19 was not that I was recommending we do the work here
20 today, it was just how important that work is to get
21 done, and that we as the Commission have to figure out,
22 with our constraints, how do we successfully do this kind
23 of work, not just with this project, but with future and
24 similar ones.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay, absolute last comment.

1 Commissioner Akutagawa.

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think there was one thing
3 that I did not hear being addressed, and that was
4 Commission-specific decisions, and that's around
5 security. And I feel like that is something that I heard
6 earlier in the presentation, and the conversations that
7 that's something that we need to also determine what
8 is -- those kind of ways in which we can ensure the
9 integrity of the people who are going to be submitting
10 comment.

11 I also want to add on that -- what I'm hearing is
12 that there's going to be one committee. I still would
13 like to recommend that we do break this up into multiple
14 committees, just because some of these are bigger kinds
15 of discussions. And even if we come together to discuss
16 them, maybe it's about just sharing the documents so that
17 we can have one larger recommendation to submit or to
18 share with Statewide Database and Michael's team and
19 Joel's team. But I think that there needs to be some,
20 perhaps, more of the spreading of the work, rather than
21 having it all within one committee.

22 MR. WAGAMAN: Again, I'll just add just to be clear,
23 Joel and I do very little. It is not really our team.
24 It -- it is Ms. Clark that's been running point on this
25 and the Statewide Database folks. We just recognize who



1 knows what they're doing and give them money. So just to
2 emphasize that point.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So hearing all of the
4 comments and feedback for what I have synthesized and
5 gathered from this conversation, the first initial step
6 is for all of us to meet one-on-one to provide our
7 feedback. And I think we can all -- if someone does not
8 want to meet, please make that known. But we can have
9 staff help us out with coordinating those meetings with
10 the appropriate party.

11 In terms of subcommittees, so I've heard the
12 recommendations for one subcommittee, multiple
13 subcommittees. I'm still leaning towards having one
14 subcommittee because of the specific reason of the
15 interaction between Statewide Database and the
16 Commission.

17 I would be hesitant to appoint two or three
18 subcommittees because that's potentially four or six
19 people that would have to be in contact with Statewide
20 Database. And two subcommittees could not meet with each
21 other. That would break the rules of Bagley-Keene.

22 So from my understanding and my perspective, I think
23 it would be cleaner for everyone if we have two people
24 assigned to a subcommittee related to this particular
25 project, and all of the information that we as a

1 Commission have is funneled through staff to those two
2 individuals to synthesize and then communicate with
3 Statewide Database.

4 Do we have any feedback, recommendations,
5 objections, feelings on that proposal? Thumbs up?

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Marian's hand is up.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Just a comment that the limit is two
8 so you don't have to have a noticed meeting. If you want
9 to have more than two people, you could have a committee
10 meeting that coincides with the regular Commission
11 meeting so it wouldn't involve a separate notice going
12 out. Just a thought.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Akutagawa.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So for clarity, does that
15 mean that then you could have more than two members on a
16 committee? I'm suggesting a multiple subcommittee
17 structure only because I think all of the things we're
18 discussing is going to take up a lot of work and a lot of
19 conversations, and I think it would be -- since we'd be
20 limited to just two people, I think there's multiple
21 people that would be interested in these topics, and I'm
22 just --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- also trying to think
25 about how do we engage --

1 MS. JOHNSTON: You -- you can have two -- more than
2 two, as long as it's done in a noticed meeting.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Got it. Thank you.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Well, I think that's what we are
5 trying to avoid, is being able to move the process along
6 in between noticed meetings, and therefore, staying
7 within our regulations of having two people within a
8 subcommittee.

9 It would put us in the same position if we had to
10 notice two subcommittees or a subcommittee consisting of
11 three or more people, as us meeting in an open meeting.
12 It's the same thing, I guess, at that point, logistically
13 speaking. In terms of the workload for that one
14 subcommittee, sign up if you are ready to take on that
15 workload. I'm sure other Commissioners have input and
16 feedback that we can channel through staff to provide the
17 subcommittee for their consideration.

18 So in -- yes, Commissioner Fernandez and Yee.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, I did like the idea of
20 one subcommittee, and then maybe if we can really narrow
21 down what the initial scope would be based on the
22 deadlines, like, you know, the one-on-one feedback, the
23 languages, the user prompts, because those seem to be
24 some of the key factors that Jaime and Michael need right
25 away.

1 But I agree with having just one subcommittee, not
2 having a bigger committee, because then you have to
3 notice and then it -- an open, I think -- an open meeting
4 also, which may slow us down a little bit. So I agree
5 with the one. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee?

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: So our committee's limited to
8 two, but is there any way for other Commissioners to do
9 research and feed it to that committee without having to
10 skirt that role? I mean, not sub-subcommittees, but if
11 somebody did some side research on language and fed that
12 to the committee of two, is that permissible?

13 CHAIR AHMAD: In my understanding --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: It should be funneled through staff.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: -- it is. It would have to go through
16 staff. So if I did research on language access, for
17 example, I would send it to Raul and Marian, and then
18 they would share it with the subcommittee. But that is
19 all.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: And the reason for that is to avoid
21 serial meetings of more Commissioners interacting with
22 each other.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Well, I have three people who
24 expressed interest throughout the conversation to be on
25 this subcommittee: Commissioner Kennedy, Sadhwani, and

1 Andersen.

2 Do we have two votes?

3 Yes? Akutagawa? You're also interested? Okay, so
4 we have four people.

5 Who would like to step down and who would like to
6 step up?

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: It looks like Commissioner
8 Yee is also interested.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. That's not --

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'd be interested in doing the
11 side work. I could go through the staff, so like, work
12 on security, for instance.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. Commissioner Kennedy did
14 propose this idea, so I want to give him a second to
15 speak to this.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Could you repeat?

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. You proposed the subcommittee
18 idea, so would you like to serve on the subcommittee
19 still?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I would still. I've spoken
21 to my background and I, you know, will also speak again.
22 This is my day job. I'm not otherwise occupied, so I'm
23 able to put some time into this.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Sadhwani, Andersen, and
25 Akutagawa, what are your thoughts? We need to dwindle

1 this list of four folks down to two.

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'll stand down. I'll
3 contribute on through the staff.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, there has been a
5 policy -- it's not required by law of having different
6 subgroups on committees.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: So we have Commissioner Kennedy, who
8 is Democrat, and Commissioner Sadhwani, who is also
9 Democratic party, and Commissioner Andersen, who is
10 Republican party.

11 Yes, Commissioner Andersen?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So I know this is -- this
13 is, you know, the baby of several of us. I can tell. On
14 the committee. That's an aspect of it. And I know that
15 Commissioner Sadhwani is certainly very interested.

16 I would really -- I would approach this from the
17 technical part. This is my bailiwick, you know, this is,
18 you know -- drawing maps and how it all fits together. I
19 would really like to be on the committee.

20 I would also view it as -- you know, I would be
21 getting language information from someone else. I would
22 be getting the outreach in terms of other people from
23 someone else and making sure it all fits together. I
24 also -- this is my day job. And I live in Berkely, which
25 is where the Statewide Database is. So I can go over

1 there any time.

2 Which is, you know -- my pitch, I should say.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy?

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: This is a little bit of an
5 aside, but I wanted to go back to Marian's point. There
6 may be something of an understanding or a sense of
7 desirability. We've got the Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee
8 or whatever it's called, that's two Republicans. So I
9 mean --

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Um-hum.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- we haven't adhered
12 strictly. We have maybe a concept that it's good to have
13 a mix, but I don't think we're at a point where we can
14 stand on that as solid precedent or practice.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: I agree with you, Commissioner
16 Kennedy. But we're still at three folks wanting to be on
17 the subcommittee, and two spots. I know I will provide
18 information on the side through the staff if I come
19 across it and spend time to do that. I encourage all of
20 my fellow Commissioners to do the same. We just need two
21 individuals who would be the primary point of contact for
22 Statewide Database.

23 Yes, Commissioner Sadhwani?

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm happy to stand down.
25 I'd like to move forward because I think this is so

1 important.

2 But I will just say, I have used the Statewide
3 Database extensively, so to the point of it being your
4 day job, yes, I do this also.

5 But happy to stand down and let Commissioner --

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: May I make a recommendation?
8 Because we're going to have the same issue when it comes
9 time to figure out who our line drawer is going to be and
10 all that.

11 There's two pieces to this. This is the kind of the
12 community of interest -- the community piece that's
13 leading into the line-drawing tool that we're using
14 later. So whoever's on this subcommittee cannot be on
15 the other subcommittee. So really think through which
16 one of the two you want to be on and go from there. And
17 so that might be a way to get people to really
18 understand -- are you interested in the community of
19 interest piece, or are you interested in the actual line
20 drawing, the other piece?

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Andersen?

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right. Yeah. This is where
23 I'm having a bit of trouble here.

24 I don't see these as separate. It's all the same --
25 the outreach and gathering the communities of interest is

1 one type of line drawing. But it is the same, it's --
2 we're going to be using the same type of software. And
3 we're going to be, I mean, that's -- you know, they're
4 talking about how it all fits together. They're all GIS.

5 And I know you're -- I see people shaking their
6 heads -- but we're building layers here of one system.
7 And you know, if we say, you know, where are we drawing
8 these lines? It isn't going to be like we're having
9 someone else do this and then we approve it.

10 And that's something -- maybe I'm totally
11 misinterpreting what people are thinking because we
12 haven't actually talked about that, but I see that as --
13 we're going to be more intimately involved in this than
14 people seem to be -- it's like, this is the part we're
15 really intimately involved in, but not the other. And I
16 see it -- we're going to be involved in both.

17 Now, if this is considered a community of interest,
18 clearly, I should back out and be in the line drawing.
19 But I just don't see it that way. And this is part of
20 where I really would like us to have -- back to what
21 Commissioner Le Mons has been saying -- the process and
22 how we actually envision this going forward, which is a
23 different conversation. But -- if it is indeed this
24 community of interest, then I should back out.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons and then

1 Fernandez.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I would agree that this is
3 community of interest, Commissioner Andersen. And we can
4 debate the points that you raised. But for the sake of
5 time, this is specific to communities of interest. So
6 there's no question on that, and it does fold in, but
7 it's very specific.

8 So if you're going to stand down, and then if you
9 wanted to --

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I will stand down.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: All righty. Chair?

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I don't want to get
14 to the point where we say that if you're on this
15 subcommittee, you can't be on this subcommittee. But I
16 also think it is good that all of -- you know, you don't
17 have the same Commissioners doing every committee because
18 as Commissioner Andersen just stated, you know, she's
19 saying she's going to be intimately involved in this
20 piece of it.

21 Well, wouldn't it be great if we have two other
22 people that are intimately involved in the next phase, so
23 that now we have four people that have been intimately
24 involved, and we're just educating ourselves more? I
25 just want to make sure that we don't limit people. But

1 then also as individuals, as Commissioners, we allow
2 others to also be involved because we're all going to be
3 passionate about -- certain things that are going to
4 overlap. But you know, let's be cognizant of everybody
5 else as well wanting to be on a subcommittee.

6 That was it. But thank you, Commissioners Sadhwani
7 and Kennedy, for taking that on.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Michael and then Commissioner
9 Sadhwani.

10 MR. WAGAMAN: It's obviously your decision how you
11 want to get from A to B, but what we're specifically
12 looking for right now is, again, some feedback on the
13 language issue, some feedback on -- on the -- the user
14 prompts, and then some feedback on if there are places in
15 the actual functionality where we just got things
16 completely wrong, knowing we're listening to a lot of
17 different people in that usability.

18 So however you get that piece done, whether that's
19 part of a larger committee or a very narrowly-crafted
20 committee, I will note -- and it is not necessarily for
21 today's conversation. Again, we are developing a
22 separate tool, which is a redistricting -- the actual
23 line-drawing tool for districts and plans.

24 And so you know, at some point, if there is going to
25 be a subcommittee that is working on that, you know, that

1 is something we will need in the future. It just wasn't
2 what we were bringing to you today.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, I feel like we're
5 really going off the rails here. I'm also hearing all of
6 everyone's concerns, that I'm a Democrat and Kennedy's a
7 Democrat.

8 Like, it's okay if -- I just want to put it out
9 there, I feel like Commissioner Akutagawa has a lot of
10 background in terms of the language feature. She's very
11 passionate about that. I'm happy to stand -- I offered
12 before to stand down. I think it would be great to have
13 her on there as well, instead of myself, and that she can
14 lead that piece around language, which I think will
15 inform so much.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. I will be appointing a
17 subcommittee to gather feedback from the Commission
18 regarding the tool that was just presented today and
19 share that feedback with Statewide Database for their
20 further development and revision of their tool.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: The subcommittees are purely
22 advisory, so that should be a report back to the
23 Commission --

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. Okay, sure.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: -- but they can -- they can convey

1 the Commission's decision to the database.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. And Commissioner Kennedy and
3 Commissioner Akutagawa, I appoint you two. If you have
4 objections, please speak now, or forever hold your peace.
5 Thank you so much for your work in advance.

6 Thank you to our speakers. We really appreciate you
7 for taking the time out and speaking with us today. I
8 hope you all are very excited to continue working with
9 us. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Wait, wait --

11 MS. CLARK: And I thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- one question. I'm sorry.
13 One question before they go.

14 How do we get in touch to sign up for the one-on-
15 one?

16 CHAIR AHMAD: We will be going through staff for
17 that process.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do we need public comment?

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, we will do public comment.

20 Thank you, speakers.

21 Raul, would you please kindly read the instructions
22 for public comment?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, I will,
24 Chair.

25 The Commissioner will advise the viewing audience



1 when it is time to submit public comment. Commissioners
2 will then allow time for those who wish to comment to
3 dial in.

4 To call in, first, on your phone dial the telephone
5 provided on the livestream feed. Second, when prompted,
6 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
7 feed using your dial pad. Third, when prompted to enter
8 a participant ID, simply press the pound sign.

9 Once you have dialed in, you will be place in a
10 queue from which a Moderator will begin unmuting callers
11 to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic
12 message to press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating
13 that you wish to make a comment.

14 When it is your turn to speak, the Moderator will
15 unmute you and you will hear an automatic message, the
16 host would like you to talk and to press star 6 to speak.
17 You will have a few minutes to provide your comments.

18 Now, please make sure to mute your computer or
19 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
20 during the call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be
21 alert for when it is your turn to speak and again, please
22 remember to turn down the livestream volume.

23 Commissioners will take comment for every action
24 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
25 stream, the Chair will call for public comments, as they



1 are now, and that is the time to call in.

2 The process for making a comment will be the same
3 each time. Begin by dialing the telephone number
4 provided on the livestream feed and then following the
5 steps I've just enumerated. And these instructions are
6 located on the website.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anybody in
9 the queue at this time.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Let's stand at ease for two minutes to
11 allow folks to call in.

12 (Pause)

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: While we wait, can I ask a
14 quick question?

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: While we're waiting, I
17 know that you mentioned that staff's going to set up our
18 one-on-ones, but I'm just thinking, like, for me, it
19 might be easier for me to set up my own, just because my
20 schedule's really weird and I would hate -- and I know
21 that the staff, they're just swamped right now --

22 MS. JOHNSTON: I think our role would --

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- so I just --

24 MS. JOHNSTON: -- just be to put you in touch with
25 the proper person, and then you would set up --

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: -- on your own time.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: All right then, okay.

4 That's perfect.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And I'll reach
6 out to Jaime to acquire that information.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Katy, do we have anyone in the queue
8 at this time?

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not. I did start a
10 timer, we're at about a minute and a half. It's
11 lunchtime. Everyone's eating.

12 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, while we're waiting,
13 just as a suggestion, Jamie, maybe we could use a -- I
14 could just suggest like using like a Doodle or a Calendly
15 tool, like, a web-based calendar tool so you know, you
16 could give us a link and we could just pick a day and
17 time that works for your team to just, you know, give us
18 the one-on-one and might make scheduling a lot easier
19 than a back and forth.

20 MS. CLARK: Thank you, yeah. Happy -- happy to set
21 that up, and we're also, of course, happy to work around
22 your schedules.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, it's been about
25 two and a half minutes.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you so much.

2 Thank you to our speakers, once again. We thank you
3 for your time this morning. If you all want to stay for
4 the rest of the meeting, feel free, but you are to free
5 to --

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Hard to imagine.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: -- hop off at this time. Bye. Thank
8 you.

9 All right. So our lunch break will be at 12:45. So
10 between now and 12:45, I wanted to give Raul some time to
11 discuss contracts and procurement. If we still have time
12 remaining after that discussion and possible action, we
13 can start the conversation about future meeting dates and
14 future agenda items.

15 Does that sound good for folks? All right.

16 Raul, you have the floor.

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you, Madam
18 Chair. I'll try and be succinct.

19 I have two contracts. One of interim staff,
20 primarily to work in terms of the posting the website.
21 Once you've voted them in, if you do, then the additional
22 work will be with getting that Google Drive a little bit
23 more accessible to everybody, and then the public comment
24 submissions and the Mailchimp web blasts.

25 As a quick note, the website that you have is pre-



1 2012. It needs some work, as you've probably noticed.
2 It's -- it's also on a platform that not everybody is
3 familiar with. As such, in working with the -- the IT
4 folks at the Auditor's office, they requested that we try
5 and find someone soon. They're very, very excellent in
6 many, many things, but as far as the platform for the
7 website, that's not something that they work with very
8 much.

9 I did find somebody. It took a while to find
10 someone who actually works with the website platform and
11 has some Google Docs information or knowledge. And so
12 that's what's before you, then, is bringing them on on an
13 interim basis until we can actually hire some folks.

14 I did look at and interview quite a few RAs. None
15 of them had the skills, as far as the specific work that
16 we need. And the next choice, then is to actually -- to
17 actually do recruitment for your IT folks. So this is an
18 interim.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: What's the name of the company?

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It's not a
21 company. It's an individual. Her --

22 MS. JOHNSTON: What's the individual?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Her name is
24 Ryana -- Ryana Fisher. And she'll be working part time.
25 She has a full-time job, but I was able to convince her

1 to come and do this for us part time.

2 So I don't know how many of you know WordPress?

3 Okay. So it's a pre-2012 WordPress website, so you can
4 imagine the challenges in trying to find someone who
5 has -- who has that type of knowledge and experience. I
6 don't know -- anyway.

7 So that's -- so that one needs an either up or down
8 vote.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: And this is a contract, so it
10 requires a special vote. Three, three, three.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Do we hear a motion?

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Seconded?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I have a
16 question.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Oh, sorry.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I have a question first
19 before we vote. And this is for the one for the website,
20 right, Raul?

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes? Okay.

23 I had a couple questions. I mean, one, you answered
24 part of it, because obviously, based on the information.
25 So Raul did forward it to the subcommittee. And I had a

1 couple of questions. One of them was you mentioned that
2 she's part time?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And my concern with that --
5 well, she works full-time, and she can fit this in part-
6 time. My concern would be how quickly she can react,
7 like, during our meetings, and if our schedules -- if the
8 agenda items change, and we want to post something
9 quickly, like, how quickly could she get to that?
10 Because sometimes it's during the day, it's like, hey,
11 you know, can you put an announcement out there that
12 we're going to move this agenda item to tomorrow, or
13 we're moving something up, or maybe give people time
14 frames of hard times in terms of this presentation is
15 going to be on this day at this time.

16 So I'm just wondering how quickly she could react to
17 our request if needed. I realize that the contract does
18 show that if it's under twenty-four hour limit, that she
19 charges a little bit more, which is okay. But I just
20 want to know, like, how quickly we could expect her --

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well --

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- to respond.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So there's two
24 considerations. We'll try and get everything together
25 within twenty-four hours. All of the requests from

1 yesterday did go up yesterday. And so -- so those are
2 the parameters that have been established. It stays
3 within the requirements for Bagley-Keene, certainly. I
4 know sometimes you want something done now, but even --
5 even at -- when we had the auditor staff, there wasn't
6 really a now; it was me emailing over there, them finding
7 the time, and if they had time, that became the now, so.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. But could she
9 respond, like, if we wanted something posted -- let's say
10 it's the morning, we wanted something posted to inform
11 the public regarding something that happened in the --
12 that will happen in the afternoon; would she be able to
13 respond within a few hours and post that? That's my main
14 question.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I look over at
16 Marian because that's -- that -- that's a funny -- that's
17 not a lot of planning to have -- to have that happen in
18 that way, but we can certainly try. You know, the
19 alternative is you won't have someone. I mean, it was
20 very difficult just finding someone who could work with
21 that platform. So if you don't use this now, there is
22 nobody until I find someone else.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm not recommending not
24 doing it, I was just asking a question to see how quickly
25 they could respond.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Correct.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's fine.

3 And then my other question was, is this coming out
4 of the CRC's budget, or is it coming out of the State
5 Auditor's budget? Just so that I know budget-wise.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, this is --
7 this is the Commission's budget.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Good question.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Kennedy, Toledo.

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I guess to follow-up on
12 Commissioner Fernandez's point, if this -- if the
13 responsiveness, which is, I think, a big component, not
14 the only component, but the big component of why we're
15 trying to bring someone internally, if they're not much
16 more -- is this person is not able to be much more
17 responsive than the State Auditor, I'm not sure why we
18 would spend our money to pay for something that's a
19 service that is roughly equivalent to what we're getting
20 right now for free. Like, I'm assuming we're not paying
21 back the Auditor for time spent managing the website
22 right now, are we?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It -- it's all
24 one appropriation. So when -- when you think about --
25 then that is -- and that's really a different

1 conversation, but it's all one pot. Out of -- out of the
2 twelve-million-dollar appropriation, a certain amount of
3 it was designated to the State Auditor, okay? So I mean,
4 it's all one pot of money.

5 The -- the other side of it is, here, as I
6 mentioned, the State Auditor asked me, can you find
7 someone who can work with this WordPress? Because we
8 can't. And so as far as getting the same amount or same
9 quality of work, I think you're getting something better
10 now because you actually have somebody who understands
11 the platform.

12 There's a lot of backend issues, which I'm not going
13 into in terms of the website. And so the stability of it
14 is kind of a concern, and so that's something that she
15 and I are already talking about. But I won't have her do
16 anything with that, unless there's an agreement to keep
17 her, right? I mean, let's not start the work and -- and
18 stop it halfway through is really the issue.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, Toledo, and
20 Turner and Yee.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 I'm wondering if a box could be set up on the
23 existing page that would carry a Twitter feed, and that
24 we put any urgent or quick turnaround things out via
25 Twitter that would go out to a Twitter list but would

1 also show up on a box on the page. I know that that's
2 how Riverside County Registrar of Voters, for example,
3 gets news out. They have a Twitter account, and the
4 Twitter account also, with the Twitter feed going out,
5 also appears in a box on their regular home page.

6 So it occurs to me that that may be a way of getting
7 around this if something could be set. Even if it's a
8 link to the Twitter account --

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- that we could set up as
11 part of the website that would immediately take
12 somebody --

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- to a Twitter feed.

15 Thanks.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Toledo, Turner, Yee,
17 Fernandez, Akutagawa.

18 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes, I was -- you know, the
19 website is such an important part of our outreach. I'm
20 just thinking that perhaps we may want to -- and I'm
21 fully supportive of this contract. I think it brings
22 additional capacity and expertise that we may not have at
23 the moment.

24 But just thinking about optimizing the website to
25 just make it a little bit more accessible and more

1 exciting and more interesting to the community --
2 especially as we wrap up our outreach, engagement, and
3 education efforts -- to really use that as an educational
4 tool, and maybe a little bit more -- just update it. I
5 mean, I think it just needs a little bit of updating.
6 Thank you.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: A lot.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm just going to pause.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: It's a lot.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: A lot.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm just going to pause before we
12 continue. The questions right now should be specifically
13 towards the motion that is being suggested to the floor,
14 not actual recommendations of how we should be moving
15 forward with edits and design and et cetera. We're just
16 talking about whether we would authorize Raul to hire an
17 intern -- temporary person -- to work on the website at
18 this point.

19 Commissioner Turner, Yee, Fernandez, Akutagawa?

20 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, absolutely. Thank you
21 for that.

22 I really like Commissioner's Turner's --
23 Kennedy's -- suggestion about the Twitter feed. I do
24 think it's a great idea to have Ryana as an interim
25 person working on it right now. And I'm aware that there

1 are many different types of full-time jobs that can be
2 held, and I think that she'll be able to also serve this
3 Commission during the time as an interim. And so for me,
4 I think it's great.

5 We will continue to look for someone full time and
6 perhaps that'll be able to serve in this role.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: But I'd like to make a motion
9 on this. I don't think there was a motion made, that
10 it's just a question that you do move forward with Ryana
11 as an interim in this role.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Second.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Is there a second?

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Seconded by Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: I strongly support immediately
16 moving forward with this hire. The website is basically
17 static right now and it represents us poorly, you know?

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: For instance, right now, the bios
20 for the first date are up but not the rest, the other
21 six, and it's basically a static site. And it's a
22 mishmash of 2010, 2020, you know, so on and so on. It
23 represents us poorly, and it really needs urgent work to
24 even be minimally, you know, usable. So yes, let's go
25 forward with this.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Fernandez, Akutagawa, and then we call
2 roll for vote.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I mean, I support the
4 contract as well. I just wanted to clarify something
5 that -- I believe it was in response to Commissioner
6 Vazquez's question.

7 And Raul, you said that it's all one pot of money,
8 but we kind of went through this in our last meeting,
9 where it really wasn't all one pot. Some of it was
10 designated to the State Auditor and some of it was to us,
11 and we're trying to figure out how to move money around.

12 So again, I do think it's two separate pots, our CRC
13 and their pot. And it was a valid question from
14 Commissioner Vazquez in terms of if it's coming out of
15 our pot, should we pay for it or just receive the same
16 services we've been receiving from the State Auditor for
17 free? But there is the additional benefit of improving
18 the website, which I completely agree needs to be
19 revamped, so. That was it. I support moving forward
20 with this.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa. And then I'm
22 sorry, it's not roll call vote, it's public comment, and
23 then vote, correct?

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Correct.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, actually, so question

1 one, is, Raul, I think you said that if we don't go with
2 this contract, we're just not going to get the website
3 updated. I have a -- and I have no problem with hiring
4 this person, but just a question.

5 It sounds like originally it was just, this person
6 is being hired just essentially to just keep adding on or
7 I guess, doing minimal updates. So the adding on would
8 be like as new materials need to go up, it sounds like
9 the State Auditor's office does not want to do that.

10 I'm not hearing that she's necessarily being hired
11 to do a wholesale redesign of the website. She's just
12 kind of keeping the status quo and keeping it moving
13 until we get whoever the permanent person is going to be
14 to redo the whole thing; is that correct?

15 Because otherwise, then, I was going to also ask, if
16 that is not what we're talking about and it is about
17 redesign, then wouldn't it be better to just hire
18 somebody who could redesign the whole thing and use one
19 of the newer platforms that allows for a prettier, you
20 know, more, you know, -- more easily updated kind of a
21 website? But if it is the former, then I have no problem
22 with it. I would say let's go forward.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: If I might
24 respond. There's two considerations, really, when you
25 look at it. And I wasn't trying to be disrespectful in

1 terms of my response about the appropriation.

2 It is one pot, but there is a certain part of it
3 that was designated to the Auditor. That's part of our
4 discussion, actually, next meeting to go into that into a
5 lot more detail, and so I wasn't trying to just skirt
6 that under the rug. It does bear more discussion.

7 As -- as far as the website, there's -- there's two
8 considerations. And one is, as I mentioned, the -- the
9 State Auditor staff doesn't have the experience or the
10 knowledge to work with this old WordPress site.

11 As such then, we need somebody to come in and do two
12 things. One is just the day-to-day work of -- of doing
13 the postings, and two, to keep an eye on some of the
14 structure behind it to maintain it as being as --
15 maintain it as a stable website. So this is purely
16 interim.

17 As far as -- as having a new website, that's really
18 what you're looking at is actually creating a new
19 website, one that doesn't go back to 2012, one that's
20 2020 and has all the capabilities of -- of HTML5, for
21 example. For that, one of the things that we're waiting
22 on is -- is your public communications person to come in
23 and actually -- actually work with you in creating that
24 type of a website.

25 This is a band-aid. Is -- is -- if you want to put



1 it that way, this is purely a band-aid to keep things
2 moving forward till we can get those people in place and
3 start that other work.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa?

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Just out of curiosity, who
6 created the Shape California website? That was actually
7 very nice. And so I will say that I was a little
8 surprised when I went from looking at that site to the We
9 Draw the Lines website.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: The difference
11 between 2020 and 2012. Exactly. So that's the work of
12 the State Auditor, but it's on a totally different
13 platform, and it's a platform that they know and
14 understand.

15 Again, the problem here is you're dealing with pre-
16 2012 WordPress and aggregations, changes, band-aids that
17 have been done over the years.

18 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: But they couldn't just move
19 everything over to that nicer site and just kind of keep
20 it going?

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, that's a
22 different discussion, but no. The answer -- the short
23 answer is no.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Raul. Would you be so kind
25 to read the instructions for public comment before we

1 vote?

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, Madam Chair.

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

7 To call in, first, on your phone, dial the telephone
8 number provided on the livestream feed. Second, when
9 prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the
10 livestream feed using your dial pad. Three, when
11 prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the
12 pound sign.

13 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
14 queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers
15 to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic
16 message to press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating
17 that you wish to comment.

18 When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will
19 unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message the
20 host would like you to talk, and to press star 6 to
21 speak.

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



1 livestream volume.

2 The commissioners will take comment for every action
3 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
4 stream, the chair will call for public comments as they
5 are now. This is the time to call in.

6 The process for making a comment will be the same
7 each time. Begin by dialing the telephone number
8 provided on the livestream feed, and then follow the
9 steps that I have just outlined. And these instructions
10 are also located on the website.

11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do not have anyone
13 in the queue at this time.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Let's stand at ease for two minutes to
15 allow folks time to call in on this agenda item only,
16 agenda item number 10.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Perhaps, while we wait
18 (indiscernible).

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have someone in the
20 queue.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- Commissioner, Raul has a second
22 Commissioner. Raul has a second contract that maybe he
23 could explain while we're waiting.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have someone in the
25 queue.



1 MS. JOHNSTON: Oh.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Would you like me --

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Which direction would you
5 like to go?

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Go ahead and do the queue.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The public comment?

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, please. Um-hum.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

10 If you can press star 6. Would you please state and
11 spell your name for the court reporter?

12 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Hi. My name is Alejandra Ponce
13 De Leon. It's spelled A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-A, last name,
14 P-O-N-C-E, space, D-E, space, L-E-O-N.

15 Can you hear me?

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Please state your
17 comment.

18 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Hi. Good afternoon,
19 Commissioners. Just wanted to call and more than
20 anything just to uplift Commissioner Sinay's
21 recommendation on the implementation of the COI tool of
22 the communities of interest tool, to not do that before
23 developing and planning out your outreach and engagement
24 plan.

25 Both of these would go hand in hand, and so it'd be



1 important for -- for the Commissioners to take the time
2 to think through it, and then really develop the outreach
3 and engagement plan, and then see how the -- the tool
4 could be implemented and integrated that supports the
5 problem you have. And so just wanted to uplift that to
6 y'all and you know, just say that we're in agreement with
7 Commissioner Sinay's recommendation. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

9 We do not --

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Did Commissioner Le Mons had his hand
11 up before we -- no? Okay.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anyone
13 else in the queue at this time.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Raul, did you have another item you
15 wanted to discuss? Or shall we vote on this particular
16 contract first?

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Are you wanting to wait for more
18 public comment?

19 CHAIR AHMAD: I just wanted to get clarification on
20 that question.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So if --

22 MS. JOHNSTON: You have one more item, right?

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So they have a
24 motion.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So -- so -- I
2 just need to understand --

3 MS. JOHNSTON: We're waiting for public comment.

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- I understand.

5 So if -- if they have the one motion, can they
6 aggregate onto it and vote for both, or would it have to
7 be separate motions at this time?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: You could do one motion to approve
9 both.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Okay.

11 So Madam Chair, I -- I can go ahead with the next
12 one then?

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. And we'll keep an eye out on
14 public comment, as we will take it one more time before
15 we vote.

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Very good.

17 So during the last meeting, the Commission requested
18 for me to find some kind of interim assistance with the
19 public relations folks. And so in contacting the
20 Auditor's Office and the considerations that they have on
21 hand, it was better to go ahead and find someone
22 ourselves. And so that's what this contract is. It's an
23 interim contract for PR services through the end of
24 October until we have a Communications Director is in
25 place. The company is Ogilvy.

1 Now, Ogilvy has been involved with California
2 redistricting since 2009 when the Voters FIRST Act and
3 those individuals were putting that together. They also
4 worked with both applicant review panels and -- as the
5 first Commission was taking off.

6 They know the players, they have relationships, they
7 understand your work. And so in -- in reaching out to
8 them for the services, it seemed here was -- here was a
9 company that not only was excited about the work that you
10 do, but knowledgeable about the players so we wouldn't
11 have to pay a company to actually get up to speed.

12 And so what that contract would be in regards to is
13 developing the press -- some press releases and working
14 with the Commission as far as, not just distribution, but
15 crafting; should different types of inquiries come in;
16 performing triage for that, the media clips and tracking,
17 which I've been sending you some of those here the last
18 few days; as far as helping with the crafting of the
19 email blasts and that part of it.

20 And then kind of a -- a broader one, which is
21 strategic communications support, and that's providing
22 then the guidance, input, and advice to the Commission;
23 as far as some of the inquiries that I've been receiving
24 email-wise on, if I am invited to or I'm getting
25 inquiries, what's the best way for me to handle them.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Is that the end of your report, Raul?

2 I just want to make sure I don't cut you off.

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No. Yes, Madam

4 Chair. Thank you.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. I saw Commissioner

6 Akutagawa, and then Kennedy.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

8 Well, can I just ask, was there any consideration of
9 any other vendors, particularly minority-owned vendors?
10 Because on something like this, I think there are a lot
11 of fabulous minority-owned vendors that can do a lot of
12 this work.

13 And honestly, when I hear a name like Ogilvy, I feel
14 like a lot of them end up outsourcing to some of the
15 small vendors that maybe we can hire directly to do a lot
16 of this work. And so even though it is for a short
17 amount of time, I think that in this kind of time right
18 now, I think there are a lot of vendors -- you know,
19 minority-owned vendors that would appreciate even a
20 month-long contract. So I just wanted to ask that
21 question.

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So where I
23 focused on was time, availability, and experience, as
24 well as cost. For this type of contract, those are the
25 primary factors, so no, I didn't look at -- at -- at what

1 other alternatives were.

2 It wasn't really that type of a solicitation. That
3 kind of solicitation could be done, but then you increase
4 the time to do it. And I keep getting the emails, when
5 are you going to get someone on board? I'm getting these
6 types of inquiries, how should I handle them? And so
7 expediency and experience and cost were the primary
8 elements.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 My concern -- and I fully endorse Commissioner
12 Akutagawa's interest in bringing in smaller contractors
13 on something like this -- I think maybe Raul's point
14 about the timing we take is well-taken, and we can see
15 what we can do to engage with those firms on longer
16 terms. I'm just concerned that 31 October is not long
17 enough. We're going to find ourselves, you know, not
18 having someone on board and fully up to speed to be able
19 to take this over by the 31st of October. I'm wondering
20 if it could be 30th November or if there was a constraint
21 financially or time-wise that's preventing that?

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: This type of
23 contract has -- has an upper threshold, and so they have
24 to be under 10,000 dollars. Also too, I would have you
25 really strongly consider that not having a public -- your

1 Public Communications Director in place by the end of
2 next month, I'm -- I'm -- I would be startled to hear
3 that -- that that would be the case.

4 You really need someone in place very soon. You
5 have -- so as of today, you have eleven applicants, plus
6 the other, what, eight or nine applicants from previous.
7 Out of those nineteen applicants, I would hope you'd be
8 able to find one.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Or two. But I'm thinking
10 ahead. I'm hoping for the best, but trying to plan for
11 the worst.

12 MR. PEREZ: And I hear you, yes.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And I don't want to find us,
14 you know, without at some point. Is it possible to
15 structure it so that it's a not to exceed, and no early
16 cancellation penalty, so that we could extend the date
17 and just be careful with how we use the services in the
18 meantime?

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And that's a
20 different type of solicitation. If in working with the
21 subcommittee -- I mean, if there's indicators that that
22 would be needed, then I would want to start that and --
23 and have something in place.

24 As -- as far as managing the services, Commissioner
25 Kennedy, you -- you -- you're really hitting the nail on

1 the head on a lot of really critical issues with this.
2 And -- and so you can't have fourteen individuals going
3 to the vendor. It's going to have to be funneled either
4 through a subcommittee or through the Chair as -- as far
5 as request for services so that we can keep track and --
6 and be able then to manage the services.

7 There's a couple of other ideas, which, I guess I'll
8 be working with the subcommittee -- with the
9 Communications Director on this or -- Madam Chair? And
10 then I can provide those ideas to them, in terms of other
11 options in terms of working with this contract to get the
12 best opportunity for the Commission.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, you're muted.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, Akutagawa, and
15 then Andersen.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm thinking maybe what a
17 compromise could be, only because we are -- right now,
18 we're not -- we don't have someone in this area, is
19 maybe, you know, approve this one, but in the interim, if
20 Raul can look out towards -- maybe if we do need somebody
21 starting in November, look at other avenues such as
22 minority-owned vendors.

23 I mean, try to, like, reach out to see if there's
24 others, obviously, that can perform this service for us.
25 So because there is -- I think there's a 10,000-dollar

1 limit, something like that, right, Raul?

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Absolutely
3 correct, Commissioner Fernandez.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So yeah.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, Andersen, and
6 Le Mons.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Raul, is that 10,000-dollar
8 limit, is that just for the contract itself, or is that a
9 monthly limit?

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, that --
11 that's for the specific type of solicitation that was
12 performed. So --

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So I guess a couple
14 of recommendations. One, I think perhaps this could be
15 something that the Outreach Committee that Commissioner
16 Sinay is leading.

17 I'm sorry I'm going to put this on you.

18 But I think that this is perhaps something that
19 working together with her, I'm happy to immediately
20 forward at least a couple different agencies that I think
21 are more than capable of this kind of work. And I'm sure
22 that there are others that could also do it. I feel
23 like -- I think we could turn this around pretty quickly
24 so that we won't be delayed too much.

25 I also like what Commissioner Kennedy said about

1 even if we do have a Comms Director in place by the end
2 of October, if, you know, just for the transition so that
3 that person's not immediately having to take this up as
4 one of their first things, we just give them a little bit
5 of a breathing room to just -- like, even if it's two
6 weeks into November just to say, look, you got this much
7 time to get up to speed.

8 But in the meantime, they're going to be handling
9 this for you so that you -- it's not like something that
10 you have -- one of the first things that you have to
11 start working on. There's other things that I think we
12 want our Comms Director to be focused on, and this just
13 gives them that kind of breathing room. So that would be
14 some of my recommendations.

15 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: We have three minutes until break.

17 Commissioner Andersen, Le Mons, and then we should
18 probably take a vote on the motion that was on the table
19 probably (indiscernible).

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just very quickly here.
21 Isn't this under -- this is an interim thing under one
22 of the Communications Director subcommittee. So has
23 this -- and I know Commissioner Taylor is not here right
24 now.

25 But Commissioner Vazquez, I'm assuming that you have

1 been run this -- you and Raul have been talking about
2 this, and does this fit into your temporary ideas
3 before -- you know, I appreciate everyone's putting their
4 input in, but hasn't this already been handled in the
5 subcommittee?

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: We have not talked
7 specifically about -- that we've focused much more on the
8 deadline to get someone in the door in the Communications
9 Director, and it's that time line that was then used to
10 create the structure of the solicitation.

11 If I'm framing that correctly, Raul.

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes. And I may
13 have been wrong in this. Is it -- I provided the actual
14 solicitation to the Finance Committee for -- for pre-
15 approval. There's so many subcommittees, I think.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, I see. And it did not
17 go to -- it didn't get the okay from the Communications
18 Committee?

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, because then I was
21 expecting this information to come from them. So it's
22 already a done deal. It's like, yep, that's the way to
23 go, and we just went along.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And -- and -- and
25 if I may. That's why I'm requesting -- let me work with

1 the folks who are already doing the Communications
2 Director.

3 Don't give me a third subcommittee to work on for
4 the one project, right? I'm already working with the
5 Finance Committee on the contract. I think it's
6 appropriate to go to the subcommittee who is already
7 doing the work with the Communications Director. So
8 please don't give me a third one to have to work with on
9 the same subject, with all due respect. But that's --
10 you know, that's -- I'm sorry, I'm just expressing my
11 side of the table here.

12 Does that make sense?

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'll save my comments for
15 when we talk about in agenda building. Maybe I can fold
16 it in there. Thank you.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So we had one motion on
18 the table that was already seconded to approve the hiring
19 of the interim individual? Ryana, right?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: For putting the --

22 MS. JOHNSTON: Ryana Fisher. Motion vote.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Ryana Fisher.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner --

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we need roll call vote on that?



1 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Or do we have to -- okay.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner.

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez.

3 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Motion passes.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. It's 12:45. When we
8 return from lunch, we do have to revisit this last item
9 that Raul has presented to us --

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: -- and make a decision if we're not
12 going to vote on it today, or if we are going to vote on
13 it and move forward from that. And let's not let that
14 conversation still open.

15 After that, we will have some time to jump into
16 future meeting dates and agenda items, and then jump into
17 closed session for our continued deliberation on the
18 hiring of the Executive Director.

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Do you have any questions about that
21 process for the rest of the day at this point?

22 Yes, Commissioner Yee?

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, I think we were actually
24 hanging on any public comment when we went into the
25 discussion of the PR firm, so.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Katy is pretty good at telling
2 us, so.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, there was no one
4 further in the queue throughout the duration.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Let's meet back at 1:45. See you all
6 in an hour.

7 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Welcome back from lunch.
9 The time is 1:46 p.m. We will continue with the
10 discussion that we left off on, which was the second
11 contract that Raul had brought up for discussion. Do we
12 have any last-minute thoughts on that contract?

13 Yes, Commissioner Sadhwani.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yep, on most things, I am
15 all for moving forward because my real goal, I think for
16 all of us, is the line drawing, the community engagement,
17 all of those pieces. And certainly, I have been one of
18 the ones who has had multiple requests from the media and
19 have been seeking advice, so that would be helpful in
20 general.

21 However, I do think on this one issue, I think it
22 would be helpful to take Commissioner Akutagawa's advice
23 and to seek more than one potential contractor. I just
24 think that there's a lot of folks out there who do public
25 relations. That would slow us down.

1 We're also looking for a communications person, so I
2 think that I would feel -- I think to me it would have
3 been helpful to have had this put in place, you know, by
4 the State Auditor's Office in August. We obviously
5 didn't have that, but we're in a process now to find the
6 right solution.

7 And I just really, really hesitate to say, well,
8 this was the person that we had or this is the firm that
9 we used in 2010, so let's use it again. I just think
10 that there's a lot out there. And if we're talking
11 about, like, press releases and basic media training, I
12 just feel like there's a lot of folks that can do it.
13 And when we have a Communications Director we can be
14 thinking much more broadly about what we want our full
15 communications/outreach to really be looking like.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: I would just add that this is
17 something that we as a Commission asked Raul to go out
18 and seek based off of our previous conversations. My
19 thoughts on this is it is interim, so if we need someone
20 to draft a press release today or on Monday, would we
21 have that resource as we are currently -- as we currently
22 stand? That's just the question that I would pose.

23 And then question for you, Raul; can you give us
24 some insight into the time frame that it took you to get
25 to this point today, just so that my fellow colleagues

1 can also have that sense of what it would look like if we
2 were to go out again for even an interim contractor?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: The entire
4 process, including the negotiations, was probably about
5 three days. And it was completely because the type of
6 solicitation. And if I may, it wasn't a matter -- it's
7 really more a matter -- well, let me put it this way. It
8 wasn't because they were -- the -- here in 2010; it's
9 because they've been involved with the process since
10 2009, and they know the players. They were involved with
11 the process here this summer.

12 And as far as -- as bringing someone in who knows
13 your different community partners and has relationships
14 with them, that was really one of the bigger selling
15 points, especially for having someone just as an interim
16 who could still have a strong impact in terms of their
17 understanding and grounding of the work of the Commission
18 and the players involved. Should you decide to not go
19 that route, which is up to you, then we're probably
20 looking at the next best in terms of expediency, time,
21 and that would be doing a small business solicitation.

22 And so Commissioner Akutagawa, I certainly welcome
23 you providing names of firms. It would really be helpful
24 if they've already -- small-business certified in the
25 State, and then I would be able to -- to use that type of

1 solicitation. If they're not already small-business
2 certified, then we can't do that type of solicitation and
3 have to go to a much lengthier process, or I go to small-
4 business solicitation.

5 That would probably be about a week and a half to
6 two weeks minimum, in terms of time.

7 Did I answer your question, Chair Ahmad?

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Yes, you did.

9 I have Commissioner Kennedy, Vazquez, and then
10 Akutagawa and Le Mons and Yee.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 I haven't seen the document, so some of my questions
13 are just based on not having seen the document. Is this
14 an hourly rate, and when we get to 10,000 dollars, that's
15 it? Is it a fixed retainer for the period that's 10,000
16 dollars lump sum? Is there any flexibility? If it is an
17 hourly rate, is there flexibility in the end date as long
18 as we don't exceed the 10,000?

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: So it was
20 negotiated as a flat fee for the duration. If you were
21 to try and do this on an hourly basis, it would cost you
22 a lot more.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Akutagawa, Le
24 Mons, and then Yee.

25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I was just going to say

1 that it was my understanding by the end of the last --
2 from the end of the last meeting that we were going to,
3 per Commissioner Kennedy's really strong, wise points
4 about the State Auditor needing to provide us with the
5 staffing necessary to do the work, it seemed like we went
6 to the State Auditor and probably that staff person had
7 already been reassigned. And it doesn't sound like they
8 were able and/or willing to accommodate the request.

9 So I think this contract is Raul's great attempt at
10 trying to fill a need that we had identified. But it
11 wasn't my understanding that we would be contracting with
12 an outside firm at the end of the last meeting.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, Le Mons, and
14 Yee.

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So for clarification, you
16 said it would be about a week to week-and-a-half process.
17 That's if they're small-business certified?

18 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, and that's
19 the minimum.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. And then you said
21 that you negotiated a flat fee of 10,000. If, let's say,
22 another provider were to come in and said, you know,
23 like, we could do this -- I guess either for the same --
24 it would either have to be the same or less. Is that?

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, it -- it

1 would have -- so it would have to be a totally different
2 and completely separate solicitation.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, you --
5 you --

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: All right.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, you couldn't
8 piggyback onto this.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Onto that one. Okay.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: I mean, I
11 could -- I could use it as a basis for looking at fair
12 and reasonable pricing, but that would be the extent of
13 it.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So was this solicitation
15 created just for Ogilvy?

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: This solicitation
17 was created specifically to meet this need, and Ogilvy
18 was able to meet it. It wasn't geared towards Ogilvy; it
19 was geared towards meeting the service needs of the
20 Commission. And I'm not trying to parse words, it's --
21 it's -- there is a difference.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I guess I do get it,
23 and I understand why you went to Ogilvy. I guess I'm
24 hearing what you're saying about the solicitation meaning
25 to me, but I guess I'm -- yeah, I guess I still stand by,

1 you know, I think that Ogilvy is not the only player.

2 They are a very large player.

3 And to be frank, I don't think that they have the
4 community connections. I think we need to build upon
5 what was done ten years ago. But I think there's a lot
6 more other resources that are out there.

7 And I also want to correct myself by saying not only
8 just minority businesses, but other diverse businesses as
9 well too, that I think we need to consider and that have
10 equally -- equal capabilities of, I think, reaching the
11 kind of communities that we're looking to reach.

12 And frankly, I've worked with -- I've seen the work
13 of organizations like Ogilvy, and what they do is they go
14 to the people with the context. They don't have them
15 inside their own company. They're not built for that.
16 They go to smaller players and ask them for contacts and
17 recommendations of who they should be reaching out to.

18 And I think that's why I'm kind of harping on this,
19 because I frankly find it a little annoying that that
20 money is being passed through, but the people who do the
21 actual work are not really receiving fair compensation
22 for it. So I guess that's why I'm kind of on this thing
23 right now, so.

24 But thank you, Raul. I do appreciate what you're
25 doing, and I know that you're in a hard spot.



1 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: And I was just
2 trying to meet your needs.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

4 Oh, yeah, go ahead and respond, Raul.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, no, no. I
6 was just -- no, it -- I'm just trying --

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, okay.

8 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- to meet your
9 needs.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. I'm sorry.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: I picked up whatever was coming
13 through those fabulous, high-quality mics.

14 Commissioner Le Mons, Yee, and Toledo.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I do think that we need to
16 determine whether or not this is an immediate need and
17 whether the immediate need of this particular service --
18 which sounds pretty specific and narrow -- through the
19 end of October, trumps our need for the points that
20 Commissioner Akutagawa has raised. I don't think that
21 they're mutually exclusive.

22 I think that we can -- if we have a need to have
23 this kind of work done between now and the end of
24 October, this is a very temporary interim thing. Let's
25 let our Communications Director put together with all of

1 the positions that we have about diversity and inclusion
2 and all of that stuff to actually make sure that they
3 make sure that that happens.

4 That usually, unfortunately, is not an easy
5 proposition just based on how our society has been
6 structured. So a lot of times, the kind of people that
7 we would like to get at the table, we have to prepare the
8 table and go through some processes in order to get them
9 there because for all of the reasons we all know too
10 well, they're not on the ready that way. So I would push
11 back against this idea that we have.

12 I mean, Raul just pointed out two things that would
13 be probably immediate barriers for most of the kinds of
14 people we will want to get on board very quickly to be
15 able to do this. I'm not saying there's no one, but the
16 odds of that being a reality is not real on a time-
17 sensitive situation.

18 So if we could say -- I think the first thing for us
19 to clear up is, is this really a need that we have to
20 solve between now and November 30th? Can it wait until
21 our Communications Director is on board?

22 If it can, we move on. If it's something that we
23 need to have somebody responding to media inquiry now
24 with press releases, et cetera, now, because we don't
25 want to wait, then let's do this interim approach with an

1 eye to how we want to structure our future.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee and Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm feeling very sympathetic to
4 all the concerns being raised, but also feeling that it
5 is a fairly urgent need and an interim solution to a
6 present need. So I'd like to go ahead and move that we
7 accept the proposition for Ogilvy as an interim provider
8 of PR services, per the solicitation that was negotiated.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'll second.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Did you get that, Marian?

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: It was motioned by Yee and seconded --

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Seconded by Le Mons.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: -- by Le Mons?

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Um-hum.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Toledo.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah, I'm a supporter of
18 moving forward with the contract just given our
19 conversations in the past about the urgency of having
20 public relations capacity and trying to reach out to the
21 Auditor's Office. And this is a very small contract and
22 a short period of time. So I feel comfortable with doing
23 it.

24 And of course, I am very, very sympathetic to the
25 diversity inclusion issues. And we can work on those

1 throughout the rest of our tenure here.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. And just to tag on, yes,
4 ready to move, et cetera. I'm hoping that us being a
5 Citizens Commission, that we also will not perpetuate the
6 cycle for which we find ourselves in now, and that we in
7 the Commission, we -- our Communications Director, just
8 have it somewhere as a footnote that we want to, while
9 we're out educating about everything else, maybe have
10 something prepared where we're also helping these other
11 community groups, businesses, small businesses know the
12 pathway so that they are able to be ready going forward.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional comments?

14 Commissioner Andersen.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: This is very quick. I
16 couldn't find my notes. The Communications Director,
17 what is our time line on that, or where are we on that
18 particular -- you know, what -- I think things went out.
19 When is it due back?

20 CHAIR AHMAD: I can respond. So the recruitments
21 are posted and applications will be accepted through
22 September 30th, the end of the month. Then my
23 understanding is Commissioner Taylor and I will look at
24 the application. And similar to our Executive Director
25 process, call through, present some options for

1 interviews, and then we will have to notice, and then
2 conduct interviews for the Director mid-October likely.
3 So theoretically, like, as Raul stated, hopefully end of
4 October, we will have an offer extended.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, is our --

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Taylor.

9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you.

10 I just want to concur with Commissioner Vazquez.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

12 Seeing no additional comments, let's open the line
13 for public comment on this particular item.

14 Raul, would you please read the instructions one
15 more time?

16 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes, Madam Chair.

17 The Commission will advise the viewing audience when
18 it is time to submit public comment. The Commissioners
19 will then allow time for those who wish to comment to
20 dial in, which is what is occurring now.

21 To call in, first of all, on your phone, dial a
22 telephone number provided on the livestream feed.
23 Second, when prompted, please enter the meeting ID, which
24 is provided on the livestream feed, using your dial pad.
25 Number 3, when prompted to enter a participant ID, simply

1 press the pound sign.

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

7 When it is your turn to speak, the Moderator will
8 and mute you, and you will hear an automatic message, the
9 host would like you to talk, and press star 6 to speak.
10 You will have a few minutes to provide your comments.

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

16 The Commissioners will take comment for every action
17 item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
18 stream, the chair will call for public comments, and that
19 is the time to call in. The process for making a comment
20 will be the same each time. Begin by dialing the
21 telephone number provided on the livestream feed and
22 following the steps as I have just indicated. And these
23 instructions are located on the website.

24 Madam Chair?

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do not --



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- have anyone in the
3 queue at this time, but I will set a timer for a couple
4 minutes.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Two minutes is perfect.

6 (Pause)

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And Chair, it's been
8 about two minutes. We still have no one in the queue at
9 this time.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you so much, Katy.

11 Marian, can we go over the roll call vote?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Excuse me.

13 Commissioner Ahmad.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy. Commissioner
24 Kennedy?

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Pass.



1 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor.

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: (Audio interference).

13 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner --

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: -- Vazquez.

18 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Motion passes.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you everyone.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Moving on to the next agenda item,
25 agenda item number 11, discussion of meeting dates and

1 future agenda items. Before we jump into what I presume
2 will be an interesting conversation about all the
3 different stuff we want to cover, I would like for us to
4 go through scheduling the dates in particular before we
5 jump into the content.

6 Our next meeting, which is already agenzized and the
7 agenda is publicly available, is scheduled for October
8 5th through the 7th. For that meeting, Commissioner
9 Fernandez and Vazquez will be playing the Chair and Vice
10 Chair role.

11 Following that meeting, we agreed on October 12th
12 and 13th, in which Commissioner Vazquez would be the
13 Chair and Commissioner Akutagawa would be the Vice Chair.

14 After that, we agreed on October 20th and 21st, in
15 which Commissioner Akutagawa will be the Chair and
16 Commissioner Fornaciari will be the Vice Chair.

17 Next is October 28th and 29th, in which Commissioner
18 Fornaciari would be the Chair and Commissioner Kennedy
19 would assume the Vice Chair role.

20 If we were to continue with that pattern that we had
21 agreed upon previously of two days and alternating
22 throughout the week, our next meeting after the last week
23 of October would fall on November 5th and 6th.

24 Am I correct on that; yes?

25 The meeting following would fall on November 9th and

1 10th; is that correct, if we are to start back up at the
2 beginning of the week?

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I would only say about that,
4 that actually puts us at four days in a row.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Four days, um-hum.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay, why don't we -- do we have
8 recommendations for solutions at this point if there's
9 concerns about four days in a row? We can bounce back
10 the other way, back from Friday, so it would be Oct --
11 November 5th and 6th, and the following week we could go
12 backwards, so November 11th and 12th.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: 11th is Veteran's Day, if that
14 matters.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, my recommendation was
17 going to be after the 29th, that we're actually taking a
18 week off the first week of November. Yeah, that's my
19 recommendation. It's right around the election period,
20 and I may not make those meetings in just one lump.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

22 Commissioner Fernandez, and then Kennedy.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was just wondering if
24 everyone would be amenable -- I get the two days every
25 week, but how about a three day every other week? And

1 you're still getting your six days, but at least you're
2 getting, like, a week off in between. I mean, at some
3 point in time, it's going to have to be a weekly meeting,
4 potentially. But I'm thinking for now, maybe try to get
5 the same number of days, but maybe have like a week in
6 between to kind of catch your breath and get ready for
7 the next one, so. But either way is fine. As long as I
8 know ahead of time, I can work around it. Thanks.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, Akutagawa,
10 Sinay, and then Yee.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
12 think we need the meetings scheduled. If we end up
13 cutting them short, if we end up canceling them, so be
14 it, but I think we need them scheduled. I think we need
15 to keep this train rolling.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would agree. I'm fine
17 with three days every other week. We're far enough out
18 that it's just easy to schedule these now. Three days,
19 every week, every other week.

20 I just want to note that besides the election week,
21 we're also going to have to think about, do we want to
22 meet the week of Thanksgiving? And then also looking
23 further out, based on whatever schedule we do, we also
24 have the week of Christmas, too, that we'll be running up
25 against.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Sinay, you were next in
2 the queue --

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: -- and then followed by Yee.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks, I forgot the order. I
6 like the three day, because November, we're going to have
7 some of our critical staff already in place, and we're
8 going to need to do planning. And planning in two days
9 is difficult, as we have learned. So we may want to
10 do -- I understand it's the election week the first week.
11 But with Thanksgiving, I would suggest three days that
12 week of November 1st, and then three days the week of
13 November 16th, with that one week in between as a break,
14 and then we have the Thanksgiving week off as a break.
15 But planning is going to be critical if we keep looking
16 at, kind of, January 1st of what we want to get out.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee, and Vazquez.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: About the rotating Chairs, I
19 believe we had agreed that a Chair would serve three days
20 or one meeting, whichever is longer. So if we have some
21 of these two-day blocks--

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Right.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- we could say two days instead,
24 but that would be a change from what we agreed on.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: You're absolutely right. Thank you

1 for catching that, Commissioner Yee.

2 Commissioner Vazquez?

3 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I was just thinking in
4 terms of planning for the holidays. I would like us to
5 consider actually meeting before Thanksgiving, only in
6 thinking about our staff's capacity. If we met the
7 Monday or Tuesday, or even really Wednesday after
8 Thanksgiving, that really means that they're going to be
9 working over the long holiday to prep for our meeting,
10 whereas if we butt up right against it, they can at
11 least, you know, assuredly close their laptops for the
12 Thanksgiving holiday.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Does anyone have any recommendations
14 for specific dates starting the week of November 1st?

15 Commissioner Andersen, and then Akutagawa?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. I sort of liked, a
17 little bit like Commissioner Sinay was saying.
18 Obviously, you know, Election Day, we're all going to be
19 busy. We're all going to be working those poll booths,
20 right, or helping out somehow. So what about -- there
21 was the November 4, 5, 6; and then, actually, maybe you
22 skip the week or have a two-day in between, and then go
23 16, 17, 18; and then skip the week of Thanksgiving and
24 come back the week of the December, first week of
25 December?

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then I
2 would like us to react to the suggestion from
3 Commissioner Andersen.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'm going to take a hybrid
5 of everything, because I am also cognizant, I think it
6 was what, I think maybe it was Commissioner Fernandez
7 that said this, there is going to be a lot of work.
8 Maybe we just need to -- or someone else said that we
9 should just calendar the dates, and then if we don't need
10 it, if we decide we want to take a week off, we just
11 cancel the meeting.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: 4, 5, 6.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So my suggestion would be
14 like what Commissioner Andersen just said.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Um-hum.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We look at 4, 5, 6, the
17 following week, the week of the 9th, we look at maybe two
18 dates --

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- whether it's the 12th
21 and 13th, then come back to three days the week of the
22 16th, maybe, like, whether it's the 17th, 18th, or 18th,
23 19th, 20th. And then with what Commissioner Vazquez
24 says, I agree with her. Maybe we meet on that Monday,
25 Tuesday, so that's the two-day week.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Maybe I just --

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And then maybe not consider
3 meeting until maybe we do it two days, just for the week
4 after Thanksgiving, like maybe that Thursday or Friday so
5 that the staff that we'll have will have at least that
6 few days after they come back from the Thanksgiving
7 holiday to get ready, but won't be forced into working
8 over the weekend or during Thanksgiving to prepare for
9 our meeting.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That's quite a large number.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And then we could always
12 cancel, but we just get them calendared.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: 4, 5, 6 --

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen, you're not on
15 mute.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, sorry, sorry.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, no. Go for it.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Was I clear, though? I was
19 just thinking I might not have been clear. I was saying
20 November 4, 5, 6, then November 11, 12, then November 16,
21 17, 18. And then the week of December, if we want to do
22 a three day, or a two day. A three day would be 2, 3, 4,
23 or the two day would be 3, 4, again, to give the staff
24 time to put that together. We go 3, 4, and then go back
25 to a three day the following week.

1 But so November, I'm proposing 4, 5, 6 -- well, I'd
2 go either Tuesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and
3 then the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 16, 17, 18. And
4 skip the last week of Thanksgiving, or the full
5 Thanksgiving week off.

6 Then December, you know, the -- if it's a three --
7 if we want to go back to three day, it would be, what is
8 it, 2, 3, 4, or 3, 4. I kind of like the three, two,
9 three, two, because that would work well -- well, in
10 terms of a three-day Chair, we have to think about if we
11 want to do -- basically, each Chair would essentially be
12 doing five days at that point, two different sets of
13 meetings. I don't know if we want to do it that way.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: I wouldn't schedule meetings based off
15 of the Chair rotation. The Chair rotation is something
16 we can alter if doesn't work, after the fact, but the
17 meeting schedule dates should be considered separately.

18 I'm going to bring us back. Starting November, we
19 close off our meeting on October 29th.

20 When is the next time when we -- when will I see my
21 fabulous colleagues again?

22 Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess I would like a finger
24 count or I mean, just to see if people are up for every
25 week doing three, two, three, twos, because I had heard

1 people needed more space.

2 Also, you know, if we meet every week, that's a lot
3 for staff to work in between because we will be -- we
4 create work when we meet. And so I'm just trying to
5 think. To me, it seems more effective to have three,
6 three, you know, and a week in between.

7 But I just wanted to get a feels (sic) because once
8 we decide if we're going to meet three, two, three, two,
9 three, two, then we can put that on the calendar. But I
10 feel like we're having two different conversations.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani and then Vazquez
12 and then Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just in terms of what
14 Commissioner Andersen suggested, I would just ask if we
15 don't do Veterans Day. Schools are closed, and it's a
16 little bit more difficult.

17 And then, on the two, three, two, three -- ugh, we
18 haven't done the every week yet, but I think it might be
19 a little bit helpful for us, at least for a while. I
20 think what's happening is there's a two-week break
21 between our meetings, or more. And I think things kind
22 of get a little lost, like, oh yeah, did we ask or yeah,
23 did we ask Raul to do this? Did we not? I think that
24 we're, like, losing things in that two-week period. So I
25 think maybe for a little while, the weekly. But I could

1 be persuaded either way, but I do see that as something
2 that we're struggling with.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, and Fernandez,
4 Akutagawa?

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I mean, maybe the
6 compromise is three, one, and the one is really as a
7 touchpoint check-in on things that were heavily discussed
8 and work assigned to staff during the three-day
9 intensive. I will say three, two feels like a lot, and
10 we will, hopefully, by November, have new staff.

11 And do we want new staff spending their time
12 prepping for meetings, or do we want new staff doing the
13 work that we are trying to get off of our plates so that
14 we can strategically plan and direct staff to do A, B,
15 and C?

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, and then
17 Akutagawa.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I agree with Commissioner
19 Sinay in terms of every other week, because it is very
20 labor intensive, and I know Commissioner Sinay also
21 worked on a school board. For the staff to come up with
22 the material, whatever they're going to present, so they
23 have to kind of, like, stop, focus on that, and then when
24 they have time, set up whatever they want to set up for
25 the next meeting.

1 If it's every single week, they're continuing to
2 have to set an agenda, post an agenda every single week.
3 And we're also having to decide what's going to be on
4 that agenda every single week versus if it's every other
5 week.

6 I think for now, I think it's more meaningful every
7 other week, but again, starting in January, I think those
8 weekly meetings are probably going to be a must. So I'm
9 thinking right now, when we can, let's take advantage of
10 it, but at some point, it's just not going to happen.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then I
12 would like to actually ask the staff we have what they
13 are thinking about this process that we're discussing.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think, looking ahead to
15 the holidays, I will say, Commissioner Fernandez, I like
16 what you just said. I was thinking, I was like, I really
17 like what Commissioner Vazquez said. I really like the
18 idea of like even a day touchpoint, but I hear what
19 you're saying, and so I changed my mind. I thought,
20 okay, yeah, let's take advantage of it while we can.

21 I looked ahead, and I was looking at the calendar,
22 and so when we get into December, we have the week of
23 Christmas, and then the week after that is New Year's.

24 I think the question that I want to just ask for all
25 of us to consider too, is are we going to also think

1 about taking any time off during that time? Are we going
2 to plan to meet between Christmas and New Year? Are we
3 going to take two weeks off, or are we going to try to
4 meet prior to Christmas?

5 I think those should also be considerations in this
6 cadence that we're talking about, because that could
7 also, perhaps, influence how we might think about how we
8 want to meet.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Raul and Marian, I understand, and I
10 think the Commission understands, it's completely up to
11 us how we schedule our meetings. But clearly, we're
12 being very cognizant of our staff, and we want to make
13 sure that it is something that's not overly burdensome on
14 you two, and future staff that we hire.

15 What are your thoughts about our discussion so far?

16 MS. JOHNSTON: I was just wondering about the
17 statement from the Legislative people that they wanted to
18 get deployment by January 1st. And that's going to be at
19 least one, maybe two, very long meetings of the
20 Commission to decide. And that's going to have to be
21 done in November, probably, because you're just going to
22 be getting your training next month. So I would just
23 urge you to allow enough time for you to thoroughly
24 consider what input you want to have to the COI tool.

25 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum. All

1 right.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Raul, do you have any thoughts?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: A couple of
4 things to keep in mind. One was the comment the -- the
5 other day about, you know, Commissioners feeling rushed
6 with some of these processes. When you have meetings
7 back-to-back, you're going to feel rushed.

8 Chair Ahmad is a good example, where for two
9 meetings now we've reached out. She's been part of the
10 planning process, and in terms of the agendas. And that
11 means stopping, Marian and I, reaching out to Chair
12 Ahmad, this time, Chair Ahmad and Commissioner Fernandez,
13 and having, like, a hour, two-hour discussion on the
14 agenda.

15 So -- so as this goes forward, for example, we have
16 to put an -- out -- out an agenda on Monday. So
17 that's -- that's Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner
18 Vazquez, we need to meet with you to get that agenda set.
19 It's got to happen sometime between now and Monday,
20 because it's got to get posted Monday.

21 And waiting till Monday afternoon won't work, you
22 know? And so but -- but I'm just relating these things
23 because it's not just on us as -- as staff. It's -- it's
24 the impact, then on you in, terms of having to stop and
25 make these decisions for the group, if the group hasn't

1 already had the discussion about the future agenda items.

2 Anyway, those are my -- my comments for you.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you both for sharing your
4 thoughts.

5 Commissioner Fernandez?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, just in terms of the
7 COI feedback, my understanding is that that needs to
8 be -- our feedback needs to go back to them before the
9 end of October.

10 And then, just personally -- and I don't know if
11 Commissioner Ahmad wants to speak on this too -- but
12 setting the agenda for the next one for me was rushed
13 only because I came in at the tail end of the
14 conversation, and fortunately, Commissioner Ahmad said,
15 hey, I think we need to include her, because she's going
16 to be the Chair for that meeting.

17 And at that point in time, we were rushed, and I
18 should have included Commissioner Vazquez, because she
19 was going to -- was Vice Chair. So I just feel like
20 because it's happening so fast, and I get it, because
21 you're dealing with day-to-day, the staff is, and then
22 it's like, oh, we've got to set the agenda that has to go
23 out Monday. So then you're just rushed to get it out
24 Monday instead of actually -- maybe if we were to have
25 that conversation the prior Monday, it would have been a

1 whole week to really think about it.

2 And part of it is just everyone getting used to the
3 rotating schedule, but then it also is you're going back
4 to the same staff, regardless if it's going to be Raul
5 and Marian, or whoever else, there's still going to be
6 the same staff that are going to be the ones that have to
7 coordinate all this. And it's, I think for now, my
8 personal opinion is, like the every other week, three
9 days, I think might be more efficient time of our use
10 (sic), of everyone's use.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Additional thoughts?

12 I'm also with Commissioner Fernandez on this.
13 Getting the agenda together was extremely rushed, and
14 that's no fault to the staff. That's not fault to us.
15 It's just that there are certain things that hadn't been
16 covered yet in our meetings that we would like to have
17 agendized. And that foresight is sometimes difficult
18 when the meeting hasn't even occurred yet.

19 And so you know, I'm looking forward to October 12th
20 and 13th, or potentially 20th and 21st meetings. Those
21 would have to be agendized before we even get to the
22 meeting prior. And if something comes up in the meeting
23 prior, it might not have been agendized, so we wouldn't
24 be able to discuss it until two weeks after.

25 So I am in favor of the three days every other week

1 model. And then come January, when we're out in the
2 field, I have read and heard that it'll just be every day
3 in some fashion. So maybe we should take advantage of
4 the time that we have.

5 Other thoughts?

6 Yes, Commissioner Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry to sort of put on, but
8 okay. If we do every other week, though, you know, part
9 of this is because we don't have any staff. We have two
10 people, and there's no way they can do work and
11 coordinate. So as soon as we get an Executive Director
12 on, then they can do the, let's meet and discuss the
13 agenda, while they're having staff do the work.

14 So I think that's going to -- it'll start smoothing
15 things out as we get more people on board, which should
16 happen in a couple of weeks now. So that puts us kind of
17 in the middle of October. So by the time November -- if
18 we have the three days, skip a week, three day, if we
19 come up with something at the end of that third day of
20 the first one, we won't be able to talk about it until a
21 month later because it's too late to have it on the next
22 meeting, which is a week after, postpone a week.

23 And our mechanism, we actually really have to look
24 at those particular days to make sure that we're not,
25 like -- obviously, we can't get into the very next

1 meeting, but it's got to be in that third meeting. And
2 the way it is right now, that third meeting is a month
3 apart. So you know, I think we need to look, actually
4 physically look at the calendar, and make sure that we're
5 not shooting ourselves in the foot on our dates --

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Good points.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- because we might -- yeah.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Good points.

9 Commissioner Sinay?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I may be off, but if we do
11 three days, so it would be November 4th through 6th, 4th
12 through 6th, November 16th through 18th, December 1
13 through December 3 -- December 1 through 3. And then I
14 would propose, on the week of the 14th, because I don't
15 know if people's -- well, if we can travel -- I know,
16 life is -- but I was thinking doing it earlier in the
17 week of December versus the week of December 14th, so
18 14th through 16th.

19 Just because I think later that week gets really
20 busy, with kids in school and travel and all that, so
21 that's why I wasn't matching the pattern. And then I
22 stopped there because I didn't know what people wanted to
23 do for the two weeks at the end of December.

24 There isn't a month -- I mean, it gets -- there is
25 difficult, but that's where I think our next meeting, we

1 put in one whole -- well, never mind.

2 At some point in an agenda, we can put in a half day
3 where we are at -- you know, once we get the Gantt Chart
4 going and stuff, it's going to be a lot easier to
5 agendize. Right now, we're building as we're flying.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Can I hear thoughts about -- go ahead,
7 Commissioner Fernandez, before I ask.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was just going to say, I
9 agree with that schedule that Commissioner Sinay just
10 suggested.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Other thoughts?

12 Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa?

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thinking back to the
14 meetings that we had, you know, at the end of August,
15 beginning of September, where it was one very long agenda
16 that spanned over, essentially, eight days, and -- well,
17 I guess, if we go to every other week, it won't matter.

18 But if there were -- again, thinking about even if
19 we put a one-day or a two-day in the weeks in between,
20 and we created one very long agenda, would that give us
21 flexibility, if we could finish the agenda earlier, if we
22 decide, you know what, look, we don't want to meet next
23 week, can we finish all of these agenda items in the
24 three days and then take a week off? Sometimes I feel
25 like -- not looking to create more work, and to create

1 more work for us, to create more work for the staff, but
2 I will say that there are times when I feel like, oh, we
3 could have just used one more extra day, but we can't,
4 because it's not on the -- it's not been note -- you
5 know, the notice hasn't gone out, and I'm just kind of
6 thinking about, does that give us some flexibility?

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy?

8 You're on mute, Commissioner Kennedy. And then
9 Commissioner Turner.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: A question for Counsel. And
11 this is following up on Commissioner Akutagawa's point.
12 If we get to the end of a meeting and we have not covered
13 everything on the agenda and we decide to carry something
14 over to the next meeting, if the next meeting were the
15 following week, would we still be able to take that up --

16 MS. JOHNSTON: No.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- or would we have to -- no?

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Because it wasn't noticed for that
19 meeting. Remember the good parts about Bagley-Keene,
20 public transparency.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner?

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. I was just going to, as
23 we are deciding which dates, I'd like for us also to
24 consider, for those of us that are still bivocational,
25 when we have holidays that are, like, for example, the

1 first holiday that comes up, it's for most are closed
2 that Thursday, Friday, I'd prefer not to come back into a
3 Commission meeting on Monday.

4 I'd prefer to at least have a day to get things back
5 on track before we move. So if possible, coming out of a
6 holiday, if we could at least have a day back in the
7 office before we take two and three days off, if we
8 consider that in scheduling, that would be good.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: I know we're trying to figure out
10 what's the most efficient way to agendize, but Counsel,
11 correct me if I'm wrong, if I'm understanding this,
12 whatever we put on the agenda is something that we are
13 able to discuss because if it's not on the agenda, we
14 can't discuss it. But just because it's on the agenda
15 doesn't mean we have to discuss it.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: That's right.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: And that's the value about having an
19 agenda that covers several days, that if you don't get to
20 it one day, you can still take it up the next day.
21 Although it does look like it's a long work schedule.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani, Yee, Andersen?

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just for some clarity, when
24 we're trying to block out all of these days, we do have a
25 Communications Director and Chief Counsel ads that are

1 out there. I assume that that means we're going to need
2 some of the dates that we have in October already
3 agendized -- well, they're on the calendar, at least, as
4 closed session; is that correct?

5 And do we have a sense, or do we want to lay out, to
6 some extent, some broad themes beyond -- I definitely
7 hear what Marian's saying, and completely agree that
8 flexibility of the agenda, just put everything on there,
9 it's like the whole kitchen sink, and we'll take what we
10 want from it. But it sounds like there are also some
11 very specific kinds of things that we're going to need to
12 be doing. And I just want to kind of put that out there,
13 that we might want to think about some of those as we're
14 crafting this agenda moving forward to ensure that we can
15 actually fit all of them into these days.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee, and Andersen, and
17 then Turner?

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: So this is our tenth day of
19 meeting, and we just had a good -- a lot of training.
20 And still, I think we've done a lot in ten days. So
21 we're talking about, that would be twelve days in
22 November, December, right, three, three, three, three.
23 And that sounds good to me. So I just want to support
24 Commissioner Sinay's proposal for the six days in
25 November and six days in December.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen, and then
2 Turner?

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I've got a
4 question in terms of, if we find a -- well, the issue I'm
5 trying to deal with right now is when we come up with
6 something in the meeting, wow, we really we need to -- we
7 need to talk about this the next time around. And
8 without having to try to miss the meeting, but go for
9 the, essentially, the month. Like the first week in
10 November, if we come up with something that, but the way
11 we've written it, we couldn't talk about it till the next
12 month, first week of December.

13 And Marian or Raul, if we have the days, and say it
14 would be the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, like, the 2nd,
15 3rd, 4th, and then the next meeting is -- like, skip a
16 week, it would start the 18, 19, 20. As long as we -- if
17 we send it out on the -- it being the agenda -- if we
18 agenda it on Wednesday, the 4th, would that still give us
19 time to actually create the agenda for the 18, 19, 20?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Four plus fourteen.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Or is that thirteen days,
22 not fourteen?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: No, that would be okay.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Aha. So then I would
25 propose that. 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 20.



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

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. I just wanted to say,
4 Commissioner Sinay put in the chats that I totally like,
5 November 4th, 5th, 6th, 16th, 17th, 18th. And then
6 December 1, 2, 3, December 14, 15, 16.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: May I ask that we not use the chat, as
8 that information is not publicly available to the public?

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Yes, we should not be
10 using that during meetings to communicate with each
11 other.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner, for
13 reading out that information out loud.

14 Commissioner Fernandez and Kennedy?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sorry, but I'm going to go
16 back a little bit. And I can't remember who brought this
17 up, but yes, the advertisements for our Chief Counsel and
18 for our Communications Director is September 30th.

19 And I'm almost wondering if our meeting for October
20 12th and 13th, if that should be a three- or four-day
21 meeting because potentially, we're going to have to have
22 closed session. We may have one day of interviews for
23 our Chief Counsel and one for our Communications.

24 Instead of having to wait another week to get to the
25 other --

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yep.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- positions. So I'm just
3 going to throw that out there. And yeah, I threw it.
4 I'm punting. So there we go.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Commissioner Andersen, I see where you're trying to
9 go. I admire your effort, but we would get to the 20th
10 and then be setting another agenda. And we wouldn't be
11 able to have another meeting, we'd have two weeks without
12 meetings.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I know. Oh, sorry. It is a
14 slippery slope.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

16 Commissioner Akutagawa.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just have a question on
18 what Commissioner Fernandez just mentioned. I do agree
19 with what she's saying about adding additional time. The
20 meeting that we have scheduled, I think it is agendized
21 already for the 5th, 6th, 7th.

22 Could I propose that we reduce that meeting down to
23 two days, then? Do we need the three days for the 5th,
24 6th, 7th?

25 And then add that extra day to the meeting on the

1 week of the 12th so that we have the time for the
2 interviews.

3 And do we need to do the same for the meeting that
4 is scheduled for October 20th and 21st?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It depends a lot on how long
6 items take to discuss, and it's really hard to predict s
7 we get to know you, but it will be better at predicting.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez and Toledo?

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: They -- they
10 don't --

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Correct. And if we get
12 done, if we only need the 5th and 6th, we don't have to
13 continue on to Wednesday, if that makes sense. Because
14 it's already agendized, and on the agenda it basically,
15 you know, it's asterisked saying, or upon conclusion of
16 the business. So if we get done Tuesday, we get done
17 Tuesday.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: That's true.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So I guess there are
20 advantages to automatically just putting three days out
21 there for everything, and that way it's kind of your
22 safety net. But again, you don't have to use your full
23 three days. And again, it's already agendized.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Toledo?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernandez had my



1 point. That was my point. She made the point well.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

3 Commissioner Andersen.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I totally agree. And the
5 one I want to catch what Commissioner Sadhwani was
6 bringing up is if we're going to be interviewing the 12,
7 13, should we just right now extend that to actually all
8 the way through the 15th with it being closed meeting,
9 just put it out there? Doesn't mean we're actually going
10 to use it, but --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The four days?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- if we agendize, then we
13 could do that if we're able to, but not necessarily so --
14 but I agree with Commissioner Sadhwani. I think we
15 should go ahead and put it on.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: How -- how important do you think it
17 is for you all to do your one-on-one training before
18 you -- first your subcommittee has to meet and then
19 you've got to come back and approve your suggestions to
20 the State -- Statewide Database? Do you think you get
21 them done in the next two weeks?

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, I think I'm seeing --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Because that would be a good --

24 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm --

25 MS. JOHNSTON: -- use of the time if you do schedule

1 an extra day.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner (audio interference).

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: (Audio interference) by October
4 20th. So that's a little additional time that by October
5 20th, we would be ready to discuss it. So I just wanted
6 to clarify that because it sounded like we were being
7 asked if we were going to be done by October 12th.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: No, because your -- your subcommittee
9 needs time to review what you have conveyed to them
10 through your staff.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We will also be conveying
12 things directly to staff because the one-on-one is for
13 staff to get our input.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Right. You will be conveying it to
15 staff and staff will be providing it to the subcommittee.
16 And then the subcommittee has to meet and decide what to
17 recommend to the Commission.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, I'm a little
20 confused about that.

21 Where are you going with that line of thinking,
22 Counsel?

23 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, Commissioner Fernandez
24 corrected me and said that Statewide Database wanted your
25 suggestions by the end of October? Correct?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, they wanted it by the
2 20th, I believe.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Oh, then --

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Because you were -- Marian,
5 you were already going into November --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- and I said, no, it
8 should be done by, I think, like, around the 20th, 21st.
9 And I guess I came away from that presentation that I
10 needed to do my one-on-one before the 12th.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: So I was just --

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I'm going to fit it in.
13 I'm going to fit in before the 12th and then get my
14 comments bubble.

15 MS. JOHNSTON: I was just trying to fit in both,
16 doing your interviews of your next two important people
17 and what I think is important to all of you from your
18 enthusiasm about getting back to the Statewide Database.
19 And I think --

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- that both of those could take a
22 substantial amount of time.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Ah, so I'm sorry. I'm just
24 trying to, again, clarify here. So the idea is, if we
25 make that meeting of the 12, 13 and extend that, make it

1 a, quote, a four-day meeting possibly, is that when
2 you're thinking that we could be talking about
3 essentially get a subcommittee report and be discussing
4 it? Is that what we're talking about here or --

5 MS. JOHNSTON: If --

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- not quite sure --

7 MS. JOHNSTON: -- if you all could get your one-on-
8 one before then and get your -- it's -- it's, you know,
9 it's a have to planning out what comes first and then
10 what comes next.

11 So you have to do one-on-one training. You have to
12 give your suggestions to us to give to the -- not Finance
13 Committee, the -- what's the new subcommittee called?
14 Whatever it's called.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: For the new software for COI.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: I'm sorry? COI tool.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. The COI tool.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: COI toy.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: COI Software Subcommittee.

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Okay.

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Very good.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: And then they have to go through your
23 suggestions and come up with a recommendation to the
24 Commission. I think that -- and I -- from all the
25 suggestions that just came up from your one-hour time of

1 doing it all together, I think you all are going to have
2 a lot of suggestions to be making that you all have to
3 agree upon which ones you're going to be conveying to the
4 Statewide Database. And I suspect that's going to take
5 some time.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm going to bring the conversation
7 back a little bit. Our purpose for this conversation is
8 to figure out the date. I understand there's a lot of
9 items that we want to place on agendas. But at the end
10 of the day, it's the Chair and the Vice Chair who will
11 determine what goes on that agenda for that particular
12 meeting.

13 So in the very little experience that I have, there
14 was definitely a juggling game that had to be played with
15 a limited amount of time and all of the items that needed
16 to be on the agenda. As you can see in this agenda for
17 the meeting -- for this meeting's agenda and the next,
18 you might have noticed there are things that are missing
19 that, you know, we talked about. It was just purely a
20 time constraint situation.

21 So I would advise us to really look through November
22 and schedule our dates from November and December and
23 work with the dates that we already have in October. And
24 it would be a challenge for us to manage our time
25 appropriately, given the tasks that we have to get done.

1 Commissioner Fernandez and Sinay.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I realize we have the
3 October dates, but I really, highly recommend we make
4 that October 12th a four day.

5 So do I make a motion? Can I make a motion that we
6 go the October 12th through 13th, get extended 12th
7 through the 15th, and then we adopt what Commissioner
8 Sinay had in terms of November 4th through the 6th,
9 November 16th through the 18th, December 1st through the
10 3rd and December 14th through the 16th? (Audio
11 interference) my motion.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Can you (audio interference) okay, can
13 you repeat that slowly?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry. So my motion
15 would be to extend the dates of the October 12th, 13th
16 meeting, make that the 12th through the 15th so it is a
17 four-day meeting in anticipation for potential
18 interviews, closed session.

19 And then November 4th through the 6th, November 16th
20 through the 18th, December 1st through the 3rd, and
21 December 14th through the 16th.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: I'm (sic) going to have to repeat
23 that for me again. And I was wondering, what -- are you
24 not -- are you eliminating October 20th and 21st?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, we already have those.

1 The only motion I'm making in terms of October is to just
2 add two days to the 12th and 13th. So it would be --
3 okay, so overall it would be, we have October 5th through
4 7th already agendized. October 12th through the 15th,
5 October 20th and 21st, October 28th, 29th, November 4
6 through 6, November 16 through 18, December 1st through
7 3rd, December 14th through the 16th.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, I second it.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Counsel, we need public comment on
11 this item before we vote, right?

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, you should. It's --

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Or can we --

14 MS. JOHNSTON: -- a technical one.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Can --

16 MS. JOHNSTON: But you probably should ask --

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Or --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- for it.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Or is it possible to just agree on it?
20 Or would you all prefer to formally agree with the --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, you can just schedule it as the
22 chair.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: I didn't know I could do that. Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I like it.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Soft vote.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, one more time.

2 One more time so everyone's on the same page --

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: -- the dates.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So starting in October 5th
6 through 7th, that's already scheduled.

7 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: October 12th through the
9 15th.

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: October 20th and 21st,
12 October 28th, 29th, November 4th through the 6th,
13 November 16 through the 18, December 1st through the 3rd,
14 and December 14th through the 16th.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think can I just propose,
17 and please correct me if there's a reason why we need to
18 have this particular meeting, but if we're going to
19 extend the 12th through the 15th, can we skip or can we
20 cancel the 28th and 29th?

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You know what, I would
23 suggest we keep it. And then if we don't need it, we
24 could always not have it.

25 Does that make sense?

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Are we all in agreement?

3 Commissioner Yee.

4 COMMISSIONER YEE: Just to be complete, we are also
5 scheduled for September 30th through October 2nd,
6 correct? Next week?

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum. No.

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: No?

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: No.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. My bad, sorry.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: I think that was earlier on in the
12 discussion, yeah.

13 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: But our next meeting is the 5th.

15 All right. Unless I hear a very, very passionate
16 objection, we know the dates that we will be meeting with
17 each other through the rest of this calendar year.

18 I'd just like to ask if someone, Raul or someone
19 else, I saw Commissioner Sadhwani, maybe someone has it
20 documented that we can make sure that it's in everyone's
21 inbox, if that's appropriate, so that we have it in
22 writing and?

23 Thank you, Raul. Thank you so much.

24 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Moving forward with -- I'm

1 going to have to ask --

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: One quick thing.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The way it works right now,
5 turning that -- it will work that, in terms of our
6 rotating Chair, the three-day requirement that we already
7 put in, it will work that the 5, 6, 7 is one set. The
8 12th through 15 is the second set. And then the next two
9 meetings are the third set. And then --

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Um-hum.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- it goes back to the three
12 days, one and like that. So that would actually work.
13 So I'm just a -- way to go.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

15 Commissioner Turner?

16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I don't know if we need to
17 know this or not, but when we were in the midst of our
18 discussions for hiring, it got a little bit kind of dicey
19 as far as our need to have a super vote. So I just want
20 to name upfront the week of the 12th, 13th, 14th, I am
21 not here that week. And I don't know if that's a hiring
22 week or not, I think based on the discussion. So I just
23 wanted to name that.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for sharing that.

25 It's 2:55. Our next break isn't until 3:15,

1 required break. I'm hoping that we can use this time,
2 hopefully less time than 3:15, or we end earlier than
3 3:15 with open meeting portion, to really give ideas,
4 just broad ideas for Commissioners Fernandez and -- I'm
5 sorry, Commissioners Vazquez and Akutagawa for agenda
6 items for their meeting of the 12th through the 15th as
7 you all will have to put that agenda together before --
8 by Monday.

9 I want to -- before we get to Commissioners,
10 Counsel, I really want to make sure that we all are on
11 the same page and I have a clear understanding of this as
12 well, are we permitted to send our ideas for that agenda
13 to Commissioners Vasquez and Akutagawa via email?
14 Through the --

15 MS. JOHNSTON: It's --

16 CHAIR AHMAD: -- the two of you?

17 MS. JOHNSTON: -- better if you do it to staff and
18 have staff distribute it to them.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Okay. So send it to staff if
20 there's ideas, again, it's going to be Vazquez and
21 Akutagawa who make the final call on those agenda items.

22 Commissioner Fernandez, Andersen, Vasquez and
23 Sadhwani, Toledo.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just looking ahead, I think
25 a bulk of it's going to be the interviews hopefully.

1 Hopefully for the Chief Counsel and also the
2 Communications Director, so that might be two, maybe
3 three days, if we have. And that would be closed session
4 because, you know, talk about questions and all that
5 stuff. And that's all I got right now.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: This is a process question,
8 and it's sort of for more of, you know, basic counsel and
9 in terms of our -- what we had said before about
10 submitting ideas to the subcommittee that it would be
11 okay to, like, if say, I want to submit it to the next
12 subcommittee, I would send that to the two people on the
13 subcommittee and staff all at once; is that still
14 correct? Because we sort of mentioned it that way
15 before.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: If it's just an agenda item or what
17 type of a matter? If it's something --

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well --

19 MS. JOHNSTON: -- that's going to engender a
20 discussion back and forth, then it should go through
21 staff.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, no, this -- either
23 way, it's like when we're submitting ideas to the
24 subcommittee, such as for our one-on-one comments that we
25 want to submit then to the whatever the name of the --

1 the COI Tool Subcommittee --

2 MS. JOHNSTON: But that --

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- we would just submit that
4 to the subcommittee and staff at the same time, and it's
5 the same way --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: No --

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- I do with -- is that
8 consistent?

9 MS. JOHNSTON: No, for those -- anything that's
10 substantive should come to the staff to go to the
11 subcommittees. And the reason for that is to avoid any
12 possibility of a serial meeting.

13 If the subcommittee gets three of the same -- not
14 three -- but four or five of the same suggestions from
15 different people, and then decides to do that, they would
16 be acting in concert with those people.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: So it's like -- it's a different type
19 of a serial meeting.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: It's like a hub going out, like a
22 bicycle wheel spokes. But that would still be a serial
23 meeting.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh. Is that because -- even
25 that's totally coincidental?

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it would be coincidental for
2 you to send it to them, but they would make a decision
3 based on the input from all of you.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, aren't they going to
5 do that anyway? I'm confused.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: We could monitor that.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: But you're not -- okay.
8 Again, I'm just trying to make us all be consistent about
9 what we're doing. And I'm not clear on --

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, to be consistent --

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- we're not getting --

12 MS. JOHNSTON: -- send everything to staff is the
13 easiest.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: All right. Okay, but
15 that --

16 MS. JOHNSTON: If it's purely a matter of scheduling
17 or agenda or something like that, there's probably no
18 problem because we could talk about what to put on the
19 agenda outside of the meeting, and that wouldn't be a
20 problem, or what time we're going to start the meeting or
21 things like that. You just can't do any substantive
22 discussions.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well --

24 MS. JOHNSTON: And I know that's a hard line to --

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, again --

1 MS. JOHNSTON: -- figure out.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- I'm just trying to be
3 consistent here because we are supposed to submit ideas
4 to different subcommittees --

5 MS. JOHNSTON: Through staff.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- not that we'd ever hear
7 back from them at all.

8 MS. JOHNSTON: But they will --

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just all of them --

10 MS. JOHNSTON: -- be making a decision based on what
11 you've sent to them.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, but we won't know that
13 they made a decision.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: You will when they make the
15 recommendation to the Commission to accept it.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. But we would know
17 that even if we sent it to you.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: Because you'll get --

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Because you'll get forty-
20 four --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- if we get the same suggestion from
22 a whole bunch of Commissioners, we would probably send
23 one memo to them saying, you have four Commissioners that
24 have recommended this.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Ooh, okay. Can I speak up

1 about that as a Subcommittee Chair? I don't like -- I
2 don't want that being filtered, because then that's --
3 I'm not getting the full information. And that's how I
4 feel. I mean, now, again, I'm just trying to establish
5 the process so we're all consistent.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: If -- but --

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Other people might not think
8 that way but --

9 MS. JOHNSTON: -- if you want full --

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- you're --

11 MS. JOHNSTON: -- information and a full discussion,
12 then that all has to be done in an open meeting.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No. No, no, no. No. I
14 just want to know who is suggesting because in terms of,
15 oh, okay -- or where the ideas are coming from.

16 Does that make sense? I know they'll all go to you,
17 but then I don't expect you to filter it.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: I didn't mean filter as in, cut them
19 out. I mean filter as to combine them.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: All right.

21 MS. JOHNSTON: And probably not to specify who
22 they're from until it's during the Commission when you're
23 discussing it. You can't have one person making a -- or
24 you can't have the subcommittee make a decision based on
25 input from seven other people on the same topic because

1 that would be a serial meeting. I'm sorry if I'm not
2 explaining it very well.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: We will come back to this. End of the
4 day, that routine applies to us fourteen. It does not
5 apply to Counsel, which is why that -- from my
6 understanding, that's a --

7 MS. JOHNSTON: It does not --

8 CHAIR AHMAD: -- safest route for all the --

9 MS. JOHNSTON: -- apply to, I'm sorry, who? Does
10 not --

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Counsel.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, right. Yes.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: So that's why it's the safest route to
14 just funnel everything. I know it seems really
15 burdensome on staff and counsel to forwarding emails and
16 whatnot, but.

17 Commissioner Vazquez, Sadhwani, Toledo, and
18 Akutagawa.

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: All right. So I -- this may
20 be a discussion, I'm hoping it's not, but just with the
21 way that the schedule shook out, which I am fine with, I
22 just don't think health-wise I'm going to have the
23 bandwidth to Chair and lead Communications Director
24 hiring on the 12th through the 15th.

25 And so I'm looking to just have my Chairship for

1 this rotation skipped. And I will resume back at a later
2 date when I'm back up, if that is okay with the rest of
3 the Commission.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for letting us know,
5 Commissioner Vazquez. According to the cycle that we
6 have determined then Commissioner Akutagawa, who is
7 serving as your Vice Chair, would fill in that role and
8 move forward that way.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: And who would be her vice chair?

10 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Commissioner
11 Fornaciari.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: What Raul said.

13 Commissioner Sadhwani, Toledo, Akutagawa, Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. So I wanted to --
15 we're talking still about ideas for agenda, right? Okay,
16 I just to make sure we're still there. Okay.

17 I do want to talk about that. In terms of the piece
18 Commissioner Andersen brought up that's kind of blowing
19 my mind. But also, I mean, it kind of sounds like we
20 should be using, like, the Pony Express or something to
21 get information passed along. And to me, like, can we
22 not use a Google Doc and -- anyway, that's a side
23 discussion. Well, we don't have side discussions, but
24 maybe for one day in the future.

25 But before we think about additional agenda items

1 for the future, I just wanted to -- we never discussed
2 the agenda that has been put out for October 5th. And so
3 I just wanted to get a little clarity for that agenda of
4 who's doing what.

5 And so it certainly says, like, just item 11, I have
6 it in front of me, discussion and potential action,
7 strategies for outreach, strategies for public input at
8 meetings.

9 Am I'm assuming that that means that Commissioner
10 Sinay and Commissioner Vazquez, who are heading that
11 communication -- outreach committee, are leading those
12 items; is that correct? And I just wanted some clarity
13 of what to expect, because that will help me have a
14 better sense of how to answer the question of what we
15 want for the future.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Can I add some clarity to that?
17 Because I feel like I've been in the middle of this mix.

18 So since we decided that Chairship begins at the end
19 of the meeting for next time, right? So after we close
20 today, I'm sorry, I will carry on the Chairship until the
21 beginning of the October 5th meeting, right?

22 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Right? Okay. So since that happened,
24 I did not assume the Chair role until the beginning of
25 this meeting, so I was serving as Vice Chair. There were

1 some technical issues that happened in this agenda
2 formation.

3 But I was asked because of my role as incoming Chair
4 for this meeting to help with the agenda for October 5th.
5 But I am not in any leadership role for that agenda,
6 which is why I pulled in -- I asked Counsel and got the
7 approval from Counsel to pull in Commissioner Fernandez,
8 who would be then Chairing that meeting.

9 Commissioner Fernandez, I don't know if you want to
10 add?

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's what I was talking
12 about earlier is I was -- so I came in, like, in the
13 middle of the conversation. I didn't get the agenda
14 until, like -- actually I came in, I really didn't review
15 the agenda until they were already in the meeting. Or
16 they were already having a meeting discussing it.

17 And that's what made it challenging and what I was
18 talking about earlier in terms of when we have these
19 meetings that come -- ugh. It's the lack of planning, I
20 think, on all of our parts, where at that point in time,
21 I should have brought in Commissioner Vazquez because
22 she's going to be my Vice chair, right?

23 And so it was one of those well, we need to do it
24 now and it needs to go. And so it was -- and fortunately
25 it was, we had to get it posted and it -- and it was

1 after the fact, I went back and actually posed some
2 questions to Raul and said, hey, now that I really got a
3 chance to look at it, you know, here are some of the
4 issues. But by that point, it's already been posted and
5 we can't make changes --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: But the --

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- to it, so I'm just --

8 MS. JOHNSTON: -- probably you could do it --

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- hoping that we'll be
10 more proactive -- INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA:
11 Yeah.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: You could --

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- about it. And maybe
14 in --

15 MS. JOHNSTON: -- (indiscernible) --

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- essence, knowing that
17 the next -- knowing that the next agenda is due, then
18 maybe that chair for that meeting might be more proactive
19 than I was, because I wasn't even thinking, oh my gosh,
20 it's two weeks out, right? Yeah. So I'm going to
21 apologize for that. I was kind of at the end of it and
22 going to learn. We're going --

23 MS. JOHNSTON: No --

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- to learn.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: The Commission --



1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, we're all learning, I
2 just want to have a sense of what we're going to do the
3 next time we meet.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: You can't --

5 CHAIR AHMAD: No, Commissioner Fernandez --

6 MS. JOHNSTON: -- do it if you're going to be --

7 CHAIR AHMAD: -- I apologize for that too, because I
8 was in the mind space that I'm not chairing October 5th.

9 So am I responsible for that? I think it has a
10 time -- it has something to do with how we decided that
11 Chairships would end and begin, which made me reflect
12 back to Raul's recommendation that at the close of the
13 meeting is when the next Chairship should begin so that
14 they can work through in between meetings to advise the
15 future.

16 Whereas now I will -- I'm serving in this role until
17 October 5th. I have no problem doing that. But come
18 October 5th, I step back and a slew of other people will
19 need to step forward. But I would be the one making some
20 decisions in the interim.

21 I think Counsel had something really timely to
22 mention.

23 And then Commissioner Toledo, Akutagawa, and
24 Fernandez.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: I was just going to bring up the

1 rule-of-three problem, that you can't have the current
2 Chair, the Vice Chair, and the incoming Vice Chair all
3 deciding the agenda together.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Counsel.

5 Commissioner Toledo, Akutagawa, Fernandez and Yee.

6 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Just in terms of our future
7 agenda items, I participate -- I watched the Michigan
8 redistricting orientation a little bit. And one of the
9 things that that expressed, I really appreciated about
10 their orientation was that they did have an opportunity
11 to listen to Commissioners -- It's their first time so
12 this was a little bit different than ours -- the
13 Commissioners from California, so they had two -- I
14 believe two Commissioners from California, from Arizona
15 come and just present about their process, what happened.
16 And they found it very useful.

17 And I know this has come up a couple of times, and
18 we may want to consider maybe as part of the outreach or
19 as part of one of the other subcommittees to include a
20 portion of that and agendize it as an item.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, Fernandez, and
22 Yee, and then Sinay.

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So two things. One is
24 around this conversation, around the agenda.

25 I think maybe just for all of our clarity, like the

1 schedule that was put out in terms of who was going to be
2 the Chair, Vice Chair; would it be helpful for as part of
3 that schedule that we add on when that Chair is going to
4 take over and what meeting that Chair should be planning
5 to think about in terms of the agenda so that they know
6 they could be thinking about it ahead of time? Like,
7 okay, I need to be planning for this one, that means I'll
8 need to take over at this time and be working with staff
9 on planning off the agenda.

10 I think I'm just kind of trying to think of ways to
11 make it as efficient and as easy so that then, like what
12 Commissioner Fernandez was describing, I know I don't
13 want to be put into that position. At the same time, I
14 am also mindful of what Counsel has just said. And that
15 was my thought is that I think if we have all three, then
16 it's going to run into some of the Bagley-Keene kind of
17 open meeting kind of issues.

18 I also want to address what Commissioner Andersen
19 was asking about. My understanding for what Counsel said
20 about why things need to flow through her and about the
21 input about her also indicating this is at least just
22 aggregating all of the similar type of comments is that
23 should a subcommittee make a decision, it can't be based
24 on a small minority of the Commission.

25 It has to be part of what I understand is the whole

1 open meetings and transparency. And that if somebody's
2 going to make a recommendation, it's got to be known that
3 this is what was recommended by a specific Commissioner.
4 And then if the Commission chooses to act on that, then
5 at least it's open.

6 But if it's just note -- an email that is directed
7 via Counsel and the subcommittee makes a decision based
8 on just, say, one commissioner and the rest of us don't
9 know that that's what it was based on then that, I think,
10 violates the transparency kind of ethos that I think
11 we're all trying to maintain. At least that's how I'm
12 hearing it.

13 So Counsel, please correct me if I'm wrong on that.

14 MS. JOHNSTON: I think that's right. The problem is
15 if the subcommittee gets input from a number of other
16 Commissioners that reaches a quorum, so your total
17 reaches your quorum, that would be a violation.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, Yee, Sinay.

19 And we are very close to break at 3:15.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't think I had
21 anything.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Commissioner Yee?

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, just want to echo
24 Commissioner Toledo wanting to have former Commissioners
25 speak to us. It sounds like Michigan's got more of them

1 than we have. So would love to see, let's say, three
2 pairs come in at some point. One from two different
3 party affiliations at a time and make that a goal.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So I apologize for my comments.
6 The very first thing, I did not see the number 11 on the
7 agenda. I'm guessing that that's me. You would like me
8 to get the speakers.

9 And on the agenda it says "Irving Foundation". It's
10 Irvine, like the City of Irvine. But I have many ideas.
11 But one is to bring a former commissioner and -- I mean,
12 I just wanted to check in, but that was me, I guess,
13 because Commissioner Sadhwani kind of -- so first, my
14 apologies. Second, it's me, right? And then who do I
15 tell when I -- who do we tell?

16 Sorry, Commissioner Vazquez, who do we tell when we
17 have the speaker?

18 CHAIR AHMAD: I believe that would be Raul.

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Actually --

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Right?

21 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: -- you -- Chair
22 Fernandez -- I mean, Commissioner Fernandez would be the
23 Chair. And so who pick and communication, I think that
24 would be her discussion.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Again, I came in at the
2 tail end of this. This is already on the agenda. And I
3 just -- I had assumed, bad assumption, that we already
4 had someone in mind for number 11. And if we don't, then
5 I guess we're not going to have anyone. So yeah, again,
6 we're still trying to figure this out and we are--

7 MS. JOHNSTON: There's plenty of time to schedule
8 somebody.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, we can get someone.

11 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The question is --

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- would you like some -- I
15 get -- I hear what you're saying, Raul, is even though
16 I'm doing outreach and stuff, it has to come from you,
17 you have to decide. So I can give you recommendations on
18 who to invite for 11 that's --

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- and --

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: --and --

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well, so
24 actually, I already provided a list of all the grantees
25 from 2010.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, that --

2 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Commissioner --

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- that --

4 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Well --

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- wasn't the original idea.

6 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Actually --

7 actually, if you go back to the minutes for that meeting,
8 that was the original idea, which is where it came from.

9 Now that being said, you can change it. We could
10 probably -- I don't know, I'd have to go with Marian on
11 how -- the extent to which we could modify the agenda.
12 But that is where the idea came from. Yeah --

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it sounds like
14 I'm the one that needs to take the lead on it. And I
15 will work with Commissioner Sinay.

16 How's that? In terms of who, can we do that?

17 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Um-hum

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think we can figure it
19 out, and -- yes. Okay, thank you.

20 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: We are over for our brief time by one
22 minute. We return at 3:30. I would ask that we spend no
23 more than fifteen minutes on the remainder of this
24 conversation, as we still have to go into closed session.
25 So I know nobody wants to work through break, but if you

1 still have thoughts and questions, I would recommend that
2 you find a very succinct way to deliver that in the next
3 fifteen minutes after break because then we will jump
4 into closed session.

5 Thank you. See you in fifteen minutes at 3:30.

6 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

7 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Welcome back from break.

8 As stated, we have fifteen minutes left in this
9 conversation about recommendations to the Chair and Vice
10 Chair for the October 12th through 15th meeting. So
11 Commissioners, T-minus fifteen minutes.

12 Yes, Commissioner Yee and then, Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm realizing my suggestion that
14 I might not have been clear. I was thinking of one pair
15 of former Commissioners visit us maybe one meeting once,
16 a meeting a couple weeks from then and so on and so
17 forth. Not six at a time.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen and then Sinay.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would like us to think
20 about adding at some point basically either call it a
21 workshop or essentially a simulation, working with a map
22 and the voter rights, just to sort of get just kind of an
23 idea to get us thinking that way. I know we'll have to
24 put -- we won't do that like -- that doesn't have to be
25 right away. But it will help us as, that's something we

1 need to look at in terms of using the, you know, the
2 2019, you know, American Community Survey data, just to
3 give us an idea of what we're going to be looking with --
4 or working with to get us geared up in that right
5 direction.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani and then
7 Akutagawa.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: In the same vein as
9 Commissioner Andersen, I think that's right. We also
10 have this wonderful list that Community Partners put
11 together and submitted through public comment. So I
12 would -- it doesn't have to be for that meeting the 12th
13 through the 15th, but as we're setting agendas moving
14 forward, scheduling in presentations from some of those
15 folks I think would be extraordinarily helpful.

16 I think one of them in particular, I believe she's
17 called a few times from the Dolores Huerta Foundation is
18 a demographer who does this kind of work so -- and works
19 in GIS. So I think that would be really helpful -- those
20 would be very helpful kinds of presentations. And I
21 would only encourage to my fellow Commissioners that we
22 time limit them so there's a very specific amount of time
23 that they can present and that there's a specific amount
24 of time that we're going to ask questions, just so we can
25 keep things moving.



1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa and Fornaciari
2 and then Sinay.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you Commissioner
4 Sadhwani, that was going to be part of my question,
5 because I know that is something that we've discussed
6 about having some of the, I think, Community Partners.

7 And I believe that what we're talking about also
8 addresses one of the public comments that we had today
9 about bringing in the previous Commissioners as well too.
10 And so I'm glad to hear that. So thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari and Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay was way
13 before for me so --

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- I will yield to her.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's okay. I just wanted to
17 say I thought you had told us to email ideas for the
18 agenda for the 12th and 15th. So I did that. But just
19 so that it's public, I emailed it to the staff.

20 But I would like us to have a significant, if not
21 even a full, day of where we do talk about civic, public
22 education, outreach and engagement, and we get a lot of
23 the players you're all bringing up in to talk about
24 different pieces of it. We may not need a full day.

25 But what I put is discuss a framework. Commissioner

1 Vazquez and I are looking to create a framework so we can
2 all have something we're talking to, because right now
3 we're just kind of throwing words and stuff, but just to
4 kind of organize all our thoughts. And within that
5 framework, different partners are critical and key to
6 helping us understand our thinking.

7 So we have, as a subcommittee, been talking to some
8 of the partners and others just to help us think through
9 that, how to create a framework and bring it to you all
10 for us to build it.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: That's so critical. We keep
13 talking about the need to make an outreach plan and to
14 think about what all of that's going to look like. So I
15 very much support what Commissioner Sinay just mentioned.

16 I feel like we have that piece on the agenda for
17 next time. I just really feel like that the Outreach
18 Subcommittee should be leading that section and then
19 provide a recommendation. If it's the October -- I'm
20 trying to find -- October 20th meeting or the October
21 28th meeting, that we can do that full day and have as a,
22 you know, a goal to really develop that outreach plan and
23 what that's going to look like. Because we're also going
24 to need dates and start thinking about like, when are we
25 getting out there and actually beginning to hear from

1 communities. And I think that we need to get moving on
2 that.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari, Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I'd like to ask that
5 we take a little time to talk about meeting ground rules
6 and meeting processes. I'm hoping that especially that
7 someone has some ideas on how we can effectively manage
8 discussion in a way that allows everyone to be heard but
9 kind of prevents us from getting -- you know, just going
10 around and around in a circle. So that's what I'd like
11 to see.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just wanted to ask a
14 question in terms of what Commissioner Sadhwani said,
15 which builds upon Commissioner Sinay.

16 Do we need to be thinking also about dates in
17 November and December for community meetings? Or is that
18 just -- is that something that we need to, I guess,
19 agendize --

20 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, you'll want --

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- in and out?

22 MS. JOHNSTON: -- to agendize them to get public
23 input. The --

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I --

25 MS. JOHNSTON: -- putting something on --

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess what --

2 MS. JOHNSTON: -- the agenda and having a noticed
3 meeting is the primary way of reaching people. You don't
4 necessarily have to have a quorum there if you don't want
5 to. You can -- less than a quorum can meet as a
6 Committee of the whole to receive information, but it
7 should be a noticed meeting.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay, and that's why I
9 asked, because I think what Commissioner Sadhwani said
10 got me thinking that if we come up with a plan and we
11 want to get out sooner rather than later, and that let's
12 say that sooner rather than later is sometime in November
13 or December, are the dates that we have sufficient for
14 that? Did we adequately plan for potential meetings
15 outside of our own Commission business for these other
16 outreach meetings as well too and --

17 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't think those included outreach
18 meetings. You would need to add those.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, that's why I'm asking
20 that question. And I think something that I want to put
21 out there for all of us to be thinking about and perhaps
22 discuss.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: If the COI toy isn't ready
25 until January 1st, I would recommend we don't go out -- I

1 mean, we have some time right now, and I'd rather we do
2 it well. You know, we need to think through the whole
3 public education and outreach and make sure we get the
4 right folks to create the collateral material, the
5 website be accurate. So I think if saying January is
6 good enough, I would rather we kind of slow down and do
7 it right versus we rush and then we have to backtrack.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, I want to thank Raul
10 for the email. Now, I realize I'm Vice Chair for the
11 meeting on the 12th and Commissioner Akutagawa is the
12 Chair and we've got to figure this out by Monday, so
13 okay. Thanks for your input.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional thoughts regarding the
15 agenda items for October 12th through 15th meeting that
16 need to be agendized by Monday? All right.

17 Commissioner Sadhwani, I saw you unmute. Do you --
18 okay. Sadhwani and then Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Fornaciari had
20 the great idea of coming up with a process for managing
21 the meeting. Sounds like you're going to get to come up
22 with that process.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry, that one that threw
25 me. I have also had -- because I had the voting rights

1 thing, the process which we -- Commissioner Fornaciari is
2 handling, and I also have hiring.

3 Is that also already incorporated in the -- if it
4 isn't, it -- I mean, that is indeed on the 12th through
5 14th/15th; is that correct? Or is that already -- is
6 that kind of in --

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- it's including an update
9 and then as the rest of it sort of in the 14/15?

10 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

12 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Right, the
13 discussion has been to make sure and have a pocket there
14 for closed session.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I had to take care of a
17 phone call. So I missed the first part of it. And I
18 just wanted to make sure if we're setting the agenda, I
19 mentioned it prior, that I think we should always have a
20 section in there for closed, just in case we need to.

21 And I'm not sure if you talked about that, so I
22 apologize if I'm being redundant at this point. But I
23 just think it's good practice because we never know.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: We need to put in what the topic of
25 the closed session is, too. So it could -- I --

1 personnel matters is pretty vague. If you have a --
2 something -- if you had, like, hiring decisions or
3 something like that, it would be helpful.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Hold on, let me see what --
5 oops, I don't have this -- sorry, I'm putting it --

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That was why I said hiring.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay, so I just want to be
9 absolutely clear for everybody here, my understanding was
10 we are going to be planning on interviewing for both of
11 our job postings during those four days. And so we have
12 to have time for you know, reviewing the questions ahead
13 of time.

14 And then, you know, I guess, depending on how many
15 candidates we're going to have, you know, I could take
16 pretty much the whole four days. But that's going to
17 kind of be the focus of that meeting. And we'll add the
18 other items as we can. Is that --

19 MS. JOHNSTON: The --

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- kind of where --

21 MS. JOHNSTON: -- the subcommittees would go through
22 the applications ahead of time and --

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: -- make a recommendation of who they
25 think you should consider.

1 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right, but then -- but I
2 was kind of thinking the expectation that was going to
3 happen --

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Ahead of time. They may recommend
5 that you not hire anybody from that group. Let's hope
6 not.

7 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So let's look at
8 the schedule here. I mean, those are all due the 30th of
9 this month.

10 And well, so I guess the question is, is it
11 reasonable to expect that we can -- that the
12 subcommittees can review the applications and then
13 schedule interviews on the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th,
14 and 9th? Is that reasonable to expect to be able to go
15 through all of the candidates and have them scheduled for
16 sometime on the 14th or 15th?

17 MS. JOHNSTON: I think so. Is that --

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Does that --

19 MS. JOHNSTON: -- going to be a problem for --

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- do the subcommittees
21 feel that's reasonable?

22 And does Raul and Marian feel that's reasonable?

23 And Commissioner Akutagawa, I don't mean to be
24 stepping on you here. You're the Chair, I apologize.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: No problem.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Can we hear from each of the
2 subcommittees that are hiring for counsel and
3 Communications Director? We have two minutes in this
4 discussion.

5 Commissioner Toledo and then someone else on the
6 other subcommittee.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And Commissioner Andersen. In
8 terms of the Counsel, Chief Counsel position, we've only
9 received one application thus far. So of course, we'll
10 be doing more outreach as much as possible and hope that
11 we'll get -- in the hopes of getting more applications
12 over the next couple of days.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: But given the -- we hope to
15 have at least a couple of people to interview for this
16 position. Otherwise, it may be a challenge, right?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Or you know, we --

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- or we might just end up
20 extending, so. Well, it could be a really short report.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners from the Communications
22 Director subcommittee.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I think we gave our
24 update earlier.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.



1 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: And I think Raul said we have
2 eleven new applications as of last count; is that correct?

3 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It's nine.

4 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Nine, sorry.

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: It was eleven
6 original and nine new ones.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Great, thank you. So yes, we
8 are -- the postings are -- the applications are open
9 through the 30th.

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So you feel comfortable
11 that you can get those reviewed and ready to have Raul
12 schedule interviews for the 12th or the -- what were the
13 dates? Like 13th (audio interference) --

14 CHAIR AHMAD: 12th through 15th.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- 15th?

16 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, I believe so. I think
17 we would begin reviewing hopefully before the 30th so
18 that once it closes, you know, probably that weekend,
19 we'll make the final cut and start scheduling interviews.

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay, very good. That's
21 very helpful. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yep.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. We are at 3:45. Thank you
24 everyone for feedback on the agenda items for 12th
25 through the 15th of October.

1 Commissioners Akutagawa and Commissioner Fornaciari,
2 I wish you the best of luck in setting the agenda items
3 and prioritizing which items to include and which items
4 to leave to the next commissioners who will be Chairing
5 and Vice Chairing.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah, and if you all have additional
8 recommendations that you think of, please go through
9 staff so that they can forward those thoughts to
10 Commissioners Akutagawa and Fornaciari for their
11 decisions.

12 Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Both the process and I
14 guess, sorry, question around the interviews.

15 So Commissioner Fernandez, you're Chairing the next
16 meeting? And so does that -- I assume, then, that I will
17 be stepping in as your Vice Chair for the next meeting,
18 since Commissioner Vazquez has to remove herself?

19 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: If Commissioner Vazquez
21 can't do it, then I would welcome you to be my Vice
22 Chair.

23 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: No, it's been
24 decided.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think -- I'm just trying



1 to clarify because I don't know if Commissioner Vazquez
2 is planning to still act in the role of Vice Chair for
3 that meeting or if I'm going to be now stepping in as the
4 Vice Chair and just --

5 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Chair.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: -- kind of trying to
7 understand it.

8 And then, secondly, I'm also thinking about the
9 questions for the interviewees and whether or not are we
10 going to go through a similar process like we did this
11 last time for the Executive Director? And is there a
12 way -- does the agenda for the next meeting allow us to
13 maybe move up some of that discussion to the 5th through
14 the 7th meeting?

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, would you
16 quickly in five seconds --

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: -- or less?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'm happy to do whatever is
20 most expedient. I haven't quite worked out if it will
21 mess up the schedule, so I can either be Vice Chair as
22 planned, or if because of the schedule I need to not, I
23 am okay with that as well.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez on that point.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm thinking because

1 Commissioner Vazquez will not be the Chair on the
2 following one, it would make sense to have Commissioner
3 Akutagawa be the Vice Chair with me; is that okay? Okay,
4 it sounds like that will be okay with her.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Yeah, thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And then we just shift
7 everybody up.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

9 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Can I do one more quick
11 comment?

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: I have something urgent.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: For the --

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. We are over time and we still
15 have many other items to discuss during closed session.
16 I am going to have to apologize profusely, but we have to
17 end this conversation.

18 We have a mechanism in place to continue to provide
19 input to Commissioners Akutagawa and Fornaciari regarding
20 the agenda item, which is the discussion at this time
21 through counsel and staff.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: I should have brought this up
23 earlier, but actually, if Commissioner Vazquez is
24 stepping out of the rotation at the moment, the next
25 rotation actually goes to the next Democrat, not the next

1 person in line. So that would actually be Commissioner
2 Kennedy. I'm so sorry, I should have caught that
3 earlier.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. But then that's
6 going to mess it all up, I think, right? So I think for
7 this exception, can we make an exception that we adopt
8 Commissioner Akutagawa --

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: All right, that's fine.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- as my --

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: That's fine.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- Vice?

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I was going to say as a
15 matter of process if -- and of course depending on
16 Commissioner Vazquez, but if she's the Chair and if she's
17 Chairing to such a time as she can't, the Vice just steps
18 in and takes over for her. It does not need to switch
19 the rotation or anything else. She's just now serving in
20 the Chair mode as Vice. And then she still resumes her
21 role as Chair next. And then it doesn't mess up any
22 rotation.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Does that make sense to folks? Is
24 that something we can agree on so we don't mess up the
25 rotation, we don't have to bring people in when they were

1 not previously scheduled?

2 So Commissioner Vazquez, you would still be the
3 Chair from 12th to the 15th, but because you cannot serve
4 in that role, your Vice Chair would serve for you.
5 Similarly, what we have done in the past and the example
6 from the Commissioners thus far.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I understand that. I will do
8 my best. It's the, like, pre-work and like, the post-
9 work that the chair leaves that's a really big --

10 CHAIR AHMAD: That's totally --

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: -- (indiscernible) --

12 CHAIR AHMAD: -- fine.

13 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: That is what I have been
14 talking about.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: That is totally fine.

16 Commissioner Turner and I can speak to that. We got
17 each other's back through the process when one couldn't
18 step up --

19 INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR VILLANUEVA: Yes.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: -- versus the other. So the fact that
21 you're making it known to your vice chair that they will
22 need to step up, I'm sure your vice chair would
23 appreciate.

24 I'm sorry if I sound really rude at this point, but
25 we are going to cut this conversation off. And we're

1 going to give Kristian ten minutes to prep for our closed
2 session to the public. Thank you so much for listening.

3 We will see you all on October 5th at 9:30 a.m.

4 My fellow Commissioners and Counsel, we will meet
5 again in closed session in ten minutes.

6 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
7 at 3:45 p.m.)

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COURTNEY L. FUTER, CDLT-261

July 25, 2022

DATE