

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel
Fredy Ceja, Communications Director
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors:

Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Also Present

Panelists:

Bryan Blum, California Labor Federation
Dylan Johnson, SEIU California
Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers

Public Comment:

Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law
Caucus
Helen Hutchinson, League of Women Voters, California
Kevin Connoly

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14. Labor Panel page 116

(May 14, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.)

- Dolores Huerta, Co-Founder of the National Farm Workers Association, and Founder and President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation
- Bryan Blum, California Labor Federation
- Dylan Johnson, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) CA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Friday, May 14, 2021 9:32 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ (via Zoom): Good morning, and welcome once again to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission Meeting, Friday, May 14th, action packed, full day. Glad you could join us.

And we will take roll call. Is that you, Executive Director Hernandez?

MR. HERNANDEZ (via Zoom): Yes, that is correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA (via Zoom): Here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN (via Zoom): Here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari? I saw him. Okay, we'll move on.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY (via Zoom): Here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS (via Zoom): Here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI (via Zoom): Here.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?
2 COMMISSIONER SINAY (via Zoom): Here.
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?
4 Commissioner Toledo?
5 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO (via Zoom): Here.
6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?
7 COMMISSIONER TURNER (via Zoom): Here.
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?
9 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ (via Zoom): Here.
10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?
11 COMMISSIONER YEE (via Zoom): Here.
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?
13 VICE CHAIR AHMAD (via Zoom): Here.
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: You have a quorum, Chair.
15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you.
16 Can we go through public comment, Katy, please?
17 And just a reminder that public comment is
18 limited to two minutes per individual speaker.
19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR (via Zoom): Yes, Chair,
20 good morning.
21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Good morning.
22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
23 transparency and public participation in our process, the
24 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.
25 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on

1 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,
2 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
3 feed. It is 93330293366 for this meeting. When prompted
4 to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

5 Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a
6 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star-
7 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When
8 it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says,
9 "the host would like you to talk," and to press star-six to
10 speak.

11 If you would like to give you name, please state
12 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
13 provide your name to give public comment.

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

19 And again, I'd also like to remind those that
20 call in to please press star-nine to raise their hand
21 indicating that they wish to comment.

22 We do have a caller but they have not chosen to
23 raise their hand as of yet. And there it is.

24 Go ahead, the floor is yours.

25 MS. MARKS (telephonic): Hi. Good morning. My

1 name is Julia Marks. I'm calling from Asian Americans
2 Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus. I just wanted to start
3 out by saying we really appreciate your thoughtful document
4 and discussion so far on the Language Access Plan for the
5 public input design -- or public input meeting. And we
6 appreciate the attention that you've giving language
7 access.

8 We do hope that you won't take final action on
9 this item today. I'm not quite sure what the next step is
10 after your discussion this morning. But we hope there can
11 be more discussion and consideration.

12 We appreciate a lot of parts of the plan laid
13 out, but we think there are a couple of areas that could
14 use some tweaking. And so I'll talk to a couple of those
15 quickly.

16 It would also be helpful to have more information
17 on some of the budgetary and logistical reasons for the
18 approach you're taking. We understand you're balancing a
19 lot, but want to make sure that there's robust language
20 access.

21 So, first the procedural requirements could be
22 challenging to some community members, and we'd support
23 (indiscernible). The timeline for signing up with the
24 request needing to be 10 business days in advance is just
25 not going to be workable for quite a few community members.

1 And we strongly recommend you go back to five business days
2 in advance at most, and we'd love to work with you to
3 figure out a fair way to make that happen, such as getting
4 contractors set up in advance, even if they aren't
5 ultimately needed.

6 One concern is that folks are busy and just might
7 not think three weeks ahead of a public meeting to sign up
8 for a slot to speak. And if folks are working
9 (indiscernible) --

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thirty seconds.

11 MS. MARKS: -- community, they'll need more
12 notice to make sure that they can get in the queue.

13 So, one additional recommendation is to make sure
14 the appointment system is in the top 12 languages, and to
15 make sure --

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Fifteen seconds.

17 MS. MARKS: -- that the opening presentation that
18 the Commission gives is also being translated into the
19 languages being requested.

20 And then, finally, I would like -- a couple of
21 concerns from Spanish speaking community members about the
22 scope of coverage.

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Two minutes.

24 MS. MARKS: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Marks.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, and we'll
2 move on to our next caller. And I would also like to
3 remind those calling in to press star-nine, raising their
4 hand, indicating they wish to comment. We do have a raised
5 hand currently.

6 And go ahead, the floor is yours.

7 MS. HUTCHISON (telephonic): Good morning,
8 Commissioners. This is Helen Hutchison with the League of
9 Women Voters of California. I wanted to start just by
10 saying, thank you for bumping the item 9A to this morning.
11 We really do appreciate your flexibility.

12 Two things I wanted to talk about this morning.
13 The first is that there's a -- you've had a number of
14 questions being raised about the Commission's two-person
15 subcommittee meetings.

16 I know from watching your meetings that after
17 robust discussion, you all agreed that subcommittees would
18 be allowed to explore issues, do information gathering in
19 order to facilitate your work. And that, additionally,
20 subcommittees would not make any decisions and would report
21 back to the full Commission on all of your meetings and
22 discussions.

23 I also know that that policy was based directly
24 on the Bagley-Keene Act, and that you followed that policy.
25 People who didn't see the meeting where you established

1 this policy might not understand all this. It would be
2 really helpful to explain your policy on a regular basis,
3 and to post it on your website.

4 The second item I wanted to raise is going back
5 to the handout on 9A. I dropped off the call yesterday
6 while you were responding. I apologize for that. And I do
7 have a follow-up question.

8 If there was no legal analysis done, then why is
9 the risk associated with just one scenario? You know,
10 where does that come from, and would it be better --

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thirty seconds.

12 MS. HUTCHISON: -- clearer to leave everything
13 blank until you actually do your own internal legal
14 analysis? Thanks very much.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Hutchison. And
16 we will be discussing that later this morning. Thank you
17 so much.

18 MS. HUTCHISON: Okay. Thanks.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I would like to offer
20 the next -- the last caller in the queue to press star-nine
21 to raise their hand, indicating they wish to comment.
22 Again, that is star-nine would raise your hand.

23 I believe that's all our public comment at this
24 time.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Katy.

1 We will be moving on. Just a roadmap for today,
2 the open agenda items that we have still.

3 We have 9A, which is our Government
4 Affairs/Census subcommittee.

5 We have our 9B, Finance and Administration. It's
6 a motion that was placed on hold yesterday to move forward
7 with the hiring of outreach staff.

8 We also have 9K, which is Communities of
9 Interest. We have a statistic update from Commission
10 Kennedy.

11 9J is Grants. Our subcommittee has -- is still
12 going to present some information on that.

13 And we have 9F and 11 are combined, the Language
14 Access and Public Input Design Committee. And then last
15 but definitely not least, is our Labor Panel at 1:30.

16 And so I'm thinking what might be best, since we
17 ended yesterday with the Public Input Design Committee and
18 Language Access, that we continue with that discussion.
19 Are there any concerns with that?

20 Okay. We will continue with that. I did want to
21 update everyone with that information. Commissioner
22 Akutagawa and I, as well as Director Kaplan, we have been
23 communicating back and forth and we've heard some of the
24 concerns. And we've agreed to amend our recommendations to
25 five business days prior to, in terms of requesting

1 interpretation services. So we will be -- excuse me, we
2 will be amending that.

3 And then the other item -- and I just want to
4 reemphasize that although it shows there's only four or
5 five Public Input meetings that show Spanish, and there's
6 some that show other languages as well, I want -- we want
7 to make it clear that those aren't the only days that
8 limited to Spanish or the different languages there are,
9 Chinese or Japanese.

10 If there is a request, then we will -- if it's
11 made within five business days, we will make an attempt.
12 If it's in the top 12, we'll find an interpreter. If it's
13 beyond the 12, we will make our best attempts to contract
14 for them.

15 However, we did decide to include some additional
16 Spanish, zone-specific dates. And what we will do is we'll
17 go back and see some of the higher concentration zones,
18 such as there's K, J, E, and possibly D, in terms of higher
19 numbers of Spanish. So we'll go back and one of those --
20 we'll add in Spanish for each of those zones.

21 Okay. And I can't remember where we finished
22 off, Commissioner Fornaciari, yesterday. It was a lot of
23 information. Commissioner Sinay, and then Commissioner
24 Andersen.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We were discussing at the

1 end, you know, how are we going to make sure that we know
2 how to listen. And that might -- I don't know how to put
3 it correctly, you know, what the right wording is. But I'm
4 going to go back to a recommendation I made back in October
5 or September. Because I thought about it last night, and I
6 still think this is the best approach.

7 Is why don't we invite some of the redistricting
8 experts who are out there, both on the -- the Democrats and
9 the Republican experts to tell us what they advise us. You
10 know, how -- you know, what should we be listening to? Why
11 don't we just invite them, open up and bring them here, so
12 we can ask them questions and learn from them?

13 I mean, we've done that with other areas where
14 we're looking for learning, and, you know, we've had Paul
15 here, you know, to talk about the LGBT and other issues,
16 but not necessarily talk about his expertise in that, or
17 Matt Rexroad, and there's others, too. But let's open up
18 the door.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Andersen.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mine was actually the
22 language access -- sorry. Could you -- you said very
23 quickly which groups you are adding. Was I -- you're
24 adding another meeting or you were adding Spanish to --

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- existing ones?

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. I --

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. It's not adding another
5 meeting.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'm not adding another meeting.
8 We will add Spanish to one of the meetings designated for
9 those zones.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And which were those
11 zones? You went through those very, very quickly.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I knew you were going to ask me
13 that.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We haven't fully talked
15 through all of those. So, that's still pending. So we'll
16 come back to everybody on the for-sure recommendations I
17 think later on.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So you'll actually
19 then do like an update to this, to this document?

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I have Commissioner Sadhwani
24 and then Commissioner Toledo.

25 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Turner was

1 before me.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner, worry
3 about that.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: As you're going through the
5 list, thank you, Chair. I wanted to suggest that you look
6 again at the Central Valley that has a heavy Latino
7 presence, which would be Zone F.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I think we already have
9 Zone F. We already have Spanish for one of -- we do have -
10 - one of the sessions in Zone F is Spanish, but thank you.

11 Commissioner Sadhwani.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, thanks. You know,
13 I was thinking about this a lot yesterday. And I really, I
14 so appreciate all of the work that the subcommittee has
15 done. And I really appreciate the attention to, you know,
16 like regions that have greater populations that are Spanish
17 speaking, and other languages as well.

18 I agree with the comment that came in this
19 morning from Ms. Marks though. That procedurally, I think
20 that this is going to end up creating some gaps in our
21 ability to meet all Californians, which we've said, you
22 know, over and over again.

23 And so I wanted to just ask, and I know that the
24 subcommittee has looked at this previously, but I wanted to
25 give it a little bit of a different spin on it. I'm

1 actually very supportive -- and I think Commissioner
2 Kennedy has mentioned this yesterday. But can we go and
3 look at, what does it cost to just run all of our meetings
4 and have Spanish interpretation, right. And have the whole
5 meeting interpreted in Spanish.

6 And have the availability -- maybe it's even
7 hiring someone on staff to be our Spanish language
8 interpreter. To take questions or take comments when they
9 come and interpret them for, you know, dummies like me
10 whose Spanish isn't very good.

11 And I -- a part of this, I was thinking about it
12 yesterday, and I had a chance to talk with Alvaro about it
13 a little bit. We have asked, we've put in a request to
14 increase our budget for VRA council, because we anticipate
15 that that's going to be a very real need for us.

16 When we're thinking about VRA in the State of
17 California, it covers many different historically excluded
18 groups, but, in particular, it covers Latinos, right, and
19 ensuring Latino representation in our process. And that we
20 are thinking about the application of the Voting Rights
21 Act, particularly for Latinos, because California has so
22 many Latino communities across the State.

23 And so I feel like we're putting all of this
24 investment in terms of legal, in terms of quantification,
25 in terms of analysis of the numbers, but we've also

1 continuously said, and I completely support that this is an
2 art form, and that we need to hear from folks on the
3 ground.

4 And so I just kind of feel like if we're willing
5 to do all -- if we're going to -- if we're committed to
6 being in compliance with the Voting Rights Act, and we're
7 putting the resources into the quantitative analysis, I
8 think we also have to put the resources in to make sure we
9 get qualitative analysis as well.

10 Because we can run, you know -- I think
11 Commissioner Vazquez was talking about this yesterday,
12 right. We could just have some computer-generated maps,
13 but that's not going to be responsive to folks on the
14 ground. And so I see this as a really important piece.

15 As it relates to other communities, I love the
16 attention to all of the other languages, and I think that's
17 so important and necessary. I do also wonder though, that
18 if the procedure, like if I were limited English
19 proficient, and had to know I have to request five days in
20 advance and I didn't do that, so then I feel like I can't
21 participate.

22 I'm wondering if we can just set up a separate
23 system? I know we had talked about this early on, right.
24 In the very beginning of this process we had talked about
25 -- I think it was Commissioner Sinay, talking about -- what

1 is the term for it? Civic technologies and things like
2 that. I'm wondering, can folks submit videos, right.
3 We're taking three-minute testimonials.

4 Could we ask people to -- like could we create
5 some system, also, where folks could submit their -- a
6 three-minute video to us? I mean, we're living in the age
7 of Tik Tok and YouTube and all of this stuff, right.

8 Like if someone -- in particular, I think for
9 limited English proficient folks, right, like those videos
10 could then be -- we could send out to have, you know,
11 interpretation put down at the bottom, right, so that
12 everyone could read them and see them. And it wouldn't be
13 so much of a time crunch as the live and in person.

14 I don't think it's an either/or, I think it's an
15 and/and both, right. I don't know from a budget standpoint
16 if we can do all of those things, but I am concerned that
17 we could do more to really meet the needs of Californians.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Sadhwani.

21 Commissioner Toledo.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair Fernandez.
23 I would agree with Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner
24 Kennedy and the others who both (indiscernible) show that,
25 of just trying to get more interpretation for the Spanish

1 speaking, and actually offering them.

2 But one -- the issue that I actually wanted to
3 raise was just that of the on-line scheduling system or the
4 scheduling system. I mean, the -- it just reminds me of
5 the COVID vaccine scheduling system. And what we learned
6 from that is that language minorities really had difficulty
7 with it. Not just because of the technology, but also, you
8 know, the rules associated.

9 There were so many rules to get a -- you know,
10 you have to know how to be able to use the system and to
11 navigate that. But -- and certainly that's -- I know that
12 you've worked -- that we diligently to come up with a
13 system that works. But, of course, we don't want to
14 inadvertently end up with a system that creates more
15 barriers for people.

16 The 10-day waiting period of -- or a 10-day
17 window to have -- to interpret, to ask for interpretation,
18 that might be -- if there's a way to reduce that to maybe
19 five days, as Commissioner Kennedy has proposed, that might
20 be a way to giving people more time.

21 As many of the individuals are, you know, working
22 two, three jobs. And just have, you know, difficult lives,
23 challenging lives. Especially with the pandemic, taking
24 care of their kids and other situations. Just making sure
25 that we are taking into consideration and then share what

1 we have. And saying if there's a refinement we can get to
2 reduce barriers as much as possible. And thank you.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

4 And we did say that we are going to reduce it
5 from 10 days to five days. So we've taken care of that
6 one.

7 You've all brought up some good points, so it's a
8 probably a good time to discuss it, to see if we need to
9 move forward to look into some of these concerns or
10 suggestions.

11 So, Commissioner Toledo, you talked about the
12 sign-up appointment. I'm trying to think of a way. Maybe
13 we allow like -- I don't know, the first hour or the third
14 hour, whatever's connected with that language, maybe we
15 leave it open for those that didn't have the opportunity to
16 use the sign-up system, but still need interpretation
17 services. I'm just trying to brainstorm. And what we'll
18 do is we'll take this information back and -- with the
19 Language Access. So I'm just trying to think of different
20 ways to address that.

21 And the video, I think it was Commissioner
22 Sadhwani talked about the three-minute videos. I think
23 that's great. Can I hand that off to Communications
24 Director Ceja, so you can look into that to see if that
25 would possible?

1 Because, again, what we've said is, if somebody
2 comes to our meetings, our public input meetings, and they
3 don't have an interpreter, we don't have an interpreter,
4 they can actually give their public input in their
5 language, whatever language they're comfortable with, and
6 then later on we would translate it.

7 So, I don't see that being any different than
8 them being able to submit a video. So, I'm going to punt
9 that to Communications Director Ceja to look into.

10 In terms of cost to run the meetings, I'm
11 assuming we're talking about the public input meetings and
12 beyond, not necessarily the business meetings. So we will
13 look into the cost of that, to translate the entire
14 meeting, all of the public input meetings and beyond. The
15 Language Access with assistance from Outreach Director
16 Kaplan.

17 And then in terms of inviting the Democrats and
18 Republicans, I'm actually not sure how to really address
19 that. I keep thinking we're not supposed to, but then
20 again, who says we're not supposed to? Because, again, we
21 need to, we need to hear from everyone, right? So I would
22 welcome -- okay. We have lots of people that want to say
23 something.

24 I have Commissioner Akutagawa, Commissioner
25 Sinay, and then Commissioner Ahmad.

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. So I'd like to
2 address the language access portions actually. So I guess
3 I do have a question in terms of, you know, all the
4 balancing acts that we are trying to meet. And I hear what
5 you're all saying in terms of, you know, the additions to
6 interpretation.

7 I think I'm particularly thinking about the
8 appointment system, and I think that's something that we
9 had also, you know, touched upon and talked about in our
10 committee meeting when we were just trying to imagine
11 everything.

12 I think we're also trying to imagine also --
13 we're running into a crunch time, also, in terms of trying
14 to get these kinds of translations. I mean, look at how
15 long it just took just to get the materials in. It took
16 literally like two to three months to do it.

17 And we don't have two to three months to
18 translate an appointment system into the various languages.
19 Get it up and running. We're going to be done by the time
20 that gets up and running. So that was a concern that --
21 you know, I guess I'm just kind of trying to think, are
22 there easier ways to be able to do all of that?

23 I think with that said, you know -- I hear what
24 you're saying, Commissioner Toledo. I guess the other
25 question I have is then, is the alternative to not have

1 appointments, you know what I mean, so that we don't
2 exclude anybody. But then we have this other kind of issue
3 that we're trying to also avoid, where people who do need a
4 little bit more certainty around what time they would be
5 able to, be able to testify, would need that because the
6 kinds of jobs that they have, they can't just wait all day
7 for their turn.

8 And so I think -- you know, is it the solution
9 that maybe, you know, Commissioner Fernandez says, I think
10 those are things that, you know, we'll definitely from our
11 Language Access part, I think we'll need to consider. But
12 I'm also concerned that even if we just say, we're going to
13 set aside, whether it's the first hour, the middle hour or
14 the last hour, for those with no appointments who need
15 interpretation, you know, I'm also just trying to think
16 about the what ifs.

17 So, if we're talking about six minutes per
18 person, you know, that's less than 10 people in that hour.
19 And if we get lots of people, I think we're going to run
20 into other issues.

21 And so this is the challenge that I would put out
22 to everybody else, too, because I think this is what, you
23 know, I've also been saying is, we may need to then just
24 add more days to the schedule if this is what we're going
25 to need to do.

1 Because when you break it down, we're not talking
2 about a lot of slots, a lot of time, and if have hundreds
3 of people that want to testify, we're either going to be
4 looking at very long meetings, or we'll just have to really
5 think intentionally about adding extra days. And I don't
6 know, you know, those definitely are all things that it's
7 not just a financial cost, but it's a cost of, is this what
8 you want to do?

9 And I know that -- you know, I've heard I think a
10 couple Commissioners say, well, this is what we signed up
11 for. But at the same time, I'm sure that, you know, is it
12 really that this is the expectation? Are we going to take
13 up -- I mean, I'm okay. I think we just need to know what
14 it is that we want to do.

15 And I think we can add a few more meetings, but
16 do you really want to do that? And if that's the case, if
17 that's the balance, then I think we also need to hear that
18 from you as well, too, because the impact is not just on
19 the individuals who come to testify, but it's also on us.

20 And I'm not trying to be selfish about it, I'm
21 just trying to balance all of these things that we've been
22 trying to -- that we are talking about as well too in our
23 subcommittees. And by the way, I do love the idea of the
24 video, because that would actually make it so that the
25 translation versus the interpretation costs is a lot less

1 than the interpretation.

2 So, somebody, you know, may feel more
3 comfortable, because, you know, it's nerve-racking getting
4 up in front of somebody, even if it's on Zoom, to give
5 testimony. You might get a better quality testimony for
6 some people if that's their preference.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And thank you,
8 Commissioner Akutagawa. I have Commissioner Sinay, Ahmad,
9 Turner and Sadhwani.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think there's a lot of
11 fixes for some of the stuff that we're talking about, and
12 some of it has come up in the past. And so it's good to --
13 you know, we -- you know, as Sara said, civic technology
14 was kind of my passion at the very beginning of this, and
15 it -- one of the subcommittees said that they would take it
16 on, and so I backed off.

17 But there are really easy solutions to some of
18 the stuff we're talking about. Tik Tok and, you know, and
19 all -- social media platforms already exist, so we don't
20 need to create things. And, yes, people all over the world
21 are using these, and so it is a simple platform. It's --
22 there aren't the barriers that some may think.

23 And we -- you know, I've asked a long time ago,
24 can we have a hashtag that's ours. That we're looking at
25 during meetings, that we're looking at other times, and

1 that's a way to collect comments. That's another -- you
2 know, if we use Tik Tok or we use Instagram and people use
3 the hashtag, we sweep those all into our public comments as
4 well, and then we, when we review our public comments, that
5 would come -- public inputs, sorry, would also come up.

6 We're going to have a field team. The field team
7 can actually take these calls and set up the appointments
8 that people having a hard time with our technology. I
9 mean, the field team should be our liaison with the
10 community and really help reduce barriers.

11 And the -- you know, we said from the beginning,
12 they need to be able to do a little bit of everything. And
13 we're going to find out new barriers that we haven't
14 thought about. And we need to be able -- the outreach and
15 comms team and all staff need to be able to just adapt and
16 lower those barriers.

17 And so I think we need the appointments for some,
18 because we've been asked about that, and we don't want
19 people waiting forever, but we need to make sure the
20 appointment system isn't just, that's it, and we forget --
21 you know, we need to learn from the vaccination appointment
22 system and others. And there's a lot of best practices.
23 And so let's go out there and learn from them.

24 I think I would encourage us to do the videos, as
25 I said, and it doesn't need to be -- you know, submittal of

1 videos is really hard. Ask most of your kids who have
2 actually had to do it for school, it takes a long time to
3 upload and all that, a three-minute video. But if we were
4 to create a hashtag, and people could @ us or whatever on
5 social platforms, it's very easy on the social platforms.
6 They've got it down.

7 So I just want us to keep thinking creatively on
8 how we make this an inclusive process, versus going back to
9 hearings and how we did things in the past. It's really
10 important that -- you know, I know we could think, we might
11 be able to go back to doing face-to-face meetings. I'm
12 going to go back to what Commissioner Vazquez said. No,
13 we're always going to have to have a hybrid system. We
14 need to think creatively.

15 And that's part of what the outreach
16 subcommittee's been doing, is talking to folks to see where
17 can we have viewing parties for a lot of our hearings, so
18 people -- you know, it's about equity right now, and we
19 need to think creatively as we're thinking about equity,
20 and what already exists out there.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
22 Commissioner Ahmad.

23 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I just
24 wanted to circle back on this video idea and slow us down a
25 little bit. And I know you've given clear direction to

1 Fredy, so I don't want to confuse Fredy.

2 Right now, Fredy, I'm talking to my colleagues,
3 so I don't want you to get confused with anything on this
4 part.

5 But I -- my ears perked up because of the data
6 management perspective. Where do we store these videos?
7 How do they come in? There's so many questions that I have
8 about this process. And I know sometimes, you know, I
9 forget, too. I just click on a link to join this meeting
10 and that's all I do for my planning purposes.

11 But we will hold that expectation for staff to be
12 able to deliver all of the public inputs received, whether
13 it's to video or some other means. So just throwing that
14 out there as a caution of before we get too deep into that,
15 how we would manage that.

16 The other point I wanted to directly respond to,
17 Commissioner Sinay, about hashtag and social media. Do not
18 underestimate the meme culture. I am part of the meme
19 culture, and all it takes is one influencer, one comedic
20 influencer to overtake a hashtag, to overtake a sign-up
21 system, to overtake anything that is on the internet.

22 So, I've seen it happen. Even it crossed over
23 into the political world, if you all know what I'm
24 referencing, from some time in the presidential campaign
25 season.

1 I would not be comfortable allowing that type of
2 floodgate to open when we don't have the infrastructure to
3 support and/or clean that process from our end. So, as
4 much as I love the meme culture, hashtag all the way, but
5 for this purpose I just wouldn't know how to manage that
6 data coming in, if it was coming in such a fluid way.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.
8 Commissioner Turner, then Commissioner Sadhwani.

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh. Yup, that's my
10 data manager subcommittee partner.

11 In regards to the videos, I won't repeat, yes,
12 exactly what Commissioner Ahmad said. And then I also was
13 wondering about the personal, identifiable information on
14 videos that are sent. How are we then able to manage that
15 portion of it?

16 So, really just more, throwing out more questions
17 about that. I love creativity and thinking of different
18 ways, but it caused more concerns then about how do we
19 navigate those spaces?

20 And the other thing I wanted to say was just a
21 plus one to Commissioner Sadhwani. As far as looking into
22 hiring someone that is Spanish speaking interpreter, then
23 we don't have to necessarily relegate any days specific to
24 Spanish. At least we'll have one on staff moving forward
25 for all of the sessions. So, if we can look into what that

1 cost would be, as opposed to retaining interpreters.

2 And I'm not clear yet, even with the block hours
3 that we have for Spanish, so we know people can arrange
4 interpreters for, you know, with five days advance notice,
5 which would include Spanish at this point. And then we
6 have blocked times, and then we have full days, but they
7 could still call other days.

8 I think it -- we still have to work out what that
9 will look like for all languages, but for the high
10 population that we have for Latinos, I think it makes sense
11 to look into having interpretation for that language, much
12 as what Commissioner Kennedy's and other have -- Kennedy
13 and others have suggested before. So I didn't want that
14 part to get lost either. Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
16 Commissioner Sadhwani, and then Commissioner
17 Toledo.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. So, you know, I'm
19 very pro-video, but -- so just to speak to Commissioner
20 Ahmad and Turner's concerns. I mean, my thought is that at
21 this point, I think a part of it could be based on what
22 kind of system we use to receive those videos.

23 If we're anticipating that some of those are
24 coming in in different languages, and that we're going to
25 have to send them out interpretation in any case, then that

1 means we're going to get a transcript along with them. And
2 there's a lot of systems actually. I mean, even if you
3 think about like -- I don't know, I'm an iPhone user. So
4 if someone leaves me a voice mail message, you can see the
5 transcript. It's not always perfect, but you can get a,
6 you know, a written transcript that goes along with it.

7 And I think just like as we, the -- you know, the
8 data management system and Airtable that we cite yesterday,
9 you know, we would be inputting written e-mails, letters
10 that we receive, the napkin map and scanning it, right.

11 I think, similarly, we could pull a transcript
12 from it, recognize there might be a couple little errors in
13 there, and that's okay because we'll link it back to
14 wherever that video is stored. But that transcript could
15 be ultimately what's input into Airtable in some way, shape
16 or form, for our analysis purposes. I'll leave it to Fredy
17 to figure out how to do that. But that was initially my
18 thought.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And then maybe we
20 could also go back. Maybe if the -- my gosh, the data
21 management subcommittee can go back to see if that's
22 possible, where you just get some --

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Well, can I respond then?

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Sure.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Because certainly it would

1 be possible, but the reason -- those other concerns I left
2 it before and was right in link -- on track with what
3 Commissioner Ahmad was saying, is because I'm thinking it
4 has to be some sort of technology that allows people to put
5 it on a different platform.

6 To send a video through for three minutes is
7 almost an impossibility for most people. It's -- it takes
8 a lot to send a three-minute video. And we're doing this
9 in a -- but really to accommodate people that may/can't
10 navigate other technology issues or what have you. Three
11 minute -- and unless -- and even being an iPhone user,
12 yeah, it's not easy.

13 So now, if we were to get the video, if they're
14 going to send them, talking about where we're going to
15 store them and all of that, yes, we could get them. Yes,
16 we can send it out. It's the, how do they just send, a
17 regular person, a three-minute video?

18 I do work with that a lot just in the church
19 realm and stuff, trying to send through videos, and most
20 people can't navigate it and figure out how send anything
21 more than a few seconds' video, let alone a three-minute
22 video. So, I guess I'm still trying to figure that part
23 out.

24 If it's them sending it to me, I see problems.
25 If it's them creating it somewhere that we're going to

1 access it, how will we get it, where will we store it,
2 those kind -- and then we have the personal information.
3 But if some kind of way they can actually send us a video,
4 certainly we could then redact what we need to, and do the
5 interpretation and all of that.

6 I'm just, again, wondering, how do we get all of
7 the Californians that would want to utilize this process
8 the ability to send a long video?

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: And can I add to that, Chair
11 Fernandez?

12 I would just ask then what's the difference
13 between a video and someone calling in and leaving a voice
14 message? Because from my understanding, all of the
15 information is going into one database, and I can be absent
16 from every single public input meeting over the summer, and
17 still should be able to have all of the information from
18 the public to study for our big, final exam.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

20 I have Commissioner Toledo, Commissioner Vazquez
21 and Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to just
23 recognize and appreciate Chair Fernandez and the
24 Commissioner Akutagawa. I think that in drawing, in
25 putting the puzzle together, it was really done with an

1 equity lens. And you can -- I mean, we've seen that,
2 right? We see her as, you're allocating slots, you're
3 putting them up upon chair making. It's almost minority is
4 first in the one-up process in that. For that I think
5 that's wonderful, and I appreciate your work on this. And
6 I know this is a difficult topic. And so I just wanted to
7 send my appreciation for your hard work on trying to create
8 an equitable process to get people's comments through. And
9 so, thank you for that.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

11 I have Commissioner Vazquez.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I am -- in a sense,
13 I appreciate this discussion about sort of like opening,
14 opening up basically public comment to different forums,
15 and trying to leverage social media to that end. And at
16 the same time trying to think about also what social media
17 now is used for.

18 And I think it could be, to Commissioner Ahmad's
19 point, things would get, things could get out of hand
20 quickly, and at the same time, I'm not so sure it's
21 anything that we couldn't sort of be alerted to fairly
22 quickly and, you know, shut it down. Let's push pause. I
23 think we could be somewhat responsive in real time if
24 things start to get out of hand on-line.

25 That being said, another consideration is that,

1 you know, do we want -- if we, let's say we created a
2 hashtag, I think we'd have to create a public policy about
3 sort of like how we are, how we are reviewing things
4 submitted via social media.

5 So, let's say I'm a community member and I decide
6 that I'm going to digitally organize my neighbors, because
7 we want to be -- you know, we want our community of
8 interest to be this thing, right. And so, I create a bunch
9 of tweets, sent them out to my neighbors and said, hey, at
10 the public comment meeting we're not going to go, but we're
11 going to be like tweeting up a storm.

12 What counts as like official public comment and
13 what counts as like someone just popping off on Twitter?
14 Because, you know, I use Twitter for both.

15 So, I -- you know, can -- we have to make a
16 distinction sort of about like, this is just someone
17 sending things out into the universe, and this is someone's
18 like official public comment. And do we make the
19 distinction, and to what extent can we make that
20 distinction?

21 So, and the last thing I'll say is that to
22 Commissioner Ahmad's point, in terms of what's the
23 difference between sending a voice mail and sending a
24 video. I do think there is some difference. I'm not sure
25 it's a super meaningful difference when it's all said and

1 done. But like, again, just thinking about someone my age.
2 I'm definitely not calling and leaving a voice mail for
3 public comment, but I could like film like a one-minute
4 video and e-mail it to publiccomment@wedrawthelines or
5 whatever. But that -- or post it and put a hashtag on it
6 on my Instagram.

7 So, again, I'm not sure how many people we will
8 lose if we say, only this way. Again, some of these things
9 may not be meaningful differences in the end, but just
10 other considerations.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Vazquez.

13 So I have Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner
14 Akutagawa.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I forgot. Just going back,
16 I wanted just to -- for clarity sake. When we were talking
17 about inviting the redistricting consultants, they're not
18 legislature. So I just wanted to make sure that, that
19 clarity. And there might be others that I don't know
20 about, you know, other firms, that that -- I just wanted to
21 clarify that. (Indiscernible.) I apologize.

22 What's the difference between hearing and seeing?
23 A lot. We really need video and we need to -- it would be
24 great if we could figure out how to see people when they
25 give their public comments, even in our meetings. Because

1 seeing we get the body language, we get the connection, we
2 get to see what they're showing, we get to see all those
3 pieces. And we have been told that over and over again by,
4 you know -- so I think that piece is really, really
5 important for many reasons.

6 Yes, you can have biases as well when you see
7 people, and maybe you kind of erase it when you hear it,
8 and there's studies on that as well. So, there's both
9 sides. But I do think that you do get other information.

10 And people do feel comfortable. I mean, the
11 number of videos I get from my family around the world, I
12 am always laughing because they won't send me voicemails or
13 type something, they'll just do a quick video and send it
14 to me.

15 But, you know, I think video would be number one,
16 but number two, voicemails would be great as well. But on
17 -- I think a lot of us are saying is just, we need to try
18 to figure out how to be inclusive and look at equity in all
19 different ways. And that's the only piece.

20 I'm not that concerned about too much information
21 or, you know, I think, yes, things get abused on the
22 internet and whatnot, and you can go through it. But, you
23 know, I am a believer, as James Worley says, about the
24 wisdom of crowd, and the more input we get eventually
25 patterns come up that are better than less input.

1 And so, again, we need to figure out how to
2 screen from that -- screen for that, and I think that part
3 of the lessons, you know, kind of what we need to prepare
4 ourselves for in the next, in the next round. We may not
5 know it today, but maybe we think about, okay, who do we
6 bring in to help us think some of this through, and what
7 conversations do we need to have. Thank you, everybody.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes, thank you. And I
9 have Commissioner Akutagawa. And then after that, we need
10 to keep moving and make some decisions on how to move
11 forward, so we can move to our next area.

12 So, yes, Commissioner Akutagawa.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. This has
14 been a great conversation, and I'm so glad that
15 Commissioner Ahmad and Vazquez brought up the points about
16 social media. I think that was one of my initial thoughts
17 about social media.

18 I think the obvious ones are going to be easy to
19 make decisions on. You know, the obvious ones that are
20 clearly public comment, and the obvious ones that are
21 clearly just someone trolling. I think where it becomes
22 very slippery and I think this is what Commissioner Vazquez
23 was talking about, is the ones that kind of fall in that
24 gray area, and where do you draw the line is the problem on
25 that. But where do you draw the line on what is really not

1 legitimate public comment is what kind of like borderline
2 just trolling.

3 And I think the challenge that I can see is that
4 that's going to take us into another place where we may not
5 be well-prepared, nor would we have the adequate time to
6 really think through and make those decisions. And then
7 could subject us to additional litigation that may or may
8 not be productive in this case.

9 On the videos, I hear what everyone's saying.
10 You know, I think the way I would look at this is, it's
11 actually not any different than us offering the paper COI
12 Tool, the Communities of Interest Tool. I don't think
13 everybody is going to use the videos.

14 I think what it does is it's looking at it as
15 offering another option, in addition to sending us an e-
16 mail with their public comment and the map that they've
17 drawn by whatever means, by leaving us the voicemail, by,
18 you know, submitting through the COI Tool, or coming in
19 person.

20 I think we should look at the video is for those
21 who want to or those who have the, let's just say the skill
22 sets to do whatever they need to do, to upload and get it
23 to us. I think it's just another option to offer, versus
24 an either/or. I think someone said it's an "and." It's an
25 and, and another and, and another and. There's just these

1 various options.

2 I just would, you know, encourage caution against
3 the social media hashtags, and also taking comment from
4 social media. I do have some serious concerns about where
5 that could take us. I think we just need to have our more
6 very clear-cut, official channels for receiving that
7 information. So, thanks.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
9 Akutagawa.

10 So, moving forward, I'm -- a few things have been
11 brought up that we want to make sure we don't lose. One is
12 the potential of hiring a Spanish interpreter instead of
13 contracting each time.

14 So, Executive Director Hernandez, can you please
15 look into that? Or maybe we already have one on -- we
16 already have an interpreter on staff. I'm not sure. Just,
17 you know, throwing that out there in case, double duty.

18 Also, with the videos, in terms of looking into
19 that, I was thinking of trying to hand it off to my data
20 management subcommittee to work with Communications
21 Directors Ceja, and also with Cecy (phonetic), to maybe get
22 more information on that and look into it. Is that
23 something that you would be willing to do, Commissioner
24 Ahmad and Turner?

25 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. And certainly I'm

1 willing to, you know, spend the time to look into it, but I
2 think we just need a little bit more clear direction in
3 terms of what the Commission is looking for from that
4 research.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I believe right now what the
6 direction would be is, what would be involved in, one,
7 receiving the videos. Maybe different mechanisms in terms
8 of the ability to get those videos to the Commission, maybe
9 some of the security issues. And you brought up the great
10 point of data management, what are we going to do with
11 them, the videos, right?

12 Commissioner Turner, and then Director Kaplan.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think what would be
14 helpful with that clarification is, is right now without
15 deciding that someone could send a video. And on the
16 timeline or the kind of chart that we have, it would stop
17 with the data manager and its team, to have it translated,
18 to have it then transcribed, and then it would go into the
19 system.

20 So, I'm not sure what else you'd want the data
21 manager team -- we could take it on, but how are you
22 thinking about this? This is where I'm seeing it up front.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I was thinking more of
24 like the security concerns. And I don't know, maybe it's
25 the cybersecurity, I don't know. I'm just trying to figure

1 out how we can come up with process to be able to accept
2 videos.

3 And I'm going to admit, I'm not the social media
4 as -- person as Fredy knows. So, I have Director Kaplan,
5 and then I believe Commissioner -- no, nothing more?
6 Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Akutagawa.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, I think my -- I was just
8 going to clarify is, I think the big question is, how can
9 people easily submit videos to us? And I think Fredy may
10 have some ideas on that.

11 So it's looking at what systems exist, kind of
12 like we're looking at the scheduling system, and then
13 checking in on, you know, do they work with systems that we
14 have. And, you know, just bring -- and do they work with
15 security. So, again, it's just, are there systems that --
16 are there civic technology that we can use that will help
17 us with that?

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

19 Fredy, are you good looking into that as well?
20 Okay. So you're off. Data Management no longer on it.
21 We've got Fredy looking at it.

22 And Commissioner Akutagawa.

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Actually, I was just
24 going to say, I agree with what Commissioner Turner was
25 saying. I don't think we necessarily need to work out what

1 systems. I think anybody who is going to choose to use the
2 videos is going to know how to use it. They're going to
3 choose what they're going to do, and they'll just figure
4 out themselves or they'll ask somebody to help them figure
5 out how to get it uploaded to the appropriate site.

6 I think that's the one place, is just seeing
7 where do they send it to? Do they just e-mail a link? Do
8 they e-mail, you know, the actual video file? I think
9 maybe that's more of the specifics, or the specificity that
10 maybe the data management could deal with is that do you
11 want to link or do you want the specific file or do you
12 want both, and then where do they send it to.

13 I think -- you know, we don't need to tell them
14 what platform to use or how to create a video. I think
15 that that's going to be up to the person. Social media is
16 not going to be on it, it's just the place where you send
17 it to, to share it with people. I don't think social media
18 has anything to do with the videos.

19 The security piece, I think the security piece is
20 going to be something that's not just going to be limited
21 to the videos. I think that is a piece that's for all of
22 the inputs that we're getting in. So whatever would be
23 applying to everything else would apply to the videos as
24 well, too. So that's just kind of my perspective on that.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

1 Director Ceja.

2 MR. CEJA (via Zoom): Yes. We can certainly
3 explore various ways to capture video. If we're just going
4 videos in e-mail, I can upload those as public comment to
5 our website, but it's going to take the additional step of
6 uploading it to YouTube and then linking it on our website,
7 so that we can clear any security issues.

8 The other thing, too, is, I remember when we did
9 the Granicus demo. This was actually one of the features
10 for that agenda-building software. Not only did it create
11 an easy way to create an agenda and post it on-line and for
12 Commissioners to follow along as we're describing -- or
13 discussing the issues, but it did allow a portal for
14 individuals to drop their public comments, so it'd be
15 attached to that, to that meeting date. And it would be in
16 written form and video form.

17 And so folks can at their own leisure provide
18 public comment and public input, and just leave it there
19 for the Commissioners to review at their -- at whatever
20 time they have available.

21 So I will look at different ways to do this, but
22 I know like Granicus definitely did it. So I'll look at
23 other platforms that do the same.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I appreciate you looking
25 into that, and then coming back with some options and

1 recommendations. That'd be great.

2 I think I had Commissioner Akutagawa, and then
3 Commissioner Sadhwani.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was just going to ask
5 if people could upload the videos to YouTube directly and
6 send the link, or is that a security issue?

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Are you responding to that,
8 Commissioner Turner or --

9 MR. CEJA: Yeah, people can definitely do that.
10 Just send us a link as public comment.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Well -- okay.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. I thought there was
14 a concern with links and our ability to store and keep the
15 information. So, I can -- we can certainly take it off-
16 line, but I'm still trying to think through redacting
17 certain information, and our ability to store when you
18 receive links, as opposed to actual video. But that's all.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

20 Commissioner Sadhwani.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I was just going
22 to uplift what Fredy was saying. I don't remember a demo
23 of Granicus. I don't -- maybe I wasn't there for that.
24 But I do remember we had previously, like several months
25 ago, been talking about agenda systems, right, and some

1 sort of civic something or other that, you know, I think a
2 lot of city councils and school boards use. So I don't
3 know if this is that system, but it sounds super exciting,
4 and I would love to see it, if there's others.

5 You know, I certainly have no sense of what that
6 cost for something like that would be, but recognizing that
7 we're moving into a phase where we're anticipating a whole
8 lot of public input, I think if such a system could be
9 useful to us, it would be, it would be great.

10 I mean, we do also of course have all these other
11 systems that we're ramping up as well, right, in terms an
12 appointment system, the data management system, the COI
13 Tool. So my only concern would be making sure that they
14 can all speak to each other and work together.

15 But I think if there are things that can make our
16 lives easier in terms of the agenda, I know we were talking
17 about that a while ago, so I would definitely be interested
18 in that as well. So I look forward to hearing more about
19 it.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

21 I am going to -- okay. I was going to turn it
22 back to you, Commissioner Fornaciari, to see where we
23 wanted to go with this. Because I know we had some
24 recommendations from the Public Input Design, and then we
25 also have some recommendations from the Language Access

1 that we're going to be amending. That piece of it we'll be
2 amending and bringing back.

3 So how did -- is that what you were going to
4 respond to?

5 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI (via Zoom): Yeah, I'll
6 do that, but first I want to talk --

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- I want to respond to
9 the Granicus thing. You know, we looked into that. It's
10 pretty pricey to get it up and running. We'd only use it
11 for a year. And all the information is stored on their
12 system. And it was just unclear how we would manage
13 getting all of that information back at the end of the
14 year. So we ultimately recommended against going with
15 Granicus, because just the complexity of dealing with the
16 data.

17 And like Commissioner Sadhwani said, it's just a
18 whole other system to learn and get up and running. And by
19 the time we got, you know, we'd figure out, it just didn't
20 seem like it'd be worth the overhead, too. So, we
21 recommended against it, and -- but I'm sure there are other
22 platforms that Fredy can find for managing the data input,
23 hopefully, so.

24 Yeah, so let's come back to where we were. I
25 think -- I mean, if I can kind of summarize where we were

1 at with the Language Access, we had a lot of, a lot of good
2 feedback on that. And the Language Access Committee will
3 take that feedback back, and they've already arise some of
4 their suggestions, and work and consider some of the other
5 suggestions. And we'll bring it back to the Public Input
6 Design Committee, and then bring it back to the entire
7 Commission next time around.

8 So, the June 10th meeting, you know, again, just
9 circling back to the initial recommendations. The meetings
10 are -- it seems like we kind of have consensus on three
11 minutes for public input. The meeting's already scheduled.
12 I know we had a suggestion to make the meetings go over to
13 allow for more input.

14 So this first meeting it's already scheduled.
15 The time is scheduled. So I just propose that we go with
16 the duration that we have for this first meeting, and we
17 can revisit it.

18 We've got the team putting together -- looking --
19 putting together a proposal for a scheduling system. I
20 think there was uniform support for that.

21 I don't know if we need to vote on these
22 recommendations or if can just kind of get a consensus. Is
23 it -- do we just-- is that okay?

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian?

25 MS. JOHNSTON: You should have a vote.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We should have a vote. Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

4 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Just to piggyback off what
5 Neal has been -- or Commissioner Fornaciari. Sorry,
6 wearing the wrong commission subcommittee hat. When we
7 were having these discussions and putting together this
8 recommendation, I think what we ultimately wanted the full
9 group to see was a dry run, right? A full end-to-end dry
10 run of what a COI input meeting would look like.

11 Because, you know, the previous conversation that
12 we had, like how do we accept certain types of input? What
13 if it comes through like various different mechanisms, who
14 is going to be taking that input down and noting it and
15 putting it into the data management system? What is the
16 role of the line drawer at these meetings?

17 We had a really robust conversation with Karin
18 and Andrew at our subcommittee meeting about what role they
19 played in 2010, which was very different than now because
20 we have that COI Tool. How are we going to advertise the
21 COI Tool during these live input meetings, to draw folks to
22 use that mechanism to submit their input? So, the last
23 item on that document that you all received for
24 recommendations is along those lines.

25 In terms of voting on this, Marian, I hear you,

1 you said we should vote on this. But at this point, I'm
2 seeing it more as an administrative thing. As more of
3 planning purposes to give our team some guidance in how to
4 organize and plan for just that June 10th meeting.

5 I personally am -- don't feel strongly about
6 having this concrete set in stone because it might change,
7 right. We might learn that three minutes is not enough, or
8 three minutes is way too much time. Or we might learn we
9 need to shorten these meetings or lengthen these meetings.

10 Or we might learn certain regions people have
11 used the COI Tool already, and they're just not going to
12 call in. So are we still going to sit there for six or
13 seven hours?

14 So, I personally am just kind of wary on putting
15 anything into stone because we still have that dry run
16 coming up, hopefully next full Commission meeting. And
17 then a few subcommittee meetings and a full Commission
18 meeting in between that first June 10th meeting, so that we
19 can refine and edit all of these recommendations before
20 launching something for that first COI meeting.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: My only point in suggesting a vote
23 would be to have that as your -- to say that the June 10th
24 is a trial. That it's not set in stone, but this is how
25 the -- you're acting on the recommendation to do this as

1 your first Public Input Design meeting to see how it goes,
2 and it will be revisited.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Another option, too,
4 Commissioner Ahmad, is we could wait until the dry run, and
5 then -- how about if we do that? Why don't we wait until
6 the dry run --?

7 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. No, that's exactly what
8 I was going to say --

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

10 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: -- is if we vote today and we
11 learn next week that something doesn't work, then what
12 happens. So, yeah --

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And, again, if we take
14 a vote and we -- something does get approved, we can always
15 amend that with a future vote as well. And that's probably
16 what Marian was going to say.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: That would be fine.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, thank you everyone
21 for your input. I think we have homework to do. And with
22 that, we're going to move on to -- let me get my list.
23 Agenda item 9A. We'll go ahead and start. We will have to
24 take a break at 11:00, but at least that will give us a
25 start.

1 And I will hand that off to Commission Sadhwani
2 and Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perfect. Well, thank you
4 so much. I think we have a number of things to discuss
5 today, including an update on that letter that we sent to
6 the Governor's Office, the timeline scenarios document,
7 which I understand there are many -- some adjustments that
8 need to be made to it. We've heard from a couple of folks
9 already about that.

10 But I wanted to start off a little bit by talking
11 about the letter that we received from Mr. Munger, and
12 just, again, reiterate -- and I thank Ms. Hutchinson very
13 much for calling in today and recognizing the provisions of
14 Bagley-Keene, and the policies that we've taken thus far.

15 I'll reiterate, as it was said at our last
16 meeting, also, where this issue was questioned, that the
17 Commission has, you know, is -- that two-person
18 subcommittees are not subject to Bagley-Keen opening
19 meeting requirements, and this Commission has selected to
20 operate under those subcommittee provisions.

21 Bagley-Keene allows two members to communicate
22 with external stakeholders, to plan meetings, logistics and
23 conduct research. All of the CRC subcommittees are purely
24 advisory in nature, as we just saw, right? The Language
25 Access subcommittee went forth, you know, talked with a

1 number of stakeholders. You developed a set of
2 recommendations, you brought them to the Commission, and
3 we're reviewing them and discussing them. It is not to
4 suggest that we're going to take every recommendation from
5 a two-person subcommittee.

6 The 2010 Commission, to my understanding,
7 referred to these as "ad hoc committees." So the meeting
8 referenced in the letter from Mr. Munger was such a
9 subcommittee meeting. It was to discuss the impact of the
10 Census delay.

11 Both Commissioner Toledo and I, as well as
12 Alvaro, our Executive Director, and our counsel, Ms.
13 Johnston, were all a part of that meeting. We reported it
14 back to the full Commission, as is our policy of the
15 Commission. No details regarding actual line drawing were
16 discussed at that meeting, and, you know, and it was simply
17 to collect information, and try to better create our
18 response to the Census delay.

19 A reminder, also, that all of our agendas are
20 posted 14 days in advance. So when someone wants to, you
21 know, send us information, that's wonderful, and we're
22 always here and ready to receive public input from any
23 Californian who wants to submit information to the
24 Commission, but it's not necessarily going to be reflected
25 in our agenda right away. Because, in compliance with

1 Bagley-Keene, we're posting our agendas 14 days in advance.

2 I understand, also, that Mr. Munger had raised
3 some concerns about our counsel. Commissioner Toledo is
4 going to discuss that as well.

5 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes, certainly. And I
6 would just add to the point that you brought up,
7 Commissioner Sadhwani. That we are -- while we are an
8 independent Commission, we're also a state agency. So we
9 were set up as a state agency and operating under state
10 rules, and we are following those rules as we've advised by
11 counsel.

12 So -- but in terms of the VRA counsel, the issues
13 raised were the potential conflict of interest with regards
14 to our counsel. And I just want to remind the public and
15 Commissioners that we did conduct a fair and open,
16 transparent recruitment and hiring process for our VRA
17 counsel in compliance with all state contracting
18 guidelines.

19 VRA -- the RFI was posted publicly back in
20 December actually. It's been -- it was a while ago. All
21 applications were posted on our website. They were
22 thoroughly vetted. We received substantial public input,
23 as well as we discussed it at various committee meetings.
24 And during that process we did explore conflict of
25 interest, and we found no disqualifying conflicts of

1 interest. Conflicts of interest, the conflicts of interest
2 that were, were certainly disclosed, and the committee and
3 Commission did not find any disqualifying conflicts of
4 interest. And all of the interviews were conducted in
5 public session, and they were voted. This body voted
6 unanimously to move forward with the contracting process
7 for the VRA counsel.

8 We do have the legal affair -- litigation counsel
9 contract that are moving forward at this time, and those
10 involve Gibson Dunn and Strumwasser Woocher. And those
11 will be reviewed at the next legal affairs committee, and
12 then hopefully coming to the full board at the end of the
13 month.

14 And certainly we take conflicts of interest very
15 seriously. We -- the legal affairs committee did a full
16 vetting of both firms, and we anticipate to come back with
17 a recommendation later in the month with litigation
18 counsel.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perfect.

20 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sorry. And I think, you
22 know, just to reiterate, all of us, right, as a whole
23 Commission, we all have a deep commitment to transparency,
24 and to having an open and fair process. And I think that
25 that has absolutely been the case from the get-go. And so

1 we appreciate, you know, all Californians who want to weigh
2 in. You know, we certainly welcome them to do so.

3 Moving on, just a very quick update to the letter
4 to the Governor's Office was received. Chair Fernandez did
5 sign that letter, and it was sent off. Ravie (phonetic) in
6 the office very kindly made sure that it was received, and
7 we followed up actually with the staff contacts from the
8 Governor's Office. They said that they do have it. They
9 don't have a response yet, so I don't have any additional
10 update than that it was received. But certainly if there's
11 any questions about that or any additional advocacy that
12 folks want to do, please do let us know. Seeing none, I'll
13 continue.

14 So we've also posted a document that we were
15 creating. One of the things from our last meeting in
16 discussing the Census delay, was to start thinking a little
17 bit about what are some potential scenarios. And, you
18 know, the Gantt chart committee and Commissioner Kennedy
19 have definitely, you know, started us off in that realm,
20 and so we just wanted to expand upon that a little bit.

21 We prepared a document simply for discussion
22 today, and I know Ms. Hutchinson had referenced that. I
23 think at our last meeting we were asked to put this
24 document -- such a document together, and this was our
25 attempt to do so, largely in advance of our new chief

1 counsel coming in.

2 As we've discussed, the Census delay and the
3 possibility that when we deliver our maps has legal
4 implications, right. I think in our last meeting there was
5 -- we had a long conversation about that, and I believe we
6 were all on the same page. That there is -- this is, at a
7 minimum, a legal question.

8 And as we try to develop a response to what our
9 timeline will be, we recognize that we have an incoming new
10 chief counsel. We have incoming counsel, outside counsel
11 as well. Litigation counsel is forthcoming. And so we
12 wanted to be prepared for when they come onboard to share
13 with them what some of the conversations have been thus
14 far, as well as some of the opportunities.

15 So I tried to put together here an overview of
16 the general dates in which we should be -- that we would
17 ordinarily be held to. I have -- we have -- I think
18 through Marian we had received comment from Angelo Ancheta.
19 I don't know, was that ever posted, or if that was meant to
20 be a full public comment or not.

21 But I think we've also received feedback from
22 Karin MacDonald about the timelines that we used. Because
23 in the very first column I said, "used by the 2010
24 Commission," and apparently these are not the exact dates
25 that were used by the Commission. They held themselves to

1 these dates, and then they were -- this timeline was then
2 codified into line 2012 is my understanding. So we can
3 most certainly work on an update. This is why we posted
4 these documents, right, from one Commission to another.
5 There's some information that can be lost, and so this is
6 why we post them, to get this information. So I welcome,
7 you know, public input on this, and you can feel free to
8 tell me how I have it wrong.

9 What we've done here though in the first column
10 is lay out what our process would have been, right. What
11 are some of those milestone dates, had we received the
12 Census data on April 1st, what our agenda would look like.

13 I want to also note that we were able to share
14 this with Commissioner Kennedy and the Gantt chart
15 committee, and he was able to provide some input as well.
16 Commissioner Kennedy is really excellent at the dates and
17 calendaring in detail, so I want to acknowledge that, and
18 thank you very much for that input.

19 There are -- you know, I guess I hadn't thought
20 about, and Commissioner Kennedy was, you know, alerted me
21 to the fact that, you know, sometimes if you're starting
22 the count of 14 days on the first day versus the second
23 day, it matters, right. So Commissioner Kennedy was very
24 helpful in this.

25 The key piece that we wanted to really point out

1 here, however, if that in our -- in the, what we're calling
2 kind of the usual process, our COI input meetings, the
3 Commission of Interest input meetings typically would occur
4 after the Census data has been delivered to the Commission.
5 That was certainly the case, and I understand I might have
6 the dates somewhat wrong, but that was the case for the
7 2010 Commission in general, right. So the Census data was
8 there, and that's when the COI meetings began.

9 We recognize that we -- you know, the date is
10 uncertain in terms of the legacy data. We recognize
11 there's potentially legal issues regarding the legacy data
12 versus the P.L. 94 official Census release on September
13 31st. And so we wanted to just think about the fact that
14 these timelines are different.

15 And what I'd really like to point you to here is
16 scenario one and two, in which one possibility is using
17 that legacy data. I think that -- you know, and we can go
18 back to the discussion, we had at last time, but we can
19 certainly review it again if need be, that the legacy data
20 is the same as the P.L. 94 data.

21 Marian I know was tracking, you know, some
22 litigation on this nationally, and some of the conversation
23 on it. I think we will have a pretty hard time saying that
24 we shouldn't use the legacy data, as we have discussed
25 previously. But that's still certainly something that we

1 can explore.

2 The key piece here that you should see that's
3 different, however, is when we begin line drawing, right,
4 or when we could begin line drawing. So, we will be
5 engaging with the community in June, July and August, prior
6 to the release of Census data, before we have it. We have
7 planned out over 30, I believe, or exactly 30 COI sessions
8 to collect communities of -- community of input -- of
9 interest input.

10 I think the real question then is, once we
11 receive this legacy data in a usable format, does the
12 Commission want to begin line drawing, or do we feel like
13 we still need to go out and do additional, in addition to
14 those 30-some-odd meetings that we're doing, do we feel
15 like we still need additional time to do more input?

16 Scenario two here using the legacy data, which
17 we're calling an innovative timeline, we could have called
18 it whatever we wanted to but, suggests that in this, in
19 this scenario, as soon as we have that, the legacy data in
20 a usable format, we would begin line drawing in public.
21 And that that would occur on September 21st, potentially,
22 assuming by September 20th the statewide database gets it.
23 Maybe it's the 22nd or 21st or something like that.

24 In that scenario we would be able to move up all
25 of the other requirements that we have to post draft maps,

1 to have a waiting period of those draft maps, to finalize
2 those maps. And if we did it under scenario two, we could
3 have this whole process done prior to the Christmas holiday
4 at least, which I know was certainly a key consideration
5 that community groups raised.

6 I think one of the things that's -- you know, we
7 haven't built in here as, you know, which I think is, my
8 sense is what the community groups are concerned about is,
9 having that timeframe in which community groups themselves,
10 who want to draw district maps and submit them to us, when
11 that would be, right. It may not be on September 21st or
12 before we begin our first draft of maps, but it could
13 potentially be after we do our -- as we're working on our
14 final maps, right.

15 And I think one of the things that I want to just
16 uplift here is that our first draft maps probably won't get
17 it right. The 2010 Commission certainly didn't. They got
18 a lot of heat for the initial maps that they put out. And
19 I think we need to be prepared for that.

20 You know, I think even as the -- as we've seen,
21 as the -- we've learned, that there will be one less
22 congressional seat than we currently have, you know,
23 tempers rise, and people care about this and are going to
24 weigh in and tell us that we have it wrong.

25 And what we've attempted to do here is really

1 make sure that taking the recommendations of the 2010
2 Commission, making sure that we have extended time periods
3 to go back out into the community and do additional public
4 hearings after the draft maps have been formulated.

5 Certainly scenario one and scenario two are not
6 our only options in front of us, and certainly not, you
7 know, the four or five scenarios that we've placed here are
8 not the only ones either. I'm sure we can come up with
9 some others, but these are some of the ones that have been
10 -- we've been discussing at length.

11 Scenario three, wait for the P.L. 94 data is
12 another potential option. I've put on here, lawsuit risk
13 high. I know Ms. Hutchinson was asking how we formulated
14 that. You know, I can't say that we used a particularly
15 scientific form of analysis in creating that. However, in
16 the discussions with our counsel one of the things that
17 we've said regularly, is that if we're waiting for the P.L.
18 94 data, it would leave us open to potentially having the
19 courts relinquish our power and take it.

20 We certainly leave these all as open questions,
21 as we assemble a larger legal team. And I think we can
22 work together to develop that analysis in and of itself.

23 Scenario four -- you know, I wanted to also just
24 report back. Alvaro and I were able to do a meeting with a
25 member from the San Diego Commission, and this contact had

1 come through to Commissioner Sinay. The San Diego
2 Commission requested to meet with someone to learn more
3 about the Census process that we are using.

4 As it seems, the San Diego Commission, you know,
5 has been -- I believe that they are meeting yesterday and
6 today as well. And they were going to discuss the
7 possibility of going to the legislature and asking -- they
8 have a bill number already, I believe. I believe it was
9 Senate Bill 594. I don't have it in my notes in front of
10 me but I can look for that.

11 Their hope is that they can get the legislature
12 to identify the "trigger date" for their start of their
13 process to be when the statewide database releases a usable
14 data file. What they are anticipating is that that would
15 be sometime in August, likely August 23rd, but ultimately
16 August 23rd is assumed if it's an August 16th drop of the
17 legacy data.

18 And so, even that's a little bit uncertain, but
19 my understanding is, that was the direction that the
20 Commission was going in, or at least going to be a
21 recommendation from some of the Commissioners, and that the
22 full subcommittee was going to take a look at that as a
23 possibility.

24 They were also going to advocate to their full
25 Commission setting a January 31st deadline for their maps.

1 It's unclear to me whether or not such legislation would
2 move forward. It's unclear to me if the San Diego
3 Commission sets a January 31st date, what impact that would
4 have on us, because ultimately we would still fall under
5 the Padilla ruling of the California Supreme Court.

6 But I wanted to put that out there as a possible
7 alternative as well, and just share, you know, that we had
8 had that meeting, also.

9 Commissioner Toledo, I'm sure I've missed
10 something. Anything else you want to add? And I recognize
11 we're up against a break.

12 Thank you, Chair Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No, I think you did a great
14 job of covering the timeline.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think how -- should we take a
16 break now and then go through questions?

17 What do you think Commissioner Sadhwani?

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I'm fine with
19 whatever you'd like to do. I see Commissioner Andersen --

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. She's very anxious.

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Very -- yes, anxious to
22 weigh in.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: If I could, just very
24 short. There are two issues I see that we have to consider
25 before we really jump into this. One is, both these

1 consider the draft and then a final. You know, and weren't
2 we going to talk about two drafts? And the other is, what
3 is the actual process of the VRA, the analysis, how we look
4 at it. And how does that fit with how much is done before
5 the Census data gets here, and how much of it after,
6 because that affects things, too, you know, in terms of,
7 you know, when you start -- so that -- those are two.

8 I'd like when we get back if you kind of walk
9 through the VRA process, so we know how that affects our
10 timeline. And then we can kind of get a -- we can really
11 sort of delve into it.

12 And then the idea of two drafts and a final,
13 slightly modified. You know, that's another thing to be
14 considering. And then that's it. That's -- I think we
15 should go to break. But those are things you need to
16 consider, if anything.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Andersen.

19 And with that cliff hanger -- hanger, we'll go to
20 break and come back at 11:15. Thank you.

21 (Off the record at 10:58 a.m.)

22 (Back on the record at 11:15 a.m.)

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Welcome back. So were
24 on -- we are on Agenda Item 9A, and Commissioner Sadhwani
25 and Toledo have gone through the different scenarios. And

1 so thank you very much. It's actually very helpful to, you
2 know, see the dates and see what's involved. So I really
3 appreciate that.

4 And we did have comments from Commissioner
5 Andersen. Did anyone else have any questions or comments
6 regarding the scenarios?

7 Commissioner Fornaciari.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Do you want me to go
9 now? I thought we were going to talk to Commissioner
10 Andersen's comments. But, first of all, thank you for this
11 awesome, a lot of good thinking and thoughts going into
12 this. You know, Commissioner Andersen asked about the VRA
13 and what the approach is going to be for the VRA. And it
14 just -- I guess I just really have a comment.

15 It would be good if sometime soon, whenever we
16 can do it, just look at the full schedule and actually put
17 it on the Gantt chart and pull up the Gantt chart, and kind
18 of get an understanding of what all the upfront work is on
19 the VRA, and then in these different scenarios and what
20 they might look like, too, if that makes sense.

21 That's all. But thank you all for your hard work
22 on this. It's really helpful.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm happy to respond to
24 any and all of these comments. I wasn't sure if there were
25 more that we want to kind of collect.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's up to you, however you
2 want to do it.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. So, I mean, in
4 terms of VRA, a lot of that work I think can be done prior
5 to Census data, right. A lot of it will be CVAP data,
6 which is already released.

7 So, my -- but I'm hesitant to chart out what that
8 looks like, because we're bringing in counsel, we just
9 don't have them onboard yet, right. Like we've approved
10 the contract. It's still sitting at the Office of Legal
11 Services.

12 We can't -- we haven't been able to really have a
13 detailed conversation with them yet about what their --
14 what approach they would want to take. So, I mean, I might
15 have in my mind how we should do it, but we're hiring these
16 folks who are experts, so we should probably rely on that.

17 So, I do think that the first order of business
18 once that contract is finalized, is to have -- and what
19 we've kind of talked about in very vague terms, is having a
20 strategy session, and really asking them to turn out for
21 us, like in one or two pages, what's their -- what do they
22 anticipate their approach looking like, right.

23 What do they want to do in terms of racially
24 polarized voting analysis? What do they want to do in
25 terms of assessing, you know, where current VRA districts

1 lie, and to what extent we will continue to need them in
2 those similar locations moving forward? I think there's a
3 lot that we'll have to think about in terms of regions
4 where we're not -- you know, California is super unique
5 because we're not just dealing with one community that's
6 covered by the VRA, we're talking about multiple
7 communities, often times that live together.

8 And so I don't have a clear sense, but I think a
9 lot of that work can be done at the -- especially in terms
10 of the data analysis this summer, and hopefully once -- as
11 soon as that Census data is released as well. But I don't
12 have a clear answer for you yet, and I don't want to give a
13 clear answer because I feel like that's the role of our
14 counsel. If not, then you could pay me, and then -- and we
15 don't even need them, right. But I think that that's not
16 the purpose, right. It's that we're drawing on their
17 expertise.

18 You know, in terms of -- but I do think that it
19 can be done relatively early, and I think that's why I also
20 pushed back on like making sure that we're getting the
21 community input in multiple languages, and making sure that
22 the process is really set to do that, to have both sides of
23 it, the quantitative side as well as the qualitative from
24 communities on the ground.

25 In terms of two drafts, I think that's a

1 Commission thing. I mean, I know, Commissioner Andersen,
2 we had certainly talked about that in the line drawing
3 subcommittee. I'm still open to that. I think we would
4 need to really think about what that might look like.

5 In the scenario two, it does only include one set
6 of drafts, but it does actually have quite a bit of time to
7 go back to public hearings after -- you know, in the
8 beginning of November, which is when that would kind of be
9 scheduled out. My sense is that that's also probably when
10 we would request, if there are community groups who want to
11 submit district map proposals to us, that it would be in
12 that November time period.

13 So after we've already put together our first,
14 our first cut at these maps, that's different from how 2010
15 did it. We also don't have -- I don't believe we have any
16 requirement to receive such district maps. We do so
17 because we think it's important to do so.

18 So, you know, I think if we want to go two rounds
19 of draft maps, then that's something we should certainly
20 discuss as a Commission and figure out how we would do
21 that.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I would just add to that.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you --

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: In terms of the VRA
25 process, I appreciate Commission Andersen and Commissioner

1 Fornaciari's comments. I do think that as we plan this
2 forward, we will need to think about our own training,
3 right, our VRA training, so that we can ask the right
4 questions, and so that we can for the -- so that we're the
5 ones really determining the strategy around VRA, because
6 that is our mandate.

7 And we need to be able to have sufficient
8 training, I know we received some, but we'll need more, as
9 we develop the strategic plan around, around the VRA. So,
10 that all requires time and meetings, and so we need to work
11 through figuring out how to schedule those trainings, how
12 to schedule those strategic sessions, planning sessions,
13 and while also conducting the rest of the business.

14 And once chief counsel is onboard and we have all
15 the litigation -- VRA counsel, I think, as Commissioner
16 Sadhwani pointed out, we'll have -- be able to chart this
17 out a little bit better. And bring it back so that we get,
18 can get more input from the full Commission on how to move
19 forward and to make the timeline more realistic, and
20 incorporate all of the elements that we'll need to get all
21 of the work done that needs to get done.

22 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I would just add,
23 I think that's absolutely right. I think we've definitely
24 talked about additional VRA trainings once counsel is
25 onboard, once we have a better sense of, you know, even

1 their direction that they might advise us, in terms of the
2 RPV analysis and such things. So I think that's absolutely
3 right.

4 And, also, just as a reminder, like this
5 subcommittee is not asking the Commission to take action on
6 any of these scenarios today. It's simply for, something
7 for us to think about and to continue to get legal advice
8 as our full, you know, legal team is coming onboard.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

10 Any comments? I do have a comment. Regarding
11 the -- I mean, it would be great if we could do two maps,
12 but I feel that it's almost like a wait and see. Are we
13 going to be able to do it? Would we -- I don't want to tie
14 us to two draft maps, you know, early on, in case when we
15 get closer to that point, maybe we want to have more public
16 input in terms of on our draft maps, instead of releasing
17 again and then you can't do anything with it for seven more
18 days.

19 So, I mean, I'm kind of like a wait and see type
20 person. I mean, it'd be great to be able to do it, but
21 there's also a shorter timeframe from when you release the
22 draft maps to when you have to finalize, you know, submit
23 your finals. That's my only comment on that, but of course
24 we can still talk about that in the future.

25 And as Commissioner Sadhwani said, it's not --

1 we're not making decisions today. I really appreciate the
2 options that you have put out there. It's really good for
3 me in terms to visually see the dates and, you know,
4 calendaring it in my head, not finalizing it, but thank
5 you.

6 Any other comments?

7 Commissioner Akutagawa.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'm sure that there are
9 some people that are wondering, and I apologize if I just
10 didn't hear it.

11 What -- is there a point where you anticipate
12 that a decision will need to be made about what of the --
13 what options that's going to be in around? I mean, and is
14 it possible to give a kind of a sense or an idea of when
15 that time -- when that could be, when we'll have to make
16 that decision?

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And if you think back to
18 our last meeting in the memo that had -- the infamous memo
19 that we put out. You know, we -- our recommendation to the
20 Commission was to develop a, quote, "wait-and-see posture,"
21 right. Because there are potential legal implications for
22 whatever scenario we choose, and we also know and can
23 confirm that we have all of these legal resources coming
24 onboard, and whatever choice we make I think we do need to
25 have -- you know, just having our ducks in a row, if you

1 will, right.

2 And so my sense is -- or my recommendation I
3 suppose, is that we continue to wait until, you know, those
4 folks are onboard. They're brought up to speed with where
5 we're at, and can work collaboratively, right, with Marian,
6 with the full Commission, to help us really understand the
7 litigation risks. I think there's potentially risks in any
8 of these scenarios, right. We've never even heard of
9 legacy data before a couple of months ago.

10 You know, one of the things that we heard when we
11 were interviewing litigation firms, we asked every, every -
12 - in every interview, what do you see as the potential
13 risks? And there were a whole host of them, and one of
14 them was most certainly process.

15 And I think this is a process kind of question,
16 right. Ultimately, whichever scenario we choose, someone
17 in California might not be happy about it, and I think
18 we'll have to just make sure that we're prepared.

19 So, you know, I don't have a specific date in
20 mind, but I think once we have those folks up -- and I see
21 Marian has some thoughts on that as well.

22 MS. JOHNSTON: I just wanted to add that even the
23 exact date that the legacy data is going to be released is
24 somewhat of a question. It's not before August 16th, but
25 maybe it won't be August 16th. So, certainly that at least

1 until the legacy data is released to decide how you want do
2 proceed.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other -- Commissioner
4 Andersen.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: This is all very, very
6 good, and very, you know, great info and what we need to
7 work on. I think the only thing that we might have to
8 really say, okay, what are we going to try is -- and again,
9 as everyone just said, we don't know. As Marian just said,
10 these dates are vague still. I mean, they -- you know,
11 even these dates say September 20th or -- those are vague.
12 We don't know now.

13 You know, a week, four weeks. So, is it three
14 and -- three weeks and six days? I mean, the dates we
15 don't know, and we won't know. But it seems to me that --
16 and this is based again on as we find stuff out. But the
17 Ohio case, the Census data, the Census Board is basically
18 saying, the legacy is the P.L. 94, except it's not user-
19 friendly.

20 So, the idea of going to the California Supreme
21 Court to make sure that it's not until it hits the
22 statewide database -- it's not until it comes -- it's
23 already made user-friendly by the statewide database,
24 should we ever consider that as it's being delivered.

25 I think that is a very valid thing. If we need

1 to get onboard on that, I think we should do that as soon
2 as. That's the only -- that's the first decision as I see
3 you would actually need to make, and I think it's very
4 important. But it's still, then it's like, on week? We
5 don't know. So, whatever that -- you know, it would have
6 to be (indiscernible). You know, when the clock starts,
7 once it becomes user-friendly. And then in terms of when
8 we can actually start on it, it depends on how long it
9 takes to do prisoner reallocation.

10 And I would throw into our scenarios, in terms of
11 looking at when we could actually start working on maps, I
12 would throw at least a week in for the -- after we get the
13 Census data. It arrives to us from -- it's been prisoner
14 reallocated, to go, okay, now where did all the population
15 go in terms of VRA? Even though -- no matter how what our
16 process is and how we look at it, I'd throw at least a week
17 in, and only then could we think about actually starting to
18 draw lines.

19 Because the first step, one is population. Boom,
20 those numbers are easy. We know what those numbers are
21 right now for each -- you know, what's the number for how
22 many in all the different districts? But where those
23 people are we don't know. And so, once the Census data
24 gets here, and we look at it with the VRA information,
25 essentially looked at in relationship to where the

1 (indiscernible) people are, only then can we start working
2 on it. So, I'd throw another week in before we could ever
3 start drawing any lines.

4 And then it goes from there. But again, we can
5 all go vague dates. So the only thing I see is that we
6 really kind of need make a decision on is, where's the --
7 when does our clock start? So, that's what I have to say.

8 And then the two map -- the two drafts, I think
9 it is going to be sort of early. I do think we're saying,
10 we essentially are, even though we're talking about,
11 there's only a draft and a final, we're still talking
12 about, we can make little changes to that final before it
13 goes final.

14 So I'm saying like, don't even think of it that
15 way. It's a second draft, and then the final is final. So
16 that's why I'm saying, but there might be a little bit of
17 time in there. And then I don't recall -- if we do a
18 second draft, it does not have the same, we can't touch it,
19 or does it?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: It has seven days.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It does have seven.

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 So I think, depending on how this all shakes
24 down, that we -- I still think we'd have time. But if we
25 get good COI in right away, that first draft is going to be

1 a pretty good map.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I mean the way I've been
4 thinking about this thing, you know, many of us have, as
5 well as -- in looking at these timelines, do we have
6 sufficient time to ensure that the communities being
7 engaged, that we have public input, that we're going to end
8 up with maps that are fair and representative for the State
9 of California by the end of these time periods, right?

10 And, yes, there's uncertainty on certain -- on
11 when we're going to get the Census data on -- there's lots
12 of uncertainty all over that, all over the timeline, but we
13 need to do our best. Look at the data as best as we can,
14 which is what we're doing.

15 And if we need to -- if we feel like we need
16 additional time, which we may or may not after we look at
17 all of these things and incorporate the -- how long it's
18 going to take us to do the VRA, and strategically, I mean,
19 the training and all of the other elements we need to do.

20 Then we -- if we do need additional time, we need
21 to strategize around -- any additional time left would go
22 to the State Legislature, for example, would be the San
23 Diego example. If we wanted to pursue that type of option
24 where it would, where it's actually a bill that we need to
25 get passed, that takes time. And we would need to start

1 creating that sooner rather than later.

2 If it's going to the Supreme Court, that takes
3 time as well. And so, we wouldn't of course have to add an
4 argument that would justify that. But we -- in order to
5 justify that, we'd have to base it on some kind of, some
6 kind of real need. Whether it's us not being able to
7 fulfill our constitutional duty, or the timeframe, which is
8 probably be a stronger one. But we would need an argument,
9 so we would need -- based on our timeline and our ability
10 to do our work in any of these scenarios.

11 So -- but I agree with Marian, that we'd probably
12 have until, until the legacy data is released, or right
13 before the legacy data is released. But we probably should
14 have a decision sooner rather than later if it involves any
15 type of, any type of, type of bill or legal changes, or
16 going to the State Supreme Court. Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

18 Any other questions?

19 Commissioner Akutagawa.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I think
21 Commissioner Toledo, I think he answered my question, but I
22 think I'm going to ask it still anyways, more for just to
23 say it out loud as a non-lawyer.

24 And I guess my question is, let's just say that
25 there is the possibility that we may need to go the Supreme

1 Court for potential extension, knowing that it will take
2 some time. Is it possible for us to kind of do some early
3 groundwork with them, so that they know that we may be
4 doing this? I don't know. I think that's why I'm asking,
5 and there may be others who are listening in that may be
6 thinking the same thing. So, just to try to shorten the
7 time on the back end, so.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: When they went in on the Padilla
10 case, they did ask for expedited ruling from the court.
11 And in fact the 2010 Commission got a request from the
12 court about -- within a week after the petition was filed,
13 that they wanted the 2010 Commission to weigh in. And I
14 think the final decision was issued within about six weeks.
15 So the court understood the urgency of the matter, and I'm
16 sure that would be the same understanding this time around,
17 if necessary.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

19 Right. But I would agree with Commissioner
20 Toledo that -- I mean, if six weeks is a best-scenario, so
21 we would definitely need to make a decision prior to that,
22 prior to receiving the data I would think, so that we would
23 know what our timelines are when we're drawing the maps.

24 Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: One of my questions for my

1 colleague is kind of -- my colleagues, sorry, is what, what
2 we were asked last time, and I still -- you know, obviously
3 we're all new to this. This is a new -- but how much time
4 do we need? I mean, it was -- you know, when we're looking
5 at these scenarios, where are we feeling comfortable? You
6 know, we keep talking about, do we need to change, you
7 know, go to the Supreme Court, but we still haven't talked
8 about how much time do we need to look at this.

9 And I think Commissioner Kennedy gave us a good -
10 - yeah, he did the math on, and it helped us. But I feel
11 like we still haven't had that conversation.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

13 Commissioner Kennedy.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just wanted to repeat part
15 of my statement from the last meeting, which is to me the
16 most significant difference between using the legacy data
17 and the newer format data is the additional time, whether
18 it's one week or two required to make the legacy data
19 usable, and that's what we should be discussing, how to
20 recover that time. Because that, as I understand it, that
21 is time that was not factored into the Supreme Court's
22 decision and, therefore, that would be time that we would
23 have -- will have lost relative to the 2010 Commission.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen, and then
25 Commissioner Sinay.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I totally agree with
2 Commissioner Kennedy. With the possible addition of, our
3 scenario does go over this -- which is a slight difference
4 from, again, the 2010 -- well, the Padilla ruling, is
5 should it go beyond December 15, we would have two holidays
6 in there, official legal holidays. And fortunately, it's
7 only two.

8 So, those are also days that we should, we could
9 easily say, we should have those back, too. But I agree
10 that in terms of, you know, you go, you ask for, you ask
11 for what you want and then what's totally defensible, or
12 things that are different from the four-and-a-half-months'
13 scenario that was put originally into our whole charter.

14 And we'd have to really come up with something hard to
15 say there's something different with what everyone was
16 thinking all along for four-and-a-half months, to modify
17 that, except for things that are extenuating beyond what
18 was the norm.

19 And these, as Commissioner Kennedy just said, the
20 legacy data, until it's put in the same format that is
21 user-friendly, that's time that was not considered. And
22 the extra holidays are also time that was not considered.
23 You know, because it -- I looked at the -- of actual
24 holidays in the original scenario, and if you throw --
25 that's already considered because there's Thanksgiving in

1 this group, so they considered those. But then should it
2 go beyond if there are a couple more holidays? So -- which
3 would be Christmas and New Year's. That's, you know, in
4 terms of what the holidays would be. So, I think you could
5 ask for those as well.

6 Anything else we'd actually have to have, that's
7 a little bit -- the 2010 didn't do it well, or there'd have
8 to be another justification to modify that timeframe. And
9 with a six-week scenario, I believe we'd have that ruling
10 before it hits, before the legacy data is out.

11 Because otherwise, our clock is started, has
12 started ticking. You know, we need to have that. I mean,
13 so -- which puts the six weeks would be, you know, August
14 -- what is it, August 15th, say, so we're talking July 1.
15 And then to get that ready, we're talking June 1. We'd do
16 all the prep work, blah, blah, blah to get it to the
17 Supreme Court, which means I think we should be going on
18 this now.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Sinay, I think I saw your hand up.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't know. Another legal
22 holiday that hasn't been brought up, but I think everybody
23 gets it off, is, statewide is Veteran's Day, falls in here.
24 But it's -- but I just -- I want to go back to something
25 that Commissioner Sadhwani reminded us of, is last time it

1 was collecting the COI's at the same time as they were line
2 drawing. This time we're spending all of that time on the
3 front end this summer.

4 And so, I'm -- I just need to understand how we
5 would justify needing more time than they did last time,
6 when we're doing a lot of the work earlier on, and we're
7 really going into the line drawing. So I -- that's kind of
8 where I'm kind of stuck right now.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And I just want to
10 remind everyone that our chief counsel starts on Tuesday,
11 and I think that this would be something that he could look
12 into. Because it's, as we know, it's not going to be
13 something simple, and he would have to look into the
14 argument, weigh the pros and cons, what's the best use of
15 our resource, staff resources and time and money.

16 And, again, we don't know how long it's going to
17 take us to draw maps, so we're going to have to take all
18 this, put it in a basket, and have him bring it back and
19 give us the information that he's found, and then we can
20 make a decision from there.

21 Any other -- Commissioner Vazquez, and the
22 Commissioner Turner.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: To Commissioner Sinay's
24 question. For me, you know, it's up the lawyers to make
25 the legal argument, but we've discussed here before that

1 our charge and what we, the 2020 Commission have taken up
2 as our charge, is orders of magnitude greater than what the
3 2010 Commission had in terms of its (indiscernible). The
4 bottom line for them was that they had -- they didn't have
5 an outreach component at all. And for a lot of reasons had
6 not -- the way I interpret it, is that their scope was much
7 smaller than what ours has been able to be, given that we
8 were seated earlier, and I think we've also made statements
9 that we actually need more, more time to really lean into
10 this outreach, right. But the 2030 Commission, you know,
11 our general recommendation would be to seat them much
12 sooner.

13 So, again, I would leave it to the lawyers to
14 figure this out in terms of how to argue it, but our
15 mandate requires us to do so much more, and we are leaning
16 into those pieces of the mandate to make sure that we have
17 included everyone, and everyone's input into this process,
18 and that just requires more time.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Turner.

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you. I really
22 appreciate the dialogue and the scenarios that has been
23 lifted. I just need it to say, and not because I have a
24 definitive kind of path forward and set choice that I'd
25 like to make, but I do think there is a difference.

1 Commissioner Kennedy and others can think so much
2 more analytical, but thinking of the significant difference
3 is just the one week or two, and holidays considered, all
4 of that, I keep thinking that we go to such extent and
5 extremes to ensure -- and I was trying to write out my
6 thoughts to make sure I had it -- that we were cautious to
7 be inclusive of, you know, language access and disability
8 access and all those other piece parts. To me I feel like
9 if we get around, we choose something to get around to the
10 holiday time period, there is the cultural aspect that just
11 is real for, for sure Black Americans.

12 I can speak from my own personal experience that
13 holidays are huge, and it's not just the day, it is family,
14 it is the time. We are coming out of a pandemic when last
15 year people could not travel. It will be a huge
16 competition factor for people to focus during this time
17 period.

18 And I don't know that that was considered when we
19 were just looking at days, counting them as apples to
20 apples. I don't think it's the same thing. I think that
21 it should be at least considered and included in the
22 conversation as we're talking about how easy it will be for
23 people to participate, for organizations to get people to
24 weigh in.

25 And I know a lot of the scenarios we've even

1 talked about having them earlier, which I think that would
2 be great. I just wanted to state again that if we get
3 around those holiday time periods, I don't feel it's as cut
4 and dry as we're making it as far as just a calendar count.
5 I think that we need to take -- and then as far as what do
6 we need, how much time? I'm hoping and looking forward to
7 the additional training that we're still going to have, the
8 VRA conversations, all of that. I don't know exactly what
9 we need and how long. I'm glad to be able to sit through
10 that discussion as well.

11 But for this comment, I just wanted to say that
12 I'm concerned that we are not giving enough weight and
13 consideration to a cultural obstacle or difficulty that I
14 believe is real when we get to the holiday periods. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. This is great.
17 I've been writing down what everybody's been -- like
18 arguments. So, we'll definitely forward that to our chief
19 counsel when he arrives, and he can start looking into
20 that.

21 Are there any other questions or comments before
22 we move on?

23 Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo, do we have
24 anything else for Government Affairs?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Not for Government Affairs,

1 but just, you know, touching on Commissioner Turner's
2 point. I, you know, I think certainly that's an important
3 issue. I think it's certainly an important issue for
4 farmworkers who often times go back to -- are gone from
5 California. They go back to their home countries for the
6 holidays. And many of the Latino communities across the
7 State, and other communities who have (indiscernible). I
8 know the holidays are just an important cultural, a
9 cultural -- are important for every community probably.

10 But it's, you know, for some communities it will
11 be harder for them to engage during the month of December,
12 and that's just something we have to balance as we look
13 through all of these issues and try to figure out how best
14 to ensure that we have meaningful participation in --
15 through the process.

16 And so I just wanted to uplift that comment,
17 knowing that it's a difficult situation and we are under
18 very tight time constraints. But that we need to consider
19 that issue as well, and balance it against all of our other
20 legal and time constraint issues. Thank you.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you for that. I
22 didn't think of that, and as soon you brought it up, we
23 would be gone for six weeks during that timeframe. We go
24 back to Mexico for six weeks. The schools didn't like it
25 very much, but it was great that we were able to do that.

1 It's a great cultural experience and connection. And
2 you're absolutely right, it's so much so in this community
3 that they have a three-week Christmas break, not a two
4 week, because so many of the community members do go back
5 to their home country. So, thank you.

6 Any other discussions?

7 Commissioner Andersen.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm very glad of this
9 uplift, because it is, it really is. There's no -- I mean,
10 and it's -- this is a good thing. This is a wonderful
11 thing. That people in our country of all different
12 backgrounds really do, you know, these holidays. That's
13 why it's called the holiday time, and it is really very,
14 very important.

15 What we kind of, I believe, is the Commission
16 needs to kind of try to grapple with is, how much time
17 should we think if we're considering this? How much time
18 would we consider? And I think that's something we should
19 really kind of contemplate and come back, because our chief
20 counsel is going to go, well, based on what?

21 And we'd have to kind of come up with, you know,
22 is it just, is it just a week? Is it a -- is it around
23 from this time to that time? I mean, you know, based on
24 what would we -- you know, and how long?

25 So I think that's something we should, you know,

1 consider, and then come back to, you know, when -- because
2 we'll obviously talk about this on, in our next meeting
3 with the chief counsel. And this will be talked about
4 again. But I think it's very -- you know, I'm thinking my
5 personal, yeah, you know, you've got to get there. You've
6 got to -- you know, you've got that week. You know you
7 have that -- so, you know, I'm thinking of my scenario, but
8 what are other people's scenarios? I mean, what are other
9 considerations? So I think we should consider that, and
10 then bring that also back.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I think that's
13 right, right, and I think that that's the piece. So, I
14 don't -- what my concern about our conversation thus far is
15 like, we recognize the scenarios and a little bit we're
16 punting, too, I mean, chief counsel, which puts in a bit of
17 an awkward situation.

18 I do think if the notion of the Commission is
19 that we're going to need more time, how much, right. Like,
20 you know, the date being floated by many of the community
21 groups has been January 31st. Do we need that much time,
22 right? Do we need all of January as well?

23 I don't have any skin in the game on that, I just
24 feel like we -- like is that the notion of the Commission,
25 right? Is it not January 31st? Is it January 15th? I have

1 no idea what day of the week any of those fall on. I don't
2 have that in front of me. Is it sometime before that? Is
3 it somewhere in the middle? You know, I think that that --
4 you know, one of the things with counsel, I think, and I'm
5 not a lawyer, but we do need to understand what is the will
6 of the Commission and then ask them to go figure out how to
7 make it happen, right. Like what's the legal argument
8 behind it? How are we going to do it? What will the
9 strategy be? Do we have to go back to the Supreme Court?

10 But I think this is actually a really helpful
11 conversation, and I really appreciate Commissioner Turner
12 and Toledo and Chair Fernandez raising this cultural
13 component, because if we want more time, how much? And
14 then we can kind of tell the lawyers, like this is what we
15 want. Try -- see if you can make it happen, right, from
16 that legal perspective.

17 So I don't want -- you know, I am cautious to
18 like say, well, we can figure out all of this once the
19 attorneys come on, because at some level, as a Commission,
20 we need to know what we want.

21 And I think that's why these scenarios lay out a
22 couple different options, but there could be others, I
23 don't know. And that doesn't mean that any of those
24 scenarios are defensible in court, right. That doesn't
25 mean that we're going to get them, but we can say what we

1 want, right, and have it --

2 (Recording inaudible.)

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Commissioner Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess not -- I really
5 appreciate the conversation about the kind of the cultural
6 nuances, too. I'm just wondering, like I'm thinking about
7 just the way COVID has really changed life in a lot of
8 communities. And I don't want to assume that life is going
9 to be completely back to what we might have known it
10 before, both in terms of our cultural practices and just,
11 you know, our willingness to, you know, continue on in the
12 ways that we used to live life.

13 So, I feel like some of the assumptions that
14 we're making I think, you know, may need to be tested, or
15 at least questioned, only because are there new things that
16 have been created in the -- given that we might still have
17 communities that don't feel comfortable traveling and other
18 things like that.

19 And it could be that if we're going to be
20 completely virtual even through the end of the year in
21 terms of the input that we're going to be asking, if
22 they're away they could still participate via Zoom, but I
23 think where it becomes more complicated is, how do you
24 organize them so that they do know to call in. That
25 there's going to be something going on.

1 I think that's the role that I think some of the,
2 you know, the community-based organizations play, is to
3 make sure that the community members know about it, and get
4 on to, you know, whatever method that they would be asked
5 to participate. So I just want to also just encourage us
6 to keep that in mind as well, too.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

8 Commissioner Kennedy.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thanks. I was recalling a
10 caller mentioning the importance of public outreach to
11 encourage this broad participation that we want. And so I
12 want to encourage our outreach staff to be thinking, okay,
13 if we end up being, you know, stuck between a rock and a
14 hard place and we don't have a way out, and we have some of
15 this happening over the holidays, we're going to need a
16 robust outreach effort to motivate people to participate at
17 a time when they might prefer to be doing something else.

18 And, you know, I would like everybody to
19 participate. And so we may have to, you know, reserve some
20 funding for additional outreach work at that point in time.
21 But we also need plans. We need to be creative, to
22 motivate people when it's going to be hard to motivate
23 them. Thanks.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank you. And I
25 do hear you, also, Commissioner Sadhwani, in terms of, you

1 know, we're the ones driving this. Absolutely right.

2 So, with that, I don't want to say I want a
3 challenge, but how about homework, so that everyone -- you
4 know, go back and think of the different factors that may
5 be different, in terms of this process versus 2010 and how
6 -- and, you know, why we think -- how we think we could
7 justify going forward.

8 And step two is, how long do we think we're going
9 to need? I mean, that's the more difficult question,
10 because like you don't know. But at the end of the day, if
11 you have more time than you need, that's great, right,
12 because you can always finish early if you -- you know,
13 before the deadline. But how many times have any of us had
14 projects and we're like, I wish had an extra week, right.

15 So, that's kind of -- so let's think about this
16 and come back next time and just really delve into this.
17 We are right now, but we can continue to delve into it.

18 I have Commissioners Turner and Akutagawa.

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. Chair, can we finish
20 early if we submit a timeline telling the public what we're
21 going to do and how long we're accepting -- would we
22 actually be able to finish early, or would we then need to
23 stick to whatever timeline? I'm just referring, I'm
24 thinking about what you just stated.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Nothing would preclude you from
2 doing it earlier than your statutory limits.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. And what I'm saying
4 is, is that if we, if we announce this is the timeframe
5 that we're working with. This is when we expect to draw
6 drafts, finals. This is when we're -- if we're setting
7 that and stating it, and we --

8 MS. JOHNSTON: You wouldn't be bound by that if
9 you find you need more time. You're only bound by what the
10 maximum time is.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think what Commissioner
12 Turner is leading to is, if we give a timeline and then we
13 cut it off early, how fair is that, right?

14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: It seems like that would be
15 problematic if we set --

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- a timeline and then
18 determine, we got what we need.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa, and
20 then Toledo.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess that that -- and
22 maybe I'm oversimplifying things, but at the same time I
23 guess I'll just say it out loud. I think we work to the
24 amount of time that we're given. And I think to
25 Commissioner Sadhwani's point, you know, I think we should

1 really realistically determine like how much time do we
2 really need, and then use that maximum time in the most
3 efficient and most productive way that we as a 14-person
4 body can, trying to move like an aircraft carrier, you
5 know, around, you know, something like that, it's not going
6 to go fast.

7 So, I do also just want to say with that in mind,
8 then that way I think if we set a time that we will submit
9 that part at such-and-such time, I think we have to honor
10 that. I mean, we could be done earlier, but I think that's
11 where if we think really -- think through really just the
12 amount of time that we need, we won't be worried about
13 doing -- you know, are we going to finish early. We'll be
14 really like working up, probably up to that deadline,
15 because we'll be using every minute of the time that we
16 have.

17 And instead of just kind of like, well, we could
18 do this and we could do that, and I feel like, you know, I
19 think just human nature, we're going to -- there's going to
20 -- I don't want there's going to be procrastination, it's
21 just that we're going to think about all the other things
22 that we need, things that we could do, and then intend to
23 do. And then when crunch time comes, we're just going to
24 start to, you know, say, okay, what is it that we
25 absolutely have to do?

1 So, I think I just want to just throw that out
2 there for our consideration, so that we could, you know,
3 really be honest about our time, too.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

5 Commissioner Toledo.

6 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I would concur with
7 Commissioner Akutagawa. I think, you know, we're
8 preventing worst -- we're doing scenario play and
9 (indiscernible) we're attempting to do.

10 And there's certainly the worst-case scenario and
11 the best-case scenario. And what we need to come up with
12 is really figure what -- how much time we actually need to
13 do meaningful outreach to get us to fair and representative
14 maps within the worst-case scenario.

15 And if we have additional time, how could we --
16 you know, how might that benefit us in terms of,
17 potentially, the second draft that Commissioner Andersen
18 has brought up or -- and how would that fit in, et cetera,
19 et cetera.

20 But I do think, going back to Commissioner
21 Turner's point, I guess the question becomes, could we be
22 challenged if we -- could there be legal challenges if we
23 said we're going to be done on such-and-such date and we
24 ended up -- ended earlier.

25 And so that's, I think, the -- would that pose a

1 risk to our maps if for some reason we were to do that?
2 And I don't know the answer to that. Maybe Marian can
3 weigh in on that.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: I think just what Commissioner
5 Turner was suggesting, that if you have expectations, that
6 people think they're still going to have more time to
7 comment, that that might be unfair. It's up to the
8 Commission.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments?
10 Commissioner Andersen.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I do believe we
12 wanted to try these as realistic as possible, knowing full
13 well that we'll use whatever time we have. But also if we
14 arbitrarily sort of set something, well, okay, we know that
15 that's -- you know, we probably won't even all that time.

16 You know, we're not working in a vacuum. I mean,
17 if like we say, you know, we're going on February 15,
18 period, and we maybe know that we don't really need to go
19 out that way, all the election people do have to stick with
20 whatever date, the final outside date that we say.

21 So we have affected a ton of other people, unless
22 you need to, you know, we have to be, we do have to be
23 considerate. Now that doesn't mean whatever time we need,
24 that's what we need. But to arbitrarily go, well, we'll
25 just take extra time, that's -- you know, then we're not

1 being good citizens, you know, or, you know, good
2 Californians I should say, because that doesn't have
3 anything to do -- well, it is -- anyway.

4 It's -- the point is, is we really want to be
5 careful with how much time do we really need, and to do our
6 outreach, to do the maps, and then that's what we should be
7 asking.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments? Okay.
9 Again, we will bring this up -- I'm not sure if the next
10 Chair, Commissioner Ahmad, would bring it up, or actually
11 give -- it can be brought up during the subcommittees.
12 Yeah. So think about how much time we're going to need.

13 My opinion personally is, what would be defensible
14 would be how much time do they have -- did the -- were we
15 given to do it, and then see if the -- see if we have
16 justification to try to extend that date out based on, you
17 know, having to make the Census data workable, and meeting
18 potentially holidays. That's just my own personal opinion
19 in terms of how far we can justify moving the date out.

20 So with that we're going to move on. I'm going
21 to try to break for lunch at 12:30 because we have a panel,
22 the Labor Panel is at 1:00 -- 1:30. Actually I'll try and
23 break at 12:25, to give us an hour.

24 I'm going to go quickly to 9B, that's Finance and
25 Administration. We had a motion yesterday to move forward

1 with the four outreach positions, three field leads and the
2 outreach coordinator. And so -- I think, do we have a
3 quorum? Do we have enough for that right now? I want to
4 make sure. We didn't have enough yesterday. It looks like
5 we do.

6 Commissioner Le Mons, are you listening in?
7 Commissioner Ahmad?

8 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Just a quick clarifying
9 question on that. Will the motion be repeated? Was it to
10 hire or to --

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, it was to hire --

12 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- to hire and move forward.
14 So the motion was -- let me go back to my tab. The motion
15 was to move forward with the four hires in the outreach
16 area. There were three leads, two Southern, one Central
17 California, and then the outreach coordinator. So it was
18 move forward and hire.

19 Yes, Marian?

20 MS. JOHNSTON: It is a motion for hiring, so you
21 need three, three and three at least.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

23 MS. JOHNSTON: So, if we don't --

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I know. I was trying to figure
25 out if we had it.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: We don't have Commissioner
2 Akutagawa, and we don't have --

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: She's here. She's here.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: She is back. I'm sorry. So we do
5 have, we have enough people.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. But we need to go to
7 public comment first, right?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Katy, can we go to
10 public comment, and it has to do with 9F, the hiring of
11 four staff.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's right. So it's
13 the same motion as yesterday, correct?

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.
16 Wonderful.

17 In order to maximize transparency and public
18 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
19 taking public comment by phone.

20 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
21 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,
22 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
23 feed. It is 93330293366 for this meeting. When prompted
24 to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

25 Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a

1 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star-
2 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When
3 it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says,
4 "the host would like you to talk," and to press star-six to
5 speak.

6 If you would like to give you name, please state
7 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
8 provide your name to give public comment.

9 Please make sure to mute your computer or
10 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
11 during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue be
12 alert for when it is your turn to speak and, again, please
13 turn down the livestream volume. And the Commissioners are
14 taking public comment in relation to Item Number 9B, it
15 says here, the hiring of four outreach positions.

16 At this time we do not have anybody in the queue
17 with their hand up. Again, I will remind those in the
18 queue that star-nine raises your hand indicating that they
19 wish to comment.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. While I wait just a
21 minute, after this, what I have left, and please correct me
22 if I'm wrong or I've missed something. I have 9K, which is
23 the COI, Communities of Interest statistics, 9J is Grants,
24 and then 14 is our label -- Labor Panel.

25 Is there anything else that I've forgotten that

1 we're still -- okay. That's great.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the instructions
3 are complete on this stream, Chair.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Katy.

5 Okay. Executive Director Hernandez.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. So this is a motion
7 to move forward -- I'm going to spell that correctly. Move
8 forward to hire three field staff and the outreach
9 coordinator. The motion was made yesterday at 2:36 p.m.
10 The motion made by Commissioner Fernandez, seconded by
11 Commissioner Taylor.

12 We will begin the vote here.

13 Commissioner Fornaciari?

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commission Sinay?

22 Commissioner Taylor?

23 Commissioner Toledo?

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sorry. Commissioner Vazquez?

3 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?

7 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

11 Yes.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez?

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: And I will stop sharing here.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks.

18 And, Commissioner Kennedy, you had mentioned

19 yesterday that you had some statistics for us for Item

20 Number 9K, with the Communities of Interest?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes. We have updated

22 statistics on the Communities of Interest input tool. As

23 of last week there were 237 users. Now there are 256. As

24 of last week there was 188 submissions, now there are 206.

25 None of the new communities of interest have been submitted

1 in non-English languages.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you.

3 Any questions on that before we move forward?

4 Okay. So the next item is 9J, which is Grants. And that
5 is Commissioners Akutagawa and Commissioner Le Mons.

6 I'm just going to -- we're going break at about
7 12:25, and then we will break for lunch, have the Labor
8 Panel, and then if there's further discussion needed, we
9 can discuss it then. Unless you want to just wait until
10 after the Labor Panel. I will leave it up to you.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think it should be
12 fairly quick. It's just a brief update.

13 So, what I want to say is, due to statutory
14 authority what we've done is we've pivoted to a contracting
15 method for the grants. And where we are right now is that
16 we've been following the state contracting process and
17 procedures, and we've been working with the staff to submit
18 a draft RFP for prereview to the DGS, Department of General
19 Services, Office of Legal Services.

20 So we're still waiting for an update. We were
21 hoping to have an update today, but we are still waiting
22 for the update. So we expect that we'll hear something
23 shortly. And so, that is our report for right now. And if
24 anybody has any questions, we're -- I'm happy to take any
25 questions.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just, I just want to
3 think pragmatically about this, and I still appreciate --
4 this is such a tough one. It's always been a tough one,
5 right, because can the state agencies' commissions
6 rebranch? I don't know. Like I think this is the ongoing
7 question. But I'm also really recognizing that we're move
8 into a period of collecting the communities of interest
9 input.

10 And so I just wanted to ask like in realistic
11 terms, like we're still waiting to figure out this, you
12 know, are we legally allowed to do this or not, and what
13 might that look like?

14 I mean, what do we think are the -- what do we
15 anticipate is the likelihood that something like this can
16 actually -- even if we are allowed to do so, I mean, can we
17 get this off the ground within the -- I mean, we were
18 thinking through all of these scenarios, and I mean
19 regardless of which direction we choose, we're going to be
20 done sometime in December or January.

21 You know, just having received grants in the
22 past, I mean, it's a long process. So, I guess I'm just
23 trying to wonder, do we have backup plan? I'd just love to
24 hear a little bit more of the thoughts on the
25 practicalities of moving this forward at this point in

1 time. And that is not meant at all as any kind of slight
2 to the subcommittee. You know, I think this is something
3 we've all been, you know, thinking about and grappling
4 with, you know, for many months. And, you know, we all see
5 community input as -- an engagement as being of utmost
6 importance.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. And thank you so
8 much for asking that question. I think that that is
9 grappling part that has been going on after we made our
10 initial report in, I think it was in February, and we were
11 so hopeful that we had finally come to a place where we can
12 move.

13 And I think to that point, we believe that the
14 RFP contracting process is the way in which we can legally
15 go, but we just want to make sure that we cross the t's and
16 dot the i's, and we'll then be able to present something.

17 If anything goes as we hope it will, then in
18 working out a timeline we believe that we will be able to
19 take on the shortest possible times, and that -- and,
20 Marcy, I'm going to ask you to weigh in on this part,
21 because you know the actual timelines best. But we believe
22 that we would be actually getting money out or regranteeing
23 funds sometime towards the end of June -- although am I
24 wrong on that? Was it more July? I'm going to -- maybe
25 Marcy could weigh in now.

1 MS. KAPLAN: Yes. So just with the proposed
2 scenario that we have looked at, which was a little bit --
3 I think we were hoping we'd be able to have review. And so
4 within -- I think the soonest in terms of contract award
5 and execution was middle of June.

6 So that's not getting the dollars out, that's
7 just the contract execution. And that was on a timeframe
8 if we had actually been able to have approval from the full
9 Commission of the RFP this week. And so I think that
10 pushes us a little bit on that timeframe.

11 So that would be the contract execution was not
12 when the dollars would come out. And as with contracting
13 it's different than with a grant. So, I just, I think we
14 want to also just shift that language.

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. So I -- and I
16 apologize. We -- this -- the timeline that I was thinking
17 about, now that I think about it, time was flown by fast.
18 And this was at the end of April that we were looking at
19 this timeline.

20 And we were hoping that we would be able to
21 present something to the full Commission for approval by
22 around this time, but we're still waiting for, you know,
23 the official opinion/approval that this is definitely the
24 way we can go, so.

25 And a plan B is probably something that we will

1 be shortly talking about next, because the further out we
2 go, the further -- the less likely that this is going to be
3 the best --

4 (Music playing in background.)

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so do we have an estimate
6 as to when we'll find out if this is the right mode? And
7 then -- so it's a two-part question. And then let's say
8 the RFP is the way to go, is the RFP already written, the
9 language already written, so it's ready to go? Okay.

10 MS. KAPLAN: Well, I'll -- I don't know if Alvaro
11 wanted to --

12 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Maybe Alvaro
13 could --

14 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you. The RFP is
16 written in a draft form. We wanted to make sure that we
17 hit all the elements. Because in the previous method that
18 we were thinking of for grants, it was very different. And
19 so we're not able to do it that way.

20 So now we are going to proceed looking at it from
21 a contract perspective. And as you know and you've
22 experienced through the line drawer, the videographer, and
23 also the VRA contracts, they are different, and they must
24 follow specific guidelines that all state agencies must
25 follow.

1 So, we're trying to ensure that we're on the
2 right path as far as the language and the information that
3 is required of the RFP, and also looking at the funding
4 part of it, how the money is awarded out and so forth. So
5 all those elements is what OLS is looking at, to make sure
6 that we are on the right path.

7 Should they come back and say, no, we can't do it
8 this way, then we have to adjust that request and that
9 information, so that they could take a look at it and make
10 sure that, okay, that is doable, and then we'll bring it
11 back to the Commission for the full review. That's the
12 intent.

13 But I do want to mirror what Marcy said. We have
14 to shift our verbiage from grants to awarding of a
15 contract. Because we cannot issue grants, and that's what
16 Commissioner Akutagawa was referencing in regards to the
17 statutory, statutory authority part of it that doesn't
18 allow us to do so.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Toledo.

21 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. So, am I
22 understanding it correctly, that we would be doing direct
23 contracting with entities for -- the proposal at this point
24 would be -- or what we're exploring is potentially doing
25 direct contracting with agencies, instead of doing a

1 granting process?

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes, that's correct.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And I think when we thought
4 about this a couple months back, and this was a while ago,
5 I think the concern we have around that is -- was
6 impartiality and the, and the need to ensure that we're --
7 were -- you know, that we are impartial as the Commission.
8 So -- and I'm sure that the committee has looked at this
9 issue and has a plan to address it and -- but that
10 certainly would be the, a concern that still would arise
11 with this issue, I mean, because we won't have the
12 protection of having it with a third party. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. And you're right,
14 we -- this was -- I'll be honest, I don't think that this
15 was our preferred direction for all of the reasons that
16 you've mentioned. And as we had discussed, you know, I
17 think it was back in end of January, beginning of February,
18 you know, there were a lot of different reasons.

19 Obviously a contracting process is also going to
20 be potentially more challenging for some of the smaller
21 organizations that we really wanted to make sure that we
22 would be able to get funds to who are doing the direct
23 work.

24 But going to a contracting process we're probably
25 going to be seeing more larger agencies being able to apply

1 and, therefore, you know, being the ones to perhaps help
2 move money out into the communities so that it's reaching,
3 you know, the hard-to-reach communities that we want to
4 make sure are being covered. So, yeah, this is -- and so I
5 see that Commissioner Le Mons has joined us.

6 So, Commissioner Le Mons, if you want to weigh in
7 on this part, too.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I've been listening.
9 I'm sorry I wasn't able to speak earlier. But I echo
10 everything you've already presented. I just wanted to say
11 that from a process point of view, what we're really
12 anxious to get in front of the Commission is the scope,
13 because that I think, we're going to have to use that as
14 our mechanism to address the concerns that Commissioner
15 Toledo just raised and others, that we are all --
16 Commissioner Akutagawa and myself are intimately aware of.

17 This has been painful. It's very incredibly
18 painful. However, we're trying, you know, we're of course
19 working within the parameters that we have and really
20 trying to hold the line on the integrity of the vision.
21 And we think that the scope is going to be our best chance
22 at that.

23 So, that's where we're really going to lean on
24 all of you to really scrutinize that scope, and it's just
25 not released yet because we're still in the step that

1 Commissioner Akutagawa has already described. So, that
2 will be forthcoming, and the invitation is for every
3 Commissioner to look at it through that lens of what our
4 vision is.

5 You know, at this point, you know, as much as
6 we're all fighters and we're 2020 and we're not anybody
7 else and all of that, we found ourselves in a situation
8 where we're restrained in a way that we're having to really
9 work with. So, we're going to make it work and get as
10 close to the original vision as possible.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And the other
12 piece, too, when you initially presented the two options
13 of, I think it was if we picked option one -- I forget
14 which one it was, we would need an outreach position to
15 manage all those grants. And because we picked option B,
16 we decided we didn't need that position. So I'm just a
17 little -- it's outreach -- I guess it's more towards
18 Director Kaplan, knowing that now we're going to have to
19 manage multiple grants in terms of what that's going to
20 look like, and the ability to manage that extra workload.

21 Marcy, I saw your hand up, and then
22 Commissioner --

23 (Recording inaudible.)

24 MS. KAPLAN: If Commissioner Le Mons wants to
25 start and then --

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I think this kind
2 of is to Marcy and Alvaro's point. That whole grant model
3 is not the model anymore. So what was presented back then
4 is very different actually as we're moving forward with
5 this RFP and doing a contracting. So it's going to be a
6 small number. It's not like we're going to be managing
7 multiple grants. So we're not going to need a workforce to
8 do that, at least that's my understanding.

9 Marcy, correct me if I'm wrong on that.

10 MS. KAPLAN: I think what the avenue that the
11 Commission's exploring was a multiple-awards schedule RFP,
12 which is not necessarily -- which breaks it down by region,
13 which was what they were advised as an approach to look at
14 as a potential for an RFP, which would not be then as many
15 -- like Commissioner Le Mons noted, splitting up the
16 decision that was presented before, versus one entity,
17 versus numerous grantees. It's not. I think you can't
18 look at that approach.

19 And so, there would be staffing that would be
20 needed to oversee this RFP and contracts that would be
21 executed, however, it would not be to the extent of
22 numerous -- the amount of contracts would be smaller than
23 what was discussed in terms of the grants, the grants
24 process before. That's clearer.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Because before it was the

1 scenario, there would be quite a few grants and you'd have
2 to manage those. So, you have justified a position.

3 We're running up against a time -- Commissioner
4 Sadhwani.

5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was just going to
6 offer, I am very excited to see where this all goes.
7 Having been a part of the line drawer RFP and the counsel
8 RFI's, the contracting I find horrifying. So, I'm so glad
9 it's you all and not me. But what I might just offer is,
10 you know, I think I'm going to -- counsel is going to have
11 a lot on his plate, I think Marian has a lot on her plate.

12 But I know one of the things you had talked about
13 before is the potential need for additional retired
14 annuitants in the legal area. And I'm wondering if
15 potentially finding someone with that contracting
16 experience might be helpful, if this is ultimately the way
17 that we move forward. Because the contracts -- you know,
18 there was a lot involved in that.

19 So I, you know, I think having someone with a lot
20 of contracting experience, which our new chief counsel has,
21 but someone who could just focus in on this piece of it in
22 a, you know, maybe in a part-time capacity, might be a
23 beneficial way of using our resources to get it done.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

25 Any other comments? Okay. So with that, we're

1 going to go ahead and break for lunch. If you can be back
2 at 1:25, we have the Panel starting at 1:30. I just want
3 to make sure we're all back. Thank you so much. Have a
4 good lunch.

5 (Off the record at 12:28 p.m.)

6 (Back on the record at 1:30 p.m.)

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Welcome back,
8 everyone. Hopefully everyone had a good lunch.

9 We are moving to Agenda Item 14, which is our
10 Labor Panel. I'm very, I'm looking forward to this Panel.
11 I look forward to all the panels, but I'm really looking
12 forward to this one. And I am going to pass this off to
13 Commissioners Sinay and Fornaciari.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Chair.

15 So, this will probably be the last of our
16 outreach education panel. And we've, you know, we've had
17 folks come and speak to us about language access, Native
18 Americans, immigrant refugees, environment infrastructure.
19 We did the business panel, and now we're excited to have
20 the Labor Panel. We've been working on this for a while,
21 and we're excited that it's finally here.

22 I really want to thank Bryan, Dylan and Dolores
23 for their time today, and for coming to speak to us. They
24 -- Bryan had -- yeah, Bryan, you had slides that we have
25 put up. And just so, I just want to make sure that they

1 have screen-sharing privileges.

2 MR. MANOFF: They do.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Kristian.

4 And I'll let each of them as they speak introduce
5 themselves and tell you a little bit about their
6 background. And we will start with Bryan, who will give us
7 the big -- yes?

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I just want to make sure that
9 they're aware, hour and a half we'll take a break, and then
10 they can continue on.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We'll be -- we should be
14 done in an hour and a half.

15 But we'll start with Bryan, and he'll give an
16 overview of kind of the labor movement in California. And
17 then we'll -- Dylan will give us a little bit of a feel of
18 labor movements in urban settings and cities and such. And
19 Dolores Huerta, who is, you know, the founder of the labor
20 movement in kind of the rural areas.

21 So, it's a privilege to have all three of you
22 here today, and we look forward to learning from all of
23 you.

24 MR. BLUM (via Zoom): Thank you. I think I'm
25 first. I am Bryan, my name is Bryan Blum. I'm the

1 Political Director for the California Labor Federation.
2 And what the California Labor Federation is, is in effect,
3 the umbrella organization for labor unions in the State of
4 California. And I'm going to go ahead and share a screen
5 if I can.

6 Okay. Is -- can everyone see the screen with --
7 okay. Great.

8 So, yeah, the California Labor Federation is the
9 umbrella organization for labor unions across California.
10 We are not any individual union. Again, we're the
11 federation of unions. There are about a little over 1,200
12 individual, local unions all across California. And we are
13 the voice, the unified voice for the labor movement in
14 California. And I'll get a little more into that structure
15 a little bit in a couple of the other slides.

16 Let me just start off with the basics. Of
17 course, labor unions are simply a way for workers to have
18 more of a voice at their worksite. And each one of those
19 over 1,200 unions that I talked about, the structure and
20 the leadership all democratically elected by the membership
21 of those unions, and a very democratic process through
22 those elections on setting policy and direction for those
23 individual unions.

24 And so when you look at broadly the labor
25 movement with all those different unions and union members,

1 it all adds up to about 2.7 million members, union members,
2 active union members in California, actively employed at
3 the worksite. However, they're not -- those members aren't
4 sole entities, they also have about 4.1 million family
5 members in their households with them. So, between the
6 union members and their family members in their household,
7 it's about 6.8 million Californians who live in union
8 households.

9 And I cite the household and the family members
10 that live with them because we have found with research
11 we've done, that a lot of the same attitudes that our
12 members have are shared by the members of their household.
13 And the values that they share, and the common interests.

14 Of course, it makes sense, but -- so I just
15 wanted though to point that out and show that the reach of
16 -- and we often think about the union movement as not just
17 the members, but also their family that they represent.

18 So, the labor movement, very diverse in all kinds
19 of ways. Labor members are in unions in a wide variety of
20 jobs. Things like the building trades, those are the
21 construction industries, traditionally thought of as sort
22 of blue collar jobs. They are though just one part.

23 Some folks may have sort of the building trades
24 or the construction members as sort of the mental image of
25 the labor movement, and they are a big, important part of

1 the labor movement, but a very diverse workforce.

2 Also, public sector employees, both blue collar
3 and white collar workers represented there. Things from,
4 you know, whether it's people who work at -- in schools and
5 education, which is both professors and teachers, but
6 that's also like the classified employees, the cafeteria
7 workers, the bus drivers.

8 And, of course, also in public sector, all types
9 of people who work for state and local government, you
10 know, whether it's fire fighters or people at the city
11 hall, all of those are different types of jobs and
12 employment in the public sector. So even within the public
13 sector a wide variety of jobs and professions covered.

14 And then, also, of course other private, private
15 sector jobs. Things like at the grocery stores, the United
16 Food and Commercial Workers, the people who are at the
17 checkout stands and work at the grocery stores. Or things
18 like -- or teamsters, truck drivers. People who work in
19 healthcare, nurses, other folks that help make the
20 healthcare industry run.

21 Those are just a couple of examples, but I just
22 wanted to cite a few of those to really sort of show that
23 labor being very diverse in the type of work that and
24 industries that our members work in, and that they're
25 families have -- how, you know, how their employed in and

1 get, you know, the jobs that help put food on the table.

2 A wide variety of jobs, it's not just one sector,
3 not just one type of job. It's not just white collar, it's
4 not just blue collar. It really is a cross, basically the
5 whole gambit of the type of jobs workers in California do.

6 You know, how are we organized? So, I talked
7 about this a little bit at the top. Over 1,200 local
8 unions. Those are really sort of the structures that --
9 the basic building blocks for labor and for the unions. So
10 they can range anywhere from our labor union, you know,
11 with, you know, a few dozen employees at a worksite, you
12 know, to large employers that, you know, we have locals
13 that may have, you know, tens of thousands of members in
14 some of these locals.

15 So, again, not one size fits all with what our
16 labor union is like, and how big it is. A wide variety of
17 different shapes, sizes and how our local unions are
18 structured.

19 And within the labor movement there are probably
20 in California over 40 to 50 different types, I want to sort
21 of say, international unions, you know, folks make a part
22 of the name teamsters, or the United Food and Commercial
23 Workers that I just talked about, or SEIU. We're going to
24 hear from SEIU, or the farmworkers, United Farm Workers
25 Union.

1 So you'll have these different type unions.
2 There's about 40 to 50 of them. And then within those
3 unions are going to be all the different locals, and those
4 are usually broken down regionally.

5 And in addition to all these 1,200 local unions
6 being part of the California Labor Federation and organized
7 through us at the statewide level, to be a voice at the
8 statewide level for the labor movement, that also happens
9 at the local level. And I really want to stress this in I
10 think a way that the labor movement could be a resource for
11 the Commission is in outreach to the 23 central labor
12 councils.

13 And when I talk about the California Labor
14 Federation being the umbrella organization for labor
15 statewide, that's replicated at the local level through the
16 central labor councils where you will have, again, public
17 sector, private sector, building trades, in a particular
18 geographic area coming together, and all given voice by
19 these things we call, "central labor councils." Those are
20 the umbrella organizations for labor unions at the local
21 level.

22 There are 23 of those in California. All the
23 lead counties in California are covered by jurisdiction of
24 a central labor council. Some are just one county, like
25 the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, or the Alameda

1 Labor Council.

2 But there are some labor councils that are
3 structured that represent multiple counties. For example,
4 the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Labor Council represents
5 four counties of -- in the coverage for the union workers
6 that they represent.

7 But I do want to stress that every county has a
8 central labor council that represents the workers, the
9 union workers in that area. And they really are the way to
10 -- that labor gets worked on at the local level, and can
11 really help and provide a resource to the Commission.

12 If you have a particular interest in a geographic
13 area, and that I do know that our unions will have a
14 particular interest on a geographic level of giving their
15 input when we get to the point of communities of interest
16 and line drawing in certain areas. There will really be
17 often cases the labor councils that will be the folks
18 coming and wanting to provide you information and talk to
19 you.

20 I've talked about sort of the breadth of the
21 labor movement all across California and the diversity.
22 And also to stress that, that we are in every part of
23 California, we're just not in the big cities, you know,
24 where labor is just concentrated.

25 Certainly Southern California is so huge, that is

1 where a large part of the population of California is. So
2 that is where the plurality or the largest chunk of where
3 our members and family are in the counties of Southern
4 California, 3.8 million. You can see in the counties
5 outlined there. But we're in the Central Valley, almost a
6 million union members and family residing in the Central
7 Valley, and I think you'll hear Dolores talking a lot more
8 about that, and in some of our rural areas.

9 Of course, we're in the Bay Area. One-and-a-
10 half-million members and family for our unions in the Bay
11 Area. You know -- excuse me, I went backwards.

12 And then, you know, in Northern California, you
13 know, a place that folks sort of think is rural, and then
14 also maybe even a bit more conservative, but, you know,
15 600,000 union members working in those counties in the
16 rural northern part of the State.

17 So the labor movement really is broad, diverse,
18 different types of industries, different types of workers
19 all across the State. And, you know, not to talk about
20 this in partisan terms, but just to make this point that we
21 don't want unions to be, unions are just one -- think one
22 way or the other or a political party. You know, our
23 membership in terms of their voter registration are fairly
24 close to being a representative sample of the State of
25 California. The plurality are democrats. It's about 47-

1 percent Democratic. But we have 22-percent of our members
2 are Republican, which are -- is not that far off from what
3 the statewide numbers are as well.

4 So, don't think that labor unions are necessarily
5 a monolith with one, with one particular political party
6 they represent. We are going to have a diversity of
7 opinion, we're going to have a diversity of interests based
8 on geography, based on sector.

9 And they really are an important voice to be
10 taken into consideration in the sense that, you know, I
11 talked about, it's not just the union members, it's their
12 family as well that have stakes in the political process.

13 Also to say that our union members don't wear
14 just their union member hat, they're also members of
15 churches, they're active in their local community, they're
16 active in local community groups. So they bring a wide
17 variety of perspectives to the table as well when they
18 engage in the political process.

19 And one last thing also to say about union
20 members and the importance of engaging them in this
21 process, is that our research also shows that they are very
22 engaged in the political process. That our union members
23 and their family on average turn out and vote in elections
24 at a higher rate than the general public. They are engaged
25 in voting and very actively civically engaged.

1 The last presidential election in California,
2 union members turned out four points at a higher percentage
3 than the general public. And we've seen in past elections,
4 particularly in gubernatorial years that our turnout's even
5 higher above the general population. And that we have seen
6 a turnout among union members on average be five to seven
7 points higher than the general public.

8 So just to that point, that our union members are
9 -- very much care about civic participation, and very much
10 care about the political process and engaging in the
11 political process, and have stakes in the political
12 process.

13 When I talked about the different workforces that
14 our members represented, you know, I talked about fire
15 fighters, I talked about people at grocery stores, I talked
16 about nurses, frontline responders. Talking about
17 essential workers, people who are -- had to go out there
18 day to day in a pandemic and do their jobs, and, you know,
19 have the rules and regulations on how they work, you know,
20 being set by our elected officials.

21 And so that's just one example, a most recent
22 example, again, of how stakes matter for labor union
23 members and their family. In the process, the essential
24 workers in the pandemic being maybe the most striking in
25 recent sample, but it's true all the time that union

1 members and their families are going to have a stake in the
2 political process, and they have shown that by their
3 turnout and their engagement in the process.

4 So, I know we have a lot of great presentations
5 to come from Dylan. He's going to be getting more in depth
6 in sort of parts of this, and Dolores digging more in
7 depth.

8 But I did want to give this broad overview of the
9 labor movement, so that folks could have that sense, and,
10 you know, really encourage again, as the work of the
11 Commission goes forward, we want to be a resource, and also
12 to provide the labor councils at the local level to be
13 resources as you're seeking input from our communities.
14 And I will stop there and turn it back to you all.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks, Bryan. If you can
16 unshare your screen.

17 MR. BLUM: Yes. Got you. Yeah, absolutely.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you so much. That was
19 really, really helpful, and a great overview.

20 And from there we will go to Dylan. And after
21 Dylan and Dolores, then we'll open it up for questions.

22 MR. JOHNSON (via Zoom): Got you. Thanks. Okay.
23 I also, I, too, have a presentation, so let me just get my
24 little share screen going here.

25 All right. Well, first and foremost, my name is

1 Dylan Johnson. I am a political coordinator with SEIU
2 California. So, first and foremost, of course I would like
3 to thank the Commission for inviting us to be a part of
4 this panel. I'd like to thank my fellow panelists for
5 engaging in this, and, you know, also thank the public for
6 jumping on an engaging in this. We think this is a really,
7 really, really important process, and so we're thrilled to
8 be here and thrilled to be a part of this discussion.

9 So, I just want to say at the top, SEIU
10 California to that point is committed to assisting this
11 body's goal of drawing equitable lines. And we are eager
12 to assist in outreach efforts to ensure that all
13 Californians have input on this process.

14 So, just to give a little roadmap of what I
15 wanted to talk about in this presentation. I wanted to
16 start off with just kind of an overview of SEIU
17 California's membership, just to give an idea of who we
18 are.

19 And then from there, I'll get into, I wanted to
20 get into a bit of why I think we're kind of uniquely
21 qualified to help participate in this effort, give some
22 examples of past efforts our organization has done in
23 concert with other labor organizations that might, you
24 know, inform why we'd be particularly well positioned to be
25 a resource in this process.

1 And then question and answer, which I will take
2 at the end of the panel, so I have some time there, but
3 we'll just take that when we're all through with the
4 presentations.

5 All right. Great. So, just to give a quick
6 snapshot, this is kind of a 10,000 foot level of our
7 membership. So we have 700,000-plus members across the
8 State of California, as well as 200,000-plus represented
9 workers. So that brings us to roughly 1,000,000 workers,
10 representatives here in California, that's just SEIU
11 California here in the State.

12 So, when we talk about the tally of our numbers,
13 and Bryan touched on this a bit, you know, that doesn't
14 really capture the whole rest of the region -- our union.
15 So when we dig into the data of our membership, what we
16 find is that our members on average live in households with
17 three to four adults in the household, right. So, these
18 are multi-generational households that our members are
19 living in.

20 So when you talk about the reach of SEIU
21 California, the number that we're looking at, it's closer
22 to 2.7 million across the State when you take into account
23 the fact that our members are living in these households.

24 And so those family members are also receiving
25 the information that we are doing with our outreach to our

1 members that are part of these larger households. And so
2 we really like to emphasize that, because it gives a
3 clearer idea of kind of the reach and the scope of the --
4 all right.

5 So just to jump into a bit of the demographics.
6 Our union is a very, very diverse group. SEIU California
7 is a very diverse union. We -- our members speak over 31
8 languages. And I think this is a particularly, you know,
9 salient point to raise, because so often, unfortunately,
10 language can be a barrier to outreach and to organizing.
11 And so, I think it's really important to highlight this,
12 because SEIU California does have experience with facing
13 those types of challenges, and communicating in a way
14 that's really inclusive, right.

15 So when we're thinking about doing this outreach,
16 you know, something like language can be a barrier for
17 folks to do this type of outreach. And so we just really
18 like to highlight, that is something that is constantly at
19 the top of mind for us, because we have just a diverse
20 membership, and that goes to language as well.

21 So in terms of ethnicity, this is a breakdown of
22 ethnicity for SEIU California. So, again, we are a very
23 diverse union. As you can see here, we are majority-
24 minority union. One thing I do always like to highlight
25 when we talk about these numbers, the African American

1 numbers are likely underrepresented. African Americans are
2 often underrepresented in this type of data. That's due to
3 a host of reasons, many of them systemically -- you know,
4 systemic racism in, you know, just our systems, and the way
5 that last names work. And, you know, that's a whole other
6 presentation, but I do like to always note that when we
7 talk about ethnicity, is African Americans are usually
8 largely underrepresented in this data.

9 That said, we do have a larger percentage of
10 African Americans as part of our union than California as a
11 whole, but we do look like California. We are a very
12 diverse union. And so when we dig into the numbers or the
13 ethnicity, I think it speaks to that.

14 All right. Next slide.

15 In terms of gender, our membership tends to be
16 more females, so seven in 10 of our members are women. And
17 60-percent of our members are women of color. So our union
18 is a majority women of color.

19 In terms of age, so we look at the breakdown of
20 our membership by age. We are pretty well represented
21 across age groups of working folks. So as you can see
22 here, our largest age block is 45 to 54, but that's very
23 closely followed by 55 to 64 and 35 to 44. It's a pretty
24 even spread, so kind of among that, that working age
25 population, we're pretty well represented across the board.

1 Voting registration. So, 70-percent of our
2 members are registered to vote. And that does extend out
3 to our represented workers as well. So, when you break it
4 down by numbers, our union represents roughly 625,000
5 registered voters in the State of California. So that's
6 the voter registration piece.

7 So who we are, and I think this is really
8 important. I'm going to get more into depth on this later
9 on in the presentation when I'm talking about kind of how
10 we think we can be a particularly -- a great resource for
11 this Commission. But this is a little bit of a breakdown
12 of who our members are, right.

13 And so we talk about our members, you know, and
14 it's inherent in our name, we are the Service Employees
15 International Union, right. And so our members, their
16 professions, it's folks that are in the communities. So
17 we're talking about childcare workers, we're talking about
18 nurses and healthcare workers, social workers that are --
19 the janitors.

20 So we're talking about folks that really are in
21 these communities, right, and not only are respected
22 members of the community, and they're engaging with the
23 community at nearly every level. I mean, it's just, it's
24 in, it's in the DNA of who we are, right. Our jobs are
25 service industry jobs. And so we do have -- our members

1 are very active in their communities. And so I think
2 that's really important to point out. And, again, I'll get
3 to that a little bit more in depth later, but I just really
4 like to highlight that point of what the types of workers
5 we represent are and what they're doing in their
6 communities as part of their work.

7 In terms of geography, and so here is where I
8 want to get -- as you can see, we have membership in every
9 single zone as defined by the Commission. So we thought
10 this would be a helpful thing to bring out. But as
11 Patricia said, just in terms of speaking to the urban piece
12 of this, if you look at these numbers, you know, our
13 greatest concentration of folks are in the metro areas in
14 Los Angeles County and in the Bay Area.

15 So that does -- that is where the largest kind of
16 hot most concentrated -- excuse me (clearing throat), area
17 of our membership is. So obviously we do have a depth of
18 knowledge organizing and reaching out and working with
19 members in the urban areas, in the urban centers of the
20 State.

21 But I think it is worth pointing out, you know,
22 SEIU California is in every community across the State, and
23 so we do have experience organizing, and we have a presence
24 in all the communities. We're all over California, so --
25 but just thought this would be helpful for the Commission

1 when they're trying to picture kind of where our folks are
2 at. So we're across the State, but, again, that kind of
3 Bay Area, Los Angeles County is where we're concentrated.

4 So with that, now that I've given kind of an
5 overview, given a sense of who we are, what our membership
6 looks like, I wanted to get into a little bit of a case
7 study, the types of organizing efforts we've done, and how
8 that might relate to the work that's being done in the
9 Commission, and how we might be able to serve as a resource
10 moving forward.

11 And so one of the case studies we wanted to
12 highlight, it's an effort that we're still currently
13 engaged in. So, SEIU California is spearheading in
14 coordination with other labor groups, as well as many
15 community organizations, a vaccine program. This is a
16 massive statewide fuel program to get folks vaccinated
17 across the State.

18 So, labor was chosen by the State to run this
19 effort because of our background in organizing, right, and
20 because we have deep roots in the community. And we are a
21 trusted -- we have a trusted ability to provide culturally
22 competent resources, right. So when we're talking about
23 equity, and particularly around the vaccine work, that's
24 been a big part of the conversation.

25 And so to that point, this program has focused on

1 what they're calling HPI zip codes. And so these zip codes
2 are in the hardest to reach communities, as well as the
3 communities with the largest health disparities. And so
4 that's where they wanted to focus this work. This work is
5 to, you know, get folks signed up for vaccines, get shots
6 in arms. That's like the goal of this effort.

7 I think it's also worth pointing out that we look
8 at our membership. More than half of our membership lives
9 in these HPI zip codes. So these are the zip codes that
10 are hardest to reach and have the largest health
11 disparities, which I -- again, just goes to, we have
12 experience reaching out to these folks that are kind of the
13 hardest, hardest to reach.

14 But we've seen, you know, great success
15 (indiscernible). Part of the work we've been doing has
16 been up in the field for about five weeks now. This has
17 been door to door, phone, knocking, text messaging.

18 I think the latest tally since we went up with
19 the program in early April, we've already had 160,000
20 conversations, full conversations with folks across the
21 State about getting vaccinated. And already had over
22 11,000 appointments made and shots in arms. So we're
23 really proud of that work.

24 And I think that just, again, really speaks to
25 the fact that, you know, there's this infrastructure there

1 that we can quickly tap into to do these kinds of mass
2 statewide, you know, it's about information, it's about
3 organizing, and it's about action, right. And so I think
4 this just kind of speaks to the fact that because we have
5 such deep roots in these communities, we can really
6 activate that in a way that brings folks in and allows them
7 to participate in these really important efforts.

8 So further, just to kind of wrap up today's
9 presentation, I just wanted to kind of reiterate how we
10 think SEIU California is, you know, uniquely qualified to
11 assist the Commission in this redistricting process. So,
12 you know, as I hope this presentation illustrated, our
13 membership is extremely diverse, and we think really
14 represents and reflects California as a whole.

15 And know that our members work in sectors, and
16 again, I said I was going to circle back to this, and just
17 really do think this is such an important point to make.
18 Is that our members are working in sectors that impact
19 Californians everyday lives, right, so we are the nurses,
20 the home healthcare workers, the educators, the childcare
21 professionals, and the public sector workers.

22 So our members are really part of the lifeblood
23 of these communities, and our members have a great deal of
24 respect in their communities. And know that they have
25 experience organizing, right, they're union folks. They

1 have experience organizing in their neighborhood. That is
2 what they do. And so, they have experience, and not just
3 organizing, but organizing around complex issues.

4 And so this redistricting stuff it can get
5 complicated and it can get in the weeds, and our folks have
6 experience kind of breaking that down and making that
7 acceptable to folks in their communities that are all too
8 often left behind in these types of conversations and in
9 these types of efforts.

10 And so, you know, we're really, really looking
11 forward to the opportunity to be able to engage our
12 membership, and by proxy, engage their communities around
13 conversations of how important this redistricting process
14 is, and how important it is that folks make their voices
15 heard as we move through this process of defining
16 communities of interest, and in getting to a point where
17 we're getting these lines down.

18 And so, you know, when all that's said, we at
19 SEIU California really hope you will continue to use us as
20 a resource. We look forward to continue engaging in this
21 process, to kind of tap into that grassroots power, and
22 ensure that these lines are drawn in an equitable way, and
23 in a way that best serves the communities that they're
24 going to define for the next decade.

25 So, with that, I will turn it over to the next

1 folks. And again, I just want to thank the Commission so
2 much for having us, and we look forward to continuing this
3 work.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks, Dylan.

5 I lost all of you for a second. Thanks, Dylan.
6 That was really helpful and in thinking it through.

7 Dolores with -- are you ready?

8 MS. HUERTA (via Zoom): Thank you very much,
9 Commissioners, for allowing us to give you the picture of
10 what life is like in the San Joaquin Valley. And I do like
11 to refer to it as the San Joaquin Valley.

12 You know, the San Joaquin Valley kind of gets
13 left out because people think of California as Los Angeles,
14 San Francisco, San Jose, and then there's something in the
15 middle of all of that, and that is the San Joaquin Valley,
16 which of course does include Sacramento. But of course
17 this is a very special place because this is where all of
18 the food is grown.

19 San Joaquin Valley is one of, I think four or
20 five areas on the whole planet where we have a
21 Mediterranean climate that can -- we can do all this
22 wonderful food production that we do. And even though this
23 is a very special place in the world for the agricultural
24 industry, unfortunately it's not special for the people
25 that work in the agricultural industry, because they are

1 left behind.

2 We of course have the highest child poverty rate
3 in the whole United States of America, and that of course
4 is stunning when we think of the richness of our State of
5 California and the wealth that we have here in the San
6 Joaquin Valley with agriculture.

7 So, when you think of the San Joaquin Valley, you
8 have to compare it to the south. We're kind of more like
9 Montgomery, like Selma/Montgomery, than we are say like,
10 again, San Jose or San Francisco. And the type of course
11 of representation that we have had over the past -- let me
12 go back a little bit though to the Census.

13 The Dolores Huerta Foundation, we were very
14 active in the last Census 10 years ago, and we are very
15 active in this Census, also. We went door to door. We did
16 phone banking. We went to the different flea markets to
17 get people to sign up for the Census.

18 I have to say that people were terrorized. They
19 were not afraid, they were terrorized because of what the
20 Trump Administration came out with is attacks on
21 undocumented people. And the Census followed a huge wave
22 of deportations that had happened just before the Census
23 happened. And so we know that many, many undocumented
24 people did not sign up for the Census.

25 And that also affected other people who are legal

1 immigrants, even citizens, because of the public charge
2 issues that they put out there. That if anybody had
3 somebody that got any type of public assistance, that that
4 would affect them if they tried to immigrate somebody from
5 their family in the future. So that was very, very
6 devastating.

7 And I don't know how that is going to be
8 adjusted, to make sure that a lot of the people that were
9 not able to be counted, they can factor in or do some kind
10 of, some kind of algorithms or whatever, to make sure that
11 some of those people are included in the Census.

12 Our foundation, we work in four different
13 counties, Kern, Tulare and Fresno County, and also in the
14 high desert in the Antelope Valley. We have chapters in
15 all of these different areas that do all of this work
16 currently.

17 We are doing canvassing on COVID-19, getting
18 people to sign up to get their vaccine shots. We sign them
19 up right then and there, make their appointments for them.
20 We're also this weekend we're doing nine different food
21 banks throughout the Central Valley, to provide people
22 there with fresh food that they could have access to. So
23 we are very, very busy.

24 We're also active in about 20 different school
25 districts, organizing the parents and the students so they

1 can go to their school boards and make recommendations.
2 The discrimination against Latinos specifically, and
3 African Americans, is very, very fierce here in the San
4 Joaquin Valley. We had to file a lawsuit against our local
5 Kern High School District because they expelled, expelled
6 2,100 students of color, Black and Brown students in one
7 year, one single year.

8 We won that lawsuit, and from 2,100 expulsions it
9 went down to 21. And we're still having issues because
10 they put their students in -- they call it, "alternative
11 schools," and the graduation rates especially for the Black
12 students, is very, very dismal. So that is a fight that we
13 still have going on.

14 And it was really interesting when we talked
15 about redistricting. When we started our fight with the
16 Kern High School District here -- by the way, the Kern High
17 School District has 40,000 students. And of those
18 students, 65-percent of them are ethnic students, students
19 of color. But when we looked at that school board they had
20 -- of the four of the five trustees on the Kern High School
21 Board lived within five miles of each other in the most
22 affluent district of Bakersfield, in the richest district
23 of Bakersfield.

24 Now we did put pressure on them and we forced
25 them to redistrict. And so the complexion of that school

1 board has now changed, where we have actually teachers that
2 are on the school board, and two people, two Latinos on the
3 school board now at that Kern High School District. But --
4 and when we look again at whole Central Valley, 40-percent
5 of the highest expulsion rates are in the school districts
6 in the Central Valley.

7 So the discrimination, as I said before, fierce
8 and it really does affect -- and of course we have to also
9 add the prisons. I think we have something like 22
10 prisons, starting from Bakersfield, Auburn, California, all
11 the way to Sacramento. And during that period of time that
12 they had built all of these prisons, there has only been
13 one university that has been built, the University of
14 Merced. So, this is, as you can see, not a very nice
15 picture for the people that live here.

16 And as I mentioned before, we have seen that the
17 type of representation that we have had is not, it is not -
18 - it does not represent the people that live here. We have
19 of course farmworkers. We have the largest number of
20 farmworkers I think in the United States of America that
21 live in the San Joaquin Valley.

22 And people always think of farmworkers as just
23 being migrant workers. No, they live here. They live in
24 these communities. We were able to get unemployment
25 insurance for farmworkers back in 1975 when Jerry Brown got

1 his first election. So the farmworkers when the crop
2 season ends, they are able to stay in their communities and
3 collect unemployment insurance.

4 The other thing is that the way that agriculture
5 works is, when you have one season that is ending, you have
6 the beginning of the other season for the -- for instance,
7 the citrus is in the wintertime. And when the citrus ends,
8 then you start going into your grape season. So the
9 farmworkers are able to work pretty much continuously
10 throughout the entire year.

11 So, again, people think farmworkers are always
12 just migrant workers, and they're not. Some of them do
13 migrate up north to Washington and places like that, but
14 for the most part, they live in the community, and we have
15 to just remember that, as if they are -- they live here and
16 they are the residents here, but of course they're not
17 always represented there.

18 And it's rather interesting that over the years
19 in terms of the congressional representation that we have
20 had from the San Joaquin Valley, all of them -- the
21 minority/majority are Latinos, we have never had a Latino
22 Congressperson to represent the San Joaquin Valley.

23 We have had some people with Latino last names,
24 but they are of European descent, and they do not represent
25 the majority of the people in the San Joaquin Valley, who

1 are Mexican or come from Guatemala or come from El
2 Salvador. So that is very definitely lacking in terms of
3 the kind of representation that we need.

4 And as you all know, that Kevin McCarthy is the -
5 - who is the leader of the representing -- of the
6 Republican of the House of Representatives, he is the -- of
7 course represents the area here of Bakersfield, California.

8 So, the other thing is that we do have voter
9 suppression in our area. We have had people that have been
10 purged from the voting roles. So after every election we
11 have to do this big campaign to cure the ballots. We have
12 to send people out there to find people, because their
13 ballots have been discarded and they have been thrown out.

14 And people that we registered to vote, when they
15 go to vote all of the sudden their names are not there, or
16 their signatures they say do not match. People do not
17 receive their absentee ballots.

18 So voting is always a big struggle here. We are
19 hoping and we are of course fighting to correct that. And
20 now we have a new (indiscernible) or safe, and I think
21 we're going to continue with, to do that, but -- so, as I
22 said, when we think of the politics of this area and the
23 power structure, compare the San Joaquin Valley pretty much
24 to the south of the United States of America. And so this
25 is pretty much what we're up against. So, redistricting is

1 very, very important to us, because we do need
2 representation.

3 Another example I want to give you, in that we
4 know that the Boards of Supervisors are also very powerful
5 entities. And recently, because of the money that came
6 from the State, our organization, the Dolores Huerta
7 Foundation -- and we of course, we have alliances with many
8 other nonprofit organizations. When we were working, we
9 were working with the local public health office here to do
10 outreach on COVID, and the money was coming from the State.

11 We -- all of our, our nonprofit organizations
12 that we had, which are on the ground, which are a trusted
13 organization who have the experience of canvassing and
14 doing outreach, we were denied the contract because one of
15 the young women that belongs to one of the organizations
16 had made a public statement about defunding the police.

17 The local supervisor that represented the area of
18 South Kern where a large majority of the farmworkers live,
19 didn't even bother to go to the meeting, (indiscernible),
20 he's the -- and we were denied that contract. And instead
21 it was given to the Chamber of Commerce instead of to the
22 nonprofit organizations that have the experience.

23 So, the one thing that we are asking you to do,
24 is to please give us enough time to be able to reach these
25 communities. There are hundreds, literally hundreds of

1 communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley where
2 farmworkers live, where Latinos and people of color live.
3 Be sure and give us enough time so we are -- belong to
4 another organization. We have many allied groups.
5 Everybody is willing to go out there and help you, to give
6 you the information that you need to make the maps that we
7 need, to make sure that we can finally have some fair
8 redistricting and fair representation. So we do want to
9 ask you for that.

10 And I don't know exactly what's going to happen
11 in terms of the times of the election that they're going to
12 be having, whether the Census data you'll be able to have
13 that before the districts are drawn. But, again, we would
14 -- and I don't know whether you have any influence on that
15 or not, but if you do, we would like to have the primaries
16 postponed to the end of June, to make sure that we have
17 enough time so that you can have the information that you
18 need to do a good job.

19 And I want to thank all of you, because even with
20 all of these complaints, I know that we in California are
21 so much better off than they are in the other states. And
22 that we want to thank you for giving your time to making
23 sure that we have fair redistricting in the State of
24 California.

25 I know that we're ahead of the game, but, again,

1 we can do a lot better than what we've done in the past.
2 So, again, I want to thank you very much, and we'll -- and
3 we're here to work with you and do whatever we can to help
4 you do your job. Si se puede, yes, we can. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias, Dolores.

6 And with that, before we turn it over to everyone
7 for questions and comments and thoughts, I did want to
8 acknowledge that Commission Vazquez and Director Kaplan
9 were really helpful in connecting us to be able to put this
10 panel together. So, thank you.

11 And I wanted to take the liberty of asking the
12 first question, because you all have said that you work
13 diverse -- you know, your membership's very diverse, and
14 the communities you work with is very diverse. And if you
15 had to answer this -- the question that we keep trying to
16 answer, how do you answer it.

17 How do you tell your membership when it's a
18 diverse membership as the ones that you all have, why is
19 redistricting important to you?

20 MS. HUERTA: Well, they actually know it on a
21 very personal basis. I can give you another example. We
22 have a school district up in a California city, which is
23 actually part of Kern County, but it's up there in the high
24 desert. There eight out of 10 of the African American
25 students were being suspended and expelled from school in

1 elementary school and in high school.

2 Well, needless to say, they had no representation
3 whatever on the school board. The city council, even
4 though that city, California city, the population is 40-
5 percent Latino, 30-percent African American, they don't
6 have any representation whatsoever on the city council.
7 And so, people suffer when they don't have representation.
8 The lack of resources, the lack of policies that can help
9 them.

10 And so, this is part of the work that we do with
11 the Dolores Huerta Foundation, is in educating our
12 communities about why it's important for them to get
13 involved. And we are having many, many seminars about the
14 redistricting. We're doing these in both languages,
15 English and Spanish, and also we have members of our group,
16 our allies, that also they speak Hindi, the Punjab
17 language.

18 And so we're reaching out to as many people as we
19 can. And we're doing this with our organizers. We have 45
20 staff people in the Dolores Huerta Foundation, full-time
21 staff, and we 70 canvassers that are just going out door to
22 door. So we are making an all-out effort to make sure we
23 can get as many people involved in the redistricting effort
24 as possible. And of course working with our allies, also,
25 in the labor movement, who are making a big effort.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Dolores.

2 MS. HUERTA: You're welcome.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Dylan.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. I would say, you know,
5 similarly, I think particularly our membership understand
6 the importance of building power, right. That's -- and
7 building power within communities and within -- interest is
8 really important in order to advance justice and to
9 advance, you know, the interests of their communities.

10 So I think our members kind of really understand
11 that at a cellular level. And so I think that's really
12 important. And I think that extends out, right, like
13 particularly minority -- you know, minorities and folks
14 understand that in order to progress their interests,
15 there's a necessity of building power within communities.
16 So I think that's one.

17 And I think particularly as it comes to the
18 redistricting process, you know, I think it's about
19 informing our members and informing the populations what
20 this really means. I think a lot of folks do kind of
21 understand, but, again, you know, explaining how this is
22 going to be, define the lines for the next 10 years, what
23 this means for communities, how this impacts folks, I think
24 it's really important.

25 You know, some folks will understand it, but

1 there is an educational piece that I think is so important.
2 And so I think that just goes to, as we're moving through
3 this work and continuing in this process, to really
4 outreaching to these populations as much as we can, getting
5 this information in front of them, and getting it in front
6 of them from folks that they know, from folks that they
7 trust, and in ways that are, you know, that are digestible
8 and, you know, that they can -- that they understand and
9 makes for them and their work.

10 And so it relates to them, right, because folks
11 want to see how, like how does this relate to me? So
12 making sure that we do the work on the backend to ensure
13 that the information that we bring them, it's like, you
14 know, we put some thought into that in how we present it.
15 So, that's kind of the way I think about it, and what I
16 tried to hit in the presentation.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Hang on, Dylan.

18 MS. HUERTA: There's one other issue I forgot to
19 mention. Is when we get people from the community elected
20 to the different boards, they actually are discovering
21 there's a lot of corruption going on.

22 One of our members got herself elected to the
23 Water Board, and she asked for a review of the bank
24 records. Found out there was \$250,000 missing from this
25 little water district. And so she had the grand jury come

1 in to do an investigation.

2 Another one of our members got herself elected to
3 the school board. It turned out that the superintendent
4 was using the school funding as this own little piggy bank,
5 okay.

6 And so we are finding that because they are not,
7 they are not currently sitting on so many of these city
8 councils, water districts, et cetera, that there's a lot of
9 corruption going on, because they just assume that the
10 people who are out there, they're farmworkers, many of them
11 are not English speakers, that they can just look at these
12 public funds as their funds.

13 And so we know that there are hundreds of
14 districts throughout the San Joaquin Valley where people do
15 not have their own representation. And of course this is
16 one of the things that we're working on, so that we can
17 have the people take control and make sure that they can be
18 the guardians of the tax dollars that are being paid for to
19 bring the services to their communities.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks, Dolores.

21 Bryan, do you have any -- what's your thoughts
22 about this?

23 MR. BLUM: It's all very similar to what was
24 said. Again, you know, I'll go back to sort of, union
25 members understand the point of coming together and voicing

1 their opinions and concerns. And that's why they're in a
2 union in the first place, to raise their voice at the
3 worksite, and this is about raising their voice in the
4 civic engagement process.

5 You know, I cited those figures, that our members
6 get it in that regard, that they vote at a higher rate than
7 the general public, they're more engaged civically than the
8 general public. And it really is just this sense of, you
9 know, there's a saying, if you're not at the, if you're not
10 at the table you're probably on the menu.

11 So our folks know that here's a chance for them
12 to have a voice, express their concerns, their community of
13 interest. And again, with labor members expressing that
14 both in the sense of their union interests, but again, they
15 also bring a wealth of experience in the other facets of
16 their life, and can overlap with a lot of the different
17 parts of their community as well.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great. Thank you.

19 I'm going to head it over the Chair, because I
20 know she wanted first dibs.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I wanted first dibs?

22 Okay. Commissioner Turner.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, you wanted to tell a
24 story.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. I was going to -- but you

1 know what, I won't -- I actually have Dolores' e-mail, so
2 I'm just going to e-mail her. I'll e-mail her my story,
3 but thank you so much.

4 Commissioner Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh. Yes. Thank you.

6 And I'd like to say thank you to our panelists, Bryan,
7 Dylan and Dolores. Just so grateful for your presentation.

8 The question I'm wondering if you could address,
9 and speak to the Commission, we -- and if you had
10 opportunity to follow our hearings, we are in the process
11 now of trying to discern where -- what we'd like to
12 suggest, and how we'd like to move forward as it relates to
13 the timing. Dolores puts the -- and you asked, indeed that
14 we push out primaries until -- or at least request that
15 they be pushed out until a bit later.

16 Can you give us a sense, with all of your
17 membership that you have, can you give us a sense of what
18 the complexity will be in trying to get participation,
19 reach out to your membership during the holiday timeframes,
20 if indeed some of that area falls towards the end of
21 December, can you talk to us?

22 Our sense -- my sense is that that might be
23 difficult, but with the number of people that you
24 represent, if you could speak to -- if that would still be
25 an easy thing, you have processes set up whereby you'd

1 still be able to get that feedback, or if indeed that would
2 present a challenge to you.

3 MS. HUERTA: Yeah, it definitely would present a
4 challenge if we do it during the holidays. We have a lot
5 of families that leave and they go to Mexico during that
6 period of time. It's kind of like an exodus.

7 We actually don't even have any of our chapter
8 meetings during that period of time because so many people
9 are gone. And we do have a lot of people, as you know,
10 that they're immigrants from Mexico or from Guatemala, El
11 Salvador, that they do go back during the holidays to visit
12 their families.

13 And so, if we can do the hearings not during the
14 holidays, it will make it more difficult for us to get
15 people there. We would appreciate that very much, so.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I know -- I'm happy to add to that
17 and jump in. So, I think in terms of thinking about that,
18 definitely, you know, holidays, it's going to make it
19 tough. I think we're put in here right now in May, so
20 certainly like on our end, that we want to already start to
21 have those conversations.

22 So, like we really want to start building
23 credibility and start getting input from folks starting
24 like now, right. And I think we're already doing that.
25 The Commission has already been doing that.

1 So I think if we're thinking about just doing
2 that outreach in December, like that's obviously, that's
3 too late. But I think we have the time now to really be
4 building that credibility in these communities, having
5 these conversations, and doing some of that educational
6 piece ahead of that, like we have the time. And so I think
7 that we really should be engaged in that.

8 I know we at SEIU California are definitely going
9 to be engaged in that, and I think there is some, you know,
10 consideration with the holidays. I think the Commission
11 can, you know, look at what those dates look like, try to
12 plan around as best as they can of just what the reality of
13 the calendar is going to be. You know, we have, you know,
14 gone on record, SEIU California really do have some concern
15 around like during the primary, and what that will mean for
16 disadvantaged communities, and how disruptive that can be.
17 So, there is some concern around that. So, I think that,
18 from our point of view, it's, yes, that is --

19 MS. HUERTA: (Indiscernible.)

20 MR. JOHNSON: -- it's more difficult to that
21 organizing work and reach out to folks when they're kind of
22 checked out for the holidays. But we have this time. I
23 had a (indiscernible) to start having those conversations,
24 start building up. The Commission's already doing a
25 terrific job doing outreach, and we were having panels like

1 this here in May.

2 So, I mean, I think that that's really what we
3 need to be doing and focusing on, is like how can we
4 maximize this time ahead of -- I know like the numbers, and
5 given some of that data has been backed up, but I think
6 there's still a lot of quality, quality work we can be
7 doing and is being done ahead of that. So I think that's
8 important to keep in mind.

9 MR. BLUM: If I could, I would just echo what
10 Dylan said and sort of agree with that, that, you know,
11 this is important. We want to -- and have structures to do
12 outreach as early as possible, and very committed to
13 engaging with the Commission as early as possible.

14 Of course, doing anything during the holidays is
15 going to be problematic for anyone, but I do want to
16 stress, you know, the more that we can do earlier, labor's
17 committed to helping in that end.

18 And in the sense of, you know, we have some
19 concerns as well about changing the primary date. Not
20 ideal. Ideally, this all could work that we don't have to
21 -- that it can work. And I realize this is easier said
22 than done. Having to do work during the holidays, if
23 there's some way to avoid that, but also continue to keep
24 the continuity of the primary date, that would be the ideal
25 outcome. I realize that's easier said than done. But

1 we're committed to try and, as Dylan said, you know,
2 helping and getting engagement as early as possible.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

4 MS. HUERTA: Yeah. One of the things, one of the
5 things, too, when you think of the San Joaquin Valley, you
6 could put several states -- you could take many of those
7 states in the northeastern part of the United States and
8 put all of those states in the San Joaquin Valley. You
9 know, that's how big it is, you know, the -- when you think
10 of how big the San Joaquin Valley is. So just remember
11 that, that it represents a really, a whole amount of
12 acreage.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Alvaro, I saw you raising
15 your hand.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you. I have a
17 question with regards to technology and the use of
18 technology. One of the things that we have available, this
19 Redistricting Commission has available is the COI Tool, the
20 Community of Interest Tool. We also have internet access
21 where people can send in their information or their input
22 to an e-mail address. We also have social media as well.

23 So I wanted to get your perspectives on the use
24 of those tools that are now available, that weren't
25 previously available, and how it impacts this particular

1 community in the Central Valley.

2 MS. HUERTA: Well, we know that those platforms
3 are very important, and we are actually right now, in
4 addition to doing our food bank, like I mentioned, we're
5 having nine food banks this weekend in these different
6 areas that I mentioned. And we are going to be doing
7 community of interest surveys at the same time that we're
8 doing the food banks. But, yes, we will definitely take
9 advantage of the social platforms, also. So, thank you for
10 mentioning that.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Dylan, Bryan, do you want to
12 add anything to that?

13 MR. BLUM: I don't think I have anything to add
14 on that one.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. No, we're thrilled that, you
17 know, more -- any technology that makes this more
18 accessible I think is great. And, yeah, we're excited.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great.

20 Alicia -- I mean, sorry, Commissioner Fernandez.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That's okay. Either way is
22 fine.

23 Dolores, I just wanted to follow-up on Director
24 Hernandez' comment. I think what I would be more
25 interested in is the availability or lack of technology in

1 the San Joaquin. So, I think that's what I would -- would
2 concern me the most. I mean, we have this Community of
3 Interest Tool that's on-line, but I also live in a rural
4 area, and I know many of the students unfortunately don't
5 have access to internet. They don't -- I mean, even if
6 they had a computer, there's no signal. So I think that
7 would be the, one of the major concerns.

8 I am a daughter of an immigrant, so I know the
9 challenges that we have. So, maybe, can you address it
10 that way?

11 MS. HUERTA: Yes. Thank you for that. Yes, of
12 course, you know, we have many parts of, and again, the San
13 Joaquin Valley, there is no broadband availability at all.
14 Our children were of course really set back in terms their
15 academics, because they had to sometimes drive trucks with
16 hotspots so that they could even get on the computers to be
17 able to engage in their classes.

18 And this is a really, really, really big issue
19 for us here in the San Joaquin Valley. All of these
20 different communities, these under (indiscernible)
21 communities that do not have broadband access, and they
22 don't have computer access. I mean they have computers,
23 but they don't have the internet access. So it is, it's a
24 very big problem. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Kennedy.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

2 Dylan, you mentioned SEIU members speaking 31
3 languages. You know, we're dealing with the language issue
4 as well, but I just wondered if you could share with us
5 some of your lessons learned on what works best for, you
6 know, getting messages out to such a diverse group of
7 people. I mean, how do you prioritize? Do you put
8 everything out in all 31 languages, or, you know, what
9 works best? Thanks.

10 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Yeah, of course. And
11 thank you for the question. So, for us, you know, just
12 given we're very, we're intimately familiar with our
13 membership, who they are and where they are, right. And we
14 look to our locals for that as well.

15 And so, we, you know, we're going into a
16 community, we're in a certain community, that's always one
17 of the tops things, which languages are we going to need to
18 be able to communicate in. And that's always like at the
19 top. And this is with anything that we do, right, so
20 anytime we're going into kind of a campaign, if we're doing
21 any type of event, that's always at top of mind for us.

22 And so it's about we, how we prepare for that.
23 And so whether that's getting translators, ensuring that we
24 have translators available, ensuring that we have all of
25 our marketing materials translated into the languages that

1 we need. And having folks that are conversive in those
2 languages and able to communicate that to our members and
3 to our folks in these languages.

4 And so, I think it is about -- you know, it's not
5 necessarily every single language, every single time on
6 every single thing, but it is just knowing the communities
7 that we're going into, keeping that top of mind,
8 communicating with folks on the ground. That's a question
9 we ask, will you need translation? Are there going to be
10 any other languages we need to have this translated into?

11 And so I think really just making that just a
12 part of every single time we're going into an event or
13 communication, making that a part of the discussion of what
14 resources do we need to make be made available, and then
15 ensuring that we do that, right. And so, get that, get
16 those materials translated. Make sure that we have an
17 interpreter ready for these different languages.

18 And so, that's kind of an overtime, honestly,
19 because we're doing this so often. We need to really have
20 an idea of, okay, we're going to be in this community with
21 this local. This is the language we're likely going to
22 have to think about and then confirming that.

23 So, that's kind of how we approach it, and so
24 similarly, if we were doing outreach on something like
25 this, and we have already started to do that, making sure

1 we have materials translated as we're going into those
2 communities and talking with those members.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Thanks.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Angela -- I mean,
5 Commissioner Vazquez.

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'm Angela. Thank you so
7 much to our panelists for being here. Great presentation.

8 I'm curious, going back a question and thinking
9 about digital access and on-line organizing, thinking over
10 -- I'm curious if our panelists could think over the last
11 year. You know, we have had to necessarily use new tools
12 for not just organizing purposes, but for like activation
13 and engagement on issues, right. So, councils and boards
14 have been meeting on-line.

15 You know, so I imagine that your folks on the
16 ground, your organizers, have been using digital tools for
17 their organizing, and then also having to navigate sort of
18 government digital tools, or lack thereof, to give input
19 and participate in these political practices.

20 As we move, you know, as we head sort of out of
21 the depths of the pandemic, we're likely going to see a lot
22 of hybrid spaces. And so we at the Commission are trying
23 to think about how, how we preserve digital access to our
24 processes, while also acknowledging that like in person is
25 where a lot of the action happens, right.

1 So if any of you listened to any of our
2 conversation yesterday, we had a lot of conversation about,
3 you know, wanting to drive people to the digital tool,
4 which is, Draw My CA Community, right, and also creating
5 enough in-person space and time to get people's stories and
6 narratives, and get people to show up, right.

7 So, I would just be curious for your reflection
8 on how you see organizing, shifting in the coming year
9 digitally and then sort of in person. How do you see that,
10 and if you have any recommendations for how we integrate
11 this new hybrid model of digital and in person, that would
12 be great. I hope that was clear.

13 MS. HUERTA: On our end it's been very difficult
14 because so many of the people don't have the devices that
15 they need. And even if they have their cell phones,
16 they're not able to have wi-fi on their phones. And so,
17 it's been very, very difficult.

18 We have, we have had our canvassers going out
19 there even during the height of the pandemic, during the
20 Census, but they had their shields and they had their
21 masks, but of course it made it a little more difficult to
22 be able to communicate with people.

23 Now that we have, have received the good news
24 that people can start -- if people are vaccinated, that
25 they can start having meetings, et cetera, that will

1 definitely help us. But I do agree with you, that I think
2 that going forward, I think not only in your work, but I
3 think in our lives, it's going to be a hybrid of both
4 personal and work on social media, you know, on the
5 interest. I think that's just the new world that we're all
6 going to be living in.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. And I think this is a great
8 question. It's something that we think about in a lot of
9 the different spaces that we're entering into. What comes
10 to mind, and just because I gave some information on this
11 during the presentation was around this vaccine work that
12 we're doing, to get folks signed up and to get them
13 vaccinated.

14 So we had been in the planning process from this
15 -- again, we started about five weeks ago, but the planning
16 started much earlier than that, before vaccine was kind of
17 widespread and widely available.

18 And so, in thinking about that, we knew that we
19 were going into these communities that are some of the
20 hardest, the hardest to reach, and have been the most
21 impacted by health disparities.

22 And so a lot of that, and there's a lot of
23 discussion around, you know, this, the My Turn California
24 and the access to technology. And, you know, like the
25 other folks who were very computer literate were able to

1 sign up and get these appointments, and other folks that
2 weren't as technology literate were being left behind in
3 this. And so that was something that we were really
4 thinking about.

5 And so I think this just goes to -- and like just
6 the fact that you're having these conversations now and
7 looking into what we're going to need to do down the line,
8 is really about that planning.

9 So we're looking, okay, so we're going to really
10 be going into the field in April, so by that time we should
11 have a high level of folks that are vaccinated. So what
12 does that mean, right?

13 So, okay, that means maybe we can do some door-
14 to-door signing up with folks, because we're going to be
15 able to find organizers who are vaccinated and can go into
16 these communities, obviously with all the public
17 protections, but do some of that more in-person work,
18 right, that's going to be necessary to reach some of these
19 harder to reach communities, and get them signed up and get
20 shots in arms.

21 And so it's about like that type of thinking and
22 planning, which is like, again, what we're doing here on
23 like how we can best do that. And so that's -- and that's
24 proved really successful, right. So we've been able to
25 have 160,000 conversations, and we have folks that are out

1 on the doors, you know, knocking and getting folks signed
2 up, and we've got those like 11,000 shots in arms.

3 And so, it's just, it's understanding that, you
4 know, we're not going to be able to necessarily like make
5 -- potentially be full-fledged as we would like to be, like
6 in person having big, massive events. But like where can
7 we do that strategically to ensure that, you know, for
8 folks that don't have access to some of these on-line
9 tools, how can they engage in kind of the more analog, in-
10 person way that's still safe? And just kind of thinking
11 ahead.

12 And, again, it's like this is why it's great that
13 we have this time to start thinking about this and having
14 these conversations. So it's just like that planning
15 process and trying make -- and imagining what's possible
16 and what we can do to augment what we already have. So,
17 yeah, that's just what comes to mind for me.

18 MR. BLUM: Sorry. I was just, just say, yeah,
19 something similar. I do think you've raised a very good
20 question (indiscernible), and I have no magic bullet for
21 this, but it is I think the hybrid in presenting as many
22 options as possible. There are barriers if it's all
23 digital. There are, there are also of course barriers for
24 some folks if it's all in person, and, you know, unfair to
25 ask someone that doesn't have digital access to do this all

1 digital on-line. They're disenfranchised. But also, how
2 do you get more engagement if, you know, if -- particularly
3 for working people?

4 For (indiscernible) if you worked and nurses
5 worked an eight-hour shift, you're in the suburbs, do you
6 want to have to drive an hour, hour and a half, to go to an
7 in-person meeting to make your voice heard? So I think
8 having a variety of options for people to make their voice
9 heard is the key.

10 MS. HUERTA: I --

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, go ahead.

12 MS. HUERTA: -- I just want to mention one other
13 point. When I was talking about the sort of the economy of
14 the San Joaquin Valley, and I did mention that we have, of
15 course, the present conflicts that is very strong here with
16 the 22 prisons I believe.

17 But, also, when you think of agriculture, I think
18 of agri-business. This is not a place where we have small
19 farmers. These are plantations. So, a small farmer in our
20 area will be somebody that has 1,000 workers. And so,
21 again, you know, just again to have that concept of what
22 you're dealing with when you talk about the San Joaquin
23 Valley, in some ways we're a little bit like the dark ages,
24 okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

1 Anybody else? Okay. Linda -- I mean,
2 Commissioner Akutagawa.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I mean, actually, I
4 don't know who this should be directed to. It's either
5 probably Bryan or Dylan in particular, I mean, given the
6 organizations that you're presenting.

7 I want to come back to that question about
8 language and language access. And I'm curious as to -- and
9 you may have said this earlier, and I apologize if you did,
10 but I'm curious as to, you know, who -- what are the
11 languages that your members predominantly speak?

12 You know, which are the communities that you may
13 be -- especially, you know, like if you had to think about,
14 what are your top languages that you're trying to provide
15 service in?

16 And part of the reason why I'm asking is because
17 I'm always curious, because, you know, this is what we have
18 to do now, too, and I'm hyperconscious of it. I did go on
19 to your websites to check and see like what kind of
20 language assistance you're providing in terms of access
21 through your websites.

22 And I'm just curious as to whether or not, you
23 know, there's other means through which somebody who may
24 not speak English well, how they would be able to access
25 your services.

1 MS. HUERTA: Well, at the Dolores Huerta
2 Foundation we focus primarily on the Spanish speaking
3 community, but the allies that we have, that we work with,
4 we do have some of the groups that work -- the Jakara
5 Movement, they work with the Punjab community. And so that
6 they're able to communicate with them.

7 Up in the Fresno area where we have a lot of
8 Cambodians and Hmongs there, that are there, then we have
9 people that we work with, especially with our youth group,
10 that work with people in the those languages, also.

11 So, we kind of, kind of depend on the allies.
12 That we all work together to reach the goals of the
13 communities that you mentioned, that have different
14 language skills.

15 The Filipino community, which also is a very
16 large community in the valley, most of them are English
17 speaking. I don't think -- I can't think of any of them
18 that don't speak English, because I think that that is
19 taught to them even in the Philippines.

20 MR. BLUM: I'll defer to Dylan, next to me. He
21 had sort of talked about the slides with the 31, with 31
22 languages.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. So, I can get you -- and I
24 can follow-up with you, Commissioner, with kind of a
25 breakdown. We have that data just in terms of what the

1 breakdown of the language speaking and where it
2 predominantly is.

3 Spanish speaking is obviously a large one. The
4 Chinese Cantonese, Korean, you know, Russian. We're often
5 -- and Russian, Vietnamese, four API languages as well.

6 But, again, I can follow-up with you and give you
7 like the actual breakdown of what our languages is in our
8 membership, because I think that gives a pretty good sense,
9 and I know we have that data. I was trying to pull it
10 quickly. I don't have it at the top of my -- at the top
11 here, but I can definitely follow-up with you and send that
12 over for sure.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I mean, part of
14 the reason why I'm actually curious as to what and who
15 you're serving, is because obviously to me, you know, you
16 have a membership in who you're able to also communicate to
17 and how you engage them in the redistricting process is of
18 interest, you know, I would think to all of us.

19 Because then that will also help us to
20 understand, you know, how you can help mobilize your
21 members to help also provide, you know, input to us, and
22 we're, we have at least our -- whether it's use of
23 technology, Communities of Interest Tool, or even in any
24 language, you know, we're intending to translate and/or
25 depending on where we'll be providing interpretation.

1 But I also see that you also play a role as well,
2 too, in terms of ensuring that communication is also
3 happening from us to your members, you know, in the
4 languages that they're most comfortable speaking as well,
5 too.

6 So that's why I was curious as to, you know, who
7 you serve and how -- and what languages especially -- you
8 know, you can have 31 languages but, you know, how do you
9 really serve them in 31 languages is what I'm trying to
10 understand.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

12 MR. BLUM: And if I could just jump -- or, sorry.
13 On that point, just so I'm talk -- you know, as, you know,
14 31 languages, absolutely, and sort of, you know -- of
15 course it also makes sense that, you know, I think Dolores
16 sort of referenced the Hmong community in a certain part of
17 the State. And, you know, we're going to see sort of, you
18 know, Vietnamese speakers, you know, perhaps maybe more in
19 Santa Clara County, and then some parts of Orange County.

20 So, the value that I think, you know, the labor
21 movement also can bring is, particularly as we're organized
22 locally, the 23 labor councils that are in depth in their
23 community, and our 1,200 unions, their reflections of their
24 community.

25 And so they are the experts of -- you know, it's

1 not one union that's an expert in speaking and reaching out
2 to Hmong workers or reaching out to Cambodian workers, it's
3 the union in that community, because they look like their
4 communities.

5 And it is the structure of that, I think of the
6 labor movement, because we're in every community, because
7 they talk to their workers, they have to talk to their
8 workers and their membership on a daily basis, I think
9 there are, you know, a major part of the State, there's
10 going to be 1,200 -- with our 1,200 unions, there's a 12 --
11 probably 1,200 different answers on how they reach out to
12 the members.

13 I would just say, that's the value the labor
14 movement brings because we have -- they have had to figure
15 it out, because they have to speak to their members on a
16 daily basis. And it's almost a specific region-by-region
17 and union-by-union answer.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, Commissioner Turner.

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you. Thank you.
20 Very, very helpful. I wonder if I can have you think
21 through something else with me, with us.

22 So, getting back to just outreach into the
23 communities, and getting our Californians to participate.
24 And so maybe some around broadband access, but maybe not.
25 I'm thinking in terms of those that typically we go out --

1 and, Dolores, I know how we typically do it in the Central
2 Valley. And we go out and do canvassing or phone banking,
3 and, you know, we reach out different ways.

4 Redistricting is not as accessible, not as easily
5 embraced and understood as some of the typical matters and
6 issues when you go out, regardless if we're trying to get
7 people to, yes, be vaccinated through COVID, or
8 participating in the Census, or what we want them to do on
9 a ballot, or get involved, et cetera.

10 I'm wondering how are you thinking about
11 canvassing in the same manner or phone banking or getting
12 into the rural areas with such a complex message. Have you
13 had conversations about where there would be differences?
14 And because it matters as far as how many people we think
15 we're able to actually reach that will be able to respond
16 in a manner that will be useful for this Commission.

17 MS. HUERTA: We have actually had some webinars,
18 and we have had as many as 50 people that have attended
19 them. And we've already had probably about three or four
20 in English and in Spanish, so that people can understand.

21 And we do have some really good examples. I
22 mentioned our -- when we got the Kern High School District
23 to redistrict. And we have these beautiful maps that we
24 showed where these five trustee -- four of the five
25 trustees, like I said, live within five miles of each other

1 in this affluent district.

2 And one of the districts was like a rainbow,
3 because it went from one side of Bakersfield all the way to
4 the other side. We had another community that was just cut
5 in half, so that they could make themselves a little
6 district there.

7 So we have some really great examples that we can
8 show, and so people understand it. And as I said, because
9 they are -- you might say the victim, when they don't have
10 representation, it's something that they very easily
11 understand.

12 And now that we are able to -- the announcement
13 that we had from the disease control, that we can now take
14 off our masks and have these small meetings, then we intend
15 to have many, many meetings. So, our organizers are really
16 going to go out there into the communities.

17 And we have organizers that will -- so, we don't
18 have one organizer per town, so to speak, we have to have
19 one organizer (indiscernible) four or five different towns,
20 where they can have these meetings to explain to people
21 about redistricting. And getting them to engage, so that
22 they can participate and they can show up and give their
23 presentations and their ideas.

24 So -- and, also, you know, we're part of a larger
25 group. We have several of the nonprofit organizations that

1 we're all working together. And so we can take care of the
2 issues of language, and making sure that everybody has
3 knowledge and that they're accessible to these meetings, so
4 they all know what's going on.

5 This is a big deal for all of us. We know how
6 important this is. We know that the decisions that are
7 made on redistricting, this is going to govern us for the
8 next 10 years. And so -- and by the way, we started
9 working on redistricting when we were doing the Census,
10 because we wanted people to understand that when they
11 signed up for the Census, that meant about who was going to
12 representing them, how many resources that are going to be
13 coming into their community. And the people of course that
14 are elected are the ones that make those decisions.

15 So, we're not starting from day one here. We've
16 actually been working on redistricting since we started our
17 work on the Census, which was, you know, over a year ago.
18 So, I think people are in tune, and now we just have to
19 bring them to the table and bring them to the meetings.
20 But we're very confident that we'll be able to do that.
21 And we're, by the way, trying to get additional resources,
22 so some of the other organizations can also be resources,
23 so that they can help on this effort.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Dylan or Bryan, did you want
25 to add anything?

1 Go ahead. Dylan, did you want to add something?

2 MR. JOHNSON: I think I just want to -- yeah, I
3 think it's about this -- I mean, I'll piggyback on a lot of
4 what Dolores said, right. So having these types of broader
5 meetings where we can bring a lot of folks together, both
6 digital and inclusively in person to disseminate this
7 information, and just really continue to stay engaged in a
8 real way around this. And it's, yeah, it's going to be
9 really important. So I think a lot of what Dolores has
10 really got to (indiscernible), right. I think
11 (indiscernible).

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great.

13 MS. HUERTA: Excuse me. Yeah. We will be using
14 the press. In fact, I'm doing a press event next week
15 about the redistricting. And, you know, again, when we
16 were doing the Census, we did a lot, a lot of press around
17 the Census. And we will be using our social media, also,
18 to get the word out to people.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Bryan, you were going to say
20 something?

21 MR. BLUM: Yeah. Just to say that I also do
22 think, you know, as we have been having these conversations
23 with our affiliate unions and our labor councils, taking
24 advantage of structures that already exist. Again, we
25 have, you know, monthly membership meetings for our unions,

1 monthly, you know, monthly meetings for our labor councils.

2 So, piggybacking off of structures that already
3 exist, and putting time for redistricting on those already
4 occurring meetings, I think is going to be a helpful way,
5 as well as, again, finding different special occasions,
6 specialized meetings to bring folks together as well.

7 So I do think, you know, part of this is us
8 getting our influence to focus as this (indiscernible),
9 understanding then how do we make this time of regular
10 occurring times when we already have our members coming
11 together.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, all.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, we're getting close to
14 break, and I just wanted to check in to see if anybody had
15 any additional questions or -- okay. Commission Toledo.

16 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Quick question for Ms.
17 Huerta. You had spoken the -- your support for and
18 encouragement of potentially moving the primary date
19 further. I'm just wondering, I -- we've heard some, from
20 I believe SEIU and others, some just concern about the
21 tension -- some concern that individuals might not be --
22 and by moving the primary, it might just, it might result
23 in fear of people participating in the primary potentially.

24 I'm just curious about your thoughts on those
25 issues, and whether that's something that concerns you as

1 well, or what your thinking is around that.

2 MS. HUERTA: I think if the primary is held in
3 June, people kind of associate voting with June. And even
4 if it's not on the regular first Tuesday of June, I think
5 as long as the primary is held in June, that that would be
6 important.

7 And I know that there's some tension because some
8 of the candidates are concerned about, you know, what it's
9 going to look like. But, again, if we can, if we can have
10 the primary held towards the end of June, instead of the
11 beginning of June, I think that might give you all more
12 time so that you can see what the Census data looks like.

13 Because we, again, we know we're going to be at a
14 disadvantage because so many people did not get counted.
15 And that some of these districts are going to have been
16 redrawn. And, of course, we're all really concerned
17 because we all know, and as we said before, the decisions
18 that are going to be made are going to affect us 10 years
19 from today. So it's really, really important.

20 I think -- you know, we just do it as carefully
21 as possible, and have as much input as possible that we
22 can. And with all of the limitations that you are faced
23 with, that you can do the best job possible, and have as
24 many participants as possible. I hope that answers your
25 question.

1 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you.

2 MS. HUERTA: You're welcome.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, Commissioner Andersen.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We need to take a break.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So our -- Bryan and Dolores,
7 Bryan and Dylan, are you able to stick around for another
8 -- let's take a 15-minute break. Can you stick around?

9 MS. HUERTA: Sure.

10 MR. BLUM: Until when?

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So we'll take a break until
12 about 3:10.

13 MR. BLUM: Okay.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And then we'll come back.

15 MR. BLUM: Okay.

16 MS. HUERTA: Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay? Okay, great. Thank you.

18 (Off the record at 2:56 p.m.)

19 (Back on the record at 3:10 p.m.)

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you so
21 much, and welcome back everyone. We are continuing our
22 discussion on Agenda Item Number 14, Labor Panel, we did
23 have -- we're in the midst of asking questions to the
24 wonderful presentations that were done by our panel
25 members.

1 So, I believe Dylan, you were very anxious to
2 provide some more information.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Jumping the gun here. So, yeah, so
4 I just wanted to make sure that I was able to circle back
5 to Commissioner Toledo's point around the primary. So I
6 just wanted to add in like our real concern with that is
7 around voter confusion, and by extension, you know, voter
8 disenfranchisement. And so we're really worried about that
9 with the moving of primary, and do see that kind of as a
10 last resort.

11 I know you were talking about, you know, ensuring
12 that we have enough funds and for outreach around the
13 holiday. And so, we just really encourage the Commission
14 to even ask for more funds to just do some of that outreach
15 and to frontload some of that work, like you've been doing.
16 Because really, you know, at that point, once it's moved,
17 that's -- you'll have to communicate any move to 22,000,000
18 voters across California, who are used to having that
19 primary the first week of June, right.

20 And so, the cost and the outreach, and the voter
21 information that will need to be done, that's 22, you know,
22 with those 22,000,000 voters that's just of concern to us.
23 And so that's our real worry with that. And so I think as
24 much as we can kind of frontload some of this work, and do
25 some of this outreach around the Commission, the

1 Commission's work and around redistricting, you know, I
2 think that's where the focus should be. And then kind of
3 the moving this as a last resort, just because that is.

4 Voter confusion is a real concern, because it's
5 always been, it's been the first week of June since, what,
6 the 40's? There's only been like one time where it wasn't.
7 So, that our, that's our real concern around that. So I
8 just wanted to make sure that that was clear, and that's
9 where our concern lies.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Dylan.

11 And I think Commissioner Andersen.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank all of
13 you for participating and giving us your discussions and
14 your knowledge about your groups. And for really bringing
15 forward the outreach. Outreach is so -- the first step is
16 outreach, and then you can get into participation. And we
17 need that so we can, (indiscernible) lag time.

18 And then so it dovetails right into your, the
19 frontloading. Because our -- we're doing things a little
20 differently. We're able to do things differently this time
21 around than 2010. Because 2010 it all sort of happened,
22 all participation essentially started happening as soon as
23 the Census data got there, which is participation and line
24 drawing all at the same time. And that leads to confusion,
25 and what are we talking about, and what's going on.

1 And so, the previous Commission really worked at
2 that and came up with ideas. And so we do have what's --
3 we're talking about this Community of Interest Tool, and we
4 are doing, we're actually having community of interest
5 meetings, input meetings, and right -- you know, before.
6 All of this is before the Census data.

7 So -- and we want to make sure that your groups,
8 as you have so eloquently brought forward, there's a lag
9 time between how the harder the group is, that the fewer
10 that they've been able to participate, often harder is to
11 reach out to them, and harder to get them to participate.
12 And the idea of, how can we -- we're coming up with hybrid
13 models, we're coming up with on-line models, we're actually
14 having paper forms of this COI Tool. How can we help you
15 get your groups who you are the trusted messengers with, be
16 able to participate and participate now? You know, they
17 don't have to wait until, you know, we're out there
18 standing in your community.

19 Now for some that is by far the best, but others,
20 particularly ones who are, you know, doing multiple shifts
21 of work, and, you know, your hours are all strange, it's a
22 lot easier if you could do something on your own time, and
23 either mail it in or access to -- you know, e-mail it if
24 you can do that. Go on-line if you can do that, but that's
25 not available for everybody.

1 So, how can we help you reach your groups even,
2 and how can we reach your groups then through you?

3 MS. HUERTA: I think if you have materials that
4 could be provided, and be specific about the kind of
5 information that you need, we see some of that now with the
6 community surveys that we're already starting to do the
7 community surveys. We're already doing some of this. Some
8 of it in person, some of it on-line. I think that will
9 help us.

10 So, any type of materials that could be provided
11 to our organizations, I think that would be very helpful.
12 And any kind of educational materials, also, that would --
13 that could also help us a lot.

14 So, you know, like I said, we were talking about
15 redistricting since we started working on the Census. So,
16 it's not a new thing, but we do have all of these hundreds
17 of communities that we have to reach out to. So -- and I
18 don't know that the Commissioners have any type, a kind of
19 resources, but -- resources. And if you could help us,
20 especially with some of our allied organizations, we have
21 these coalitions of other groups, but a lot of them are
22 smaller groups, and they also lack resources.

23 So, any, any word to funders out there to say,
24 look, give some of these CPO's, these nonprofit
25 organizations, help them get some of the resources so they

1 could staff up, and we can reach out to some of these
2 communities. So, the -- so we don't leave anybody behind.
3 So we can get that full participation that you need and
4 that we want.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I agree the materials are
6 super helpful. So, materials the Commission can provide to
7 us, that we can then get to our groups. The Commission has
8 done a great job in their offer to meet with our folks and
9 give an overview of redistricting, which I think has been
10 like so great and so helpful.

11 So I think it's in those types of outreach
12 efforts where folks are -- you know, where the Commission
13 is engaged with us. And then also just being -- creating
14 what the most effective way for us to kind of communicate.
15 You know, to bring what we're getting, because we're
16 bottom-up organizations, right.

17 And so we're collecting folks from our members
18 across the State, and so what's the most -- what's the best
19 way for us to communicate that to the Commission, which I
20 think you're already setting up some of these great tools
21 and some of these hybrid options.

22 And so just being really clear with us about like
23 this, it would be really helpful if you communicated in
24 this way, any of those types of tips, so we can start to
25 plan in terms of like funneling that information over to

1 you all to be the most helpful, I think would also be
2 great. But, yeah, just continuing to engage materials are
3 always super helpful. And, I mean, you guys are obviously
4 doing a great job in these type of forums. And so, I mean,
5 I just really commend the Commission on all that. But,
6 yeah, the more the merrier.

7 MR. BLUM: You know, I'm also thinking -- I'll
8 also just throw up on us, what is -- what are more that we
9 can do that sort of gets you good input and good product to
10 deal with? And I -- you know, we have talked about the COI
11 Tool. I do think that, you know, maybe doing some more
12 outreach with our folks about sort of the utilization of
13 the COI Tool and how it's going to, how it's going to help
14 the Commission do their job. And a little bit more
15 understanding of the COI Tool, I think that could be
16 helpful with us getting you good inputs.

17 MS. HUERTA: Also, I think any kind of major
18 media, if, again, if major media could be put out there.
19 And not only just on television, but also radio. Because
20 so many of the people are workers, and they do listen to
21 radio. I have to tell you this. Spanish radio is
22 extremely, extremely popular. So, having things on Spanish
23 radio, things on Spanish television.

24 Also, I know in the valley there is one T.V.
25 channel that is a Punjabi channel. And I think on the

1 public radio stations, that could be Linguay (phonetic),
2 they also have different programs, the different Asian
3 languages, also.

4 So I think a lot of that media would be -- radio
5 media, television media could also be very helpful to let
6 people know, Commissioners are reaching out to you. They
7 want you to participate. This is going to affect your
8 community. Redistricting is going to, you know, kind of
9 govern your life for the next 10 years, so we want you all
10 to come in and participate.

11 MR. BLUM: Can I ask just -- and I realize it's a
12 question. But I really do want to also just echo that
13 point again also, about local in-language media. I'm just
14 sort of citing that as a (indiscernible), I've sort of seen
15 that from the lens of political campaigns, and also just
16 that we'd better talk to our members.

17 And we did a research project on past governors'
18 races. And particularly with -- this was with some of the
19 Asian-Pacific Islander communities, and there was great --
20 they had great levels of information about what was
21 happening in sort of, you know, the country from which they
22 or their parents came from. Great levels of knowledge of
23 that. Great levels of what was happening in their local
24 community, but there was sort of this donut hole -- and
25 some knowledge of what was happening.

1 I was like, there's this donut hole of knowledge
2 about California politics, and it was because so many, a
3 lot of folks in these communities got their information
4 from in-language local media that covered, you know, news
5 from back home, or would cover, you know, big, important
6 national news, and, of course, cover the local news, but it
7 doesn't cover California politics.

8 They don't -- these entities don't have
9 California Bureau or Sacramento Bee as a (indiscernible).
10 So there's a, there was just in our sense that there was
11 just California-specific politics, state-level-politics
12 language. There's this donut hole, that these communities
13 that we're talking about, they rely on in-language, local
14 media, whether it's T.V., radio or newspapers. So -- and
15 now digital.

16 I would strongly just also stress that as a way
17 to really get to some of these underserved communities that
18 may not be reached otherwise. Just completely agree with
19 what Dolores meant about that point. But I just, a light
20 went off in my head with some of this research we had done
21 in the past couple years on this issue.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much. This
24 has been an amazing panel, and just really informative and
25 so helpful. So, thank you all so much for sharing your

1 time and being here, as well as for subcommittee for
2 bringing this together.

3 You know, so many thoughts kind of jumping
4 through my mind here. First, Bryan, I would love to see
5 that research. I actually have some projects looking at
6 home-country politics, so I'd love to see the results from
7 your studies.

8 Second, I think, you know, I think it's really
9 interesting, and I just really appreciate (recording
10 inaudible) conversation around the timeline. And I think
11 just hearing the different perspectives here, you know,
12 just reflects so much on our own conversations, because I
13 think that we're torn in terms of which direction to move
14 this in. And, clearly, it sounds like there's some split
15 here as well about how to proceed.

16 I've actually been really interested, also -- you
17 know, what I haven't heard thus far is the impact because
18 we run on top two primary. Often the primaries are where a
19 lot of the action happens, and very decisive in terms of
20 the long-term outcome of elections. So I think that's also
21 an interesting piece to think about when potentially
22 considering moving the primary.

23 What I really wanted to ask, however, is, you
24 know, we've heard from some community-based organizations
25 and other groups on the ground, that they are planning to

1 submit to us their own district maps for our consideration.

2 I was really curious if your groups are planning
3 to do that? If your infrastructure supports that? I
4 certainly hear the involvement of mobilizing your members
5 to submit the communities of interest information. But I
6 was curious if that's something that was on your radar or
7 agenda as we move forward, also, that certainly plays into
8 some of our considerations around the timeline as well.

9 MS. HUERTA: Well, on behalf of the Dolores
10 Huerta Foundation and some of our allied groups, yeah, we
11 are going to be presenting maps, also.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so
13 much.

14 And Cal Labor Fed and SEIU, is that a part of
15 your plans as well?

16 MR. BLUM: I would say that it -- it's not sort
17 of proactively guaranteed that we will be submitting plans.
18 I do think it's a possibility. And I would say more sort
19 of figuring out with some of the labor councils and some of
20 our unions, I -- for now I don't know that we're going to
21 -- I would not say that we had plans to have a California
22 labor map presented, but I reserved my right to change our
23 mind as more info comes.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, similarly. And I know we have
25 -- a lot of our discussion so far has focused on those

1 communities of interest, like you said. And so I think
2 that's going to be a big part in really defining what those
3 look like for us, and thinking about that creatively and
4 how that impacts our communities.

5 That may result in, you know what I mean, in some
6 (indiscernible) maps, but I'm not sure. And I can follow-
7 up with some of our other folks that have also been engaged
8 in this work and get back to you with some of their
9 additional thoughts, too. But -- so that may result in
10 that. But I know for a fact -- like communities of
11 interest obviously, we're really trying to think about that
12 in creative and important ways, and to be able to
13 communicate for sure, for sure. So, yeah, that may come
14 out.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

16 And I know, Commissioner Turner, you had a
17 question?

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I did. I wanted to
19 follow-up on, for our panels that also asked what can they
20 do? And I just wanted quite simply to ask that you ensure
21 that you follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, connect
22 us to your network for each of your -- for labor, SEIU, for
23 Dolores Huerta Foundation.

24 I think that we have an amazing video that is
25 available, that has the redistricting basics presentation

1 that you'll be able to share at your leisure to any of your
2 groups in anyplace that -- so I think that would be
3 wonderful.

4 Some of the materials that you're asking for, to
5 some extent, is in -- on our website. Now we are
6 constantly looking for additional pieces that we can
7 develop. And so I just would love to have you go to that
8 www.wedrawthe -- wait a minute. I'm mixing it up now,
9 Fredy. I'm trying to do a plug for you and mixing it up.
10 Wedrawthelines -- where does CA go? WedrawthelinesCA.org.
11 And -- but go on to those websites. But also, if you would
12 then push it out in material that you're providing and
13 encourage your members as well to follow. Because as
14 things change, as articles come up, we do have some of us -
15 - Commissioners have done radio spots as well. You can
16 kind of pull those down and play them as well for whatever
17 the meetings, whatever the gatherings that you're having.

18 So I loved, Bryan, earlier when you talked about
19 your meetings, regular meetings and sessions that you've
20 having. I think the more you're talking about it --
21 Dolores Huerta, of course I'm very familiar with the maps
22 that you all did, kind of even in parking lots and stuff,
23 getting people to participate. The more that can happen,
24 the better.

25 I just, again, want to state that redistricting

1 is something that can be approached once. It needs to
2 continue to be talked about. And I wanted to just kind of
3 agree. I know that DHF has been a rabbit out front, you
4 know, way earlier on, back to 2010, et cetera. A lot of
5 our -- the other organizations are coming along now.

6 So whereas there is the experience of those that
7 have the deep-seeded knowledge, all of what you're doing
8 now will also make it accessible for those that's just
9 waking to the importance and the critical nature of
10 redistricting. So, tag us, like us, follow us, and connect
11 us to your network as well.

12 MS. HUERTA: Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Turner.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just to say on that note
14 that I did present to the California Labor Federation this
15 week. We had a major technology glitch. I disappeared
16 within five minutes I think into the presentation, and it
17 took about 10 to get back on. But I do thank you very much
18 for allowing that opportunity.

19 And I want to remind everyone, you know, what
20 Bryan said about there are California -- you know, there
21 are Federation groups at our local levels, and that's a
22 good place to reach out.

23 I will send you all as part of your thank-you e-
24 mail links to everything that Commissioner Turner brought
25 up. We -- Fabio (phonetic), the linguist, did do a really

1 good piece, half-an-hour piece in Spanish on redistricting,
2 and that would be great if you can share it with your
3 Spanish speaking, because I -- not because they interviewed
4 me, but really the reporter was really, really good, and
5 she really went in depth and did a really good explanation
6 about it all.

7 And Commissioner Kennedy is shaking his head, so
8 it's not just because it was me.

9 And I see Commissioner Vazquez.

10 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. I just wanted to
11 flag for our panelists and -- that we do, we have a social
12 media tool kit on our website that our communications team
13 has been putting together.

14 And definitely, you know, as we ramp up our
15 engagement and activation efforts, those tool kits will
16 probably be, you know, easiest to send out far and wide to
17 your members and to folks on the ground. So I just wanted
18 to flag that for you.

19 And also for folks who are listening at home, a
20 reminder that if you have network out there that you are
21 trying to get involved in this process, that social media
22 tool kit is the place to sort of monitor for those, for
23 those details on how to do digital outreach.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great. Well I know we have,
25 we've got a packed agenda, so if there's no additional

1 questions, I'd like to thank you all for joining us today,
2 and really continuing our learning and our engagement with
3 the greater community.

4 And we thank you so much for everything you do to
5 help the community know about redistricting and helping us
6 really create fair and representative maps. So, thank you
7 so much for your time today.

8 MS. HUERTA: Thank you very much.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

10 MS. HUERTA: And I just want to mention one more
11 thing. Is that of course in addition to agriculture here
12 in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley, we have
13 oil. So, we have a large population that works in the oil
14 industry, and of course there's some political tension
15 going on.

16 Kern County, in addition to being the largest oil
17 -- petroleum producer, but we are also number one in terms
18 of clean energy, okay. So just to let people know a little
19 bit more to add to the complexion of the area that you're
20 dealing with.

21 So, again, thank you very much for allowing us to
22 be able to share out information with you. Thank you so
23 much. And good luck, Commissioners. Good luck.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you so much. Thank
25 you.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's a great panel. Really
2 appreciated that.

3 Thank you, Commissioner Sinay and Fornaciari for
4 bringing that panel. It's a good way to end out the
5 panels, so thank you so much.

6 So with that, we actually are kind of done. So,
7 the only -- I think we've gone over everything. The only
8 thing we have, and I don't, I don't really believe there's
9 a discussion right now, Agenda Item 16 is discussion of
10 future meeting dates and agenda items.

11 And we actually have already put together the
12 schedule for the next few months. So unless there's any
13 changes to that, we can move forward with it.

14 I did mention earlier, I want to make sure that
15 everyone catches that the initial schedule that was posted
16 inadvertently had a Zone J on August 7th, 2021. That was
17 not correct, so we removed that.

18 And then also the initial one that was posted
19 the week of August 20th, some of those dates were, were not
20 correct. So, the correct schedule is now posted on-line.
21 So please refer to the on-line version. And I think that
22 was it for the dates.

23 Commissioner Andersen.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: On the dates, in terms of
25 the -- you know, there were a couple of versions of the

1 full, everything date -- calendar. And is it, is the
2 latest correct one dated 5-dot-11, 2021?

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No. The latest one,
4 unfortunately it does have a different -- it has an earlier
5 date. But if you go on the website, on our website under
6 the handouts, it will be on there. It actually says right
7 now, version --

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: 5-dot-six.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: 5-6. Uh-huh, 5-6.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And that's the current
11 one?

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, that's the current one.
13 The one that is currently posted is the current version.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: All right. Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: An accurate version. So thank
16 you so much for confirming that.

17 And we do have a meeting scheduled for this
18 coming Tuesday, May 18th. Right now I'm keeping the
19 meeting. There's a few things that we might have --
20 discuss.

21 If Commissioner Akutagawa and Director Kaplan and
22 I can get together, we may bring back the language access
23 recommendations at that point. And the reason for trying
24 to do that is, the sooner we get the information to our
25 staff, the sooner they can start planning for everything.

1 So that's one thing to consider.

2 Another thing, Commissioner Andersen is checking
3 with our line drawers to see if they might be available on
4 the 18th to try to do a dry run of reviewing all the public
5 input we have received to date. So just kind of go through
6 that to see what that would look like.

7 And it is the first day of our chief counsel, and
8 I know that our Legal Affairs Committee has a meeting right
9 before our meeting. So, regardless, there will be a
10 meeting with the Legal Affairs, and I will let everyone
11 know as soon as I can in terms of whether there will be a
12 full Commission meeting as well.

13 Is there -- Commissioner Akutagawa.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Also, I'm hoping that
15 we'll also hear -- have heard back from the Office of Legal
16 Services by next week. So if we could, can we also plan to
17 make sure that we'll be coming forward with a report from
18 the grant subcommittee, too.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you for
20 (indiscernible) that to us as well.

21 Is there any else?

22 Commissioner Ahmad.

23 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. If I can ask folks, if
24 they haven't done so already, to provide a time estimate
25 for your agenda items, subcommittee report outs for the

1 meeting of the 24th and the 25th, that would be greatly
2 appreciated.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

4 Anything else? Okay. So the time is 3:34, and
5 we will -- 3:35, it just flipped, so we will --
6 Commissioner Turner, are you saying good-bye or you want
7 something? Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Do we -- public comment.
9 Do we have public comment?

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That's right. Thank you so
11 much. Thank you. Public comment.

12 Katy. Sorry --

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- I think I was a little
15 anxious, a bit anxious.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It's Friday
17 afternoon, you know.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
20 transparency and public participation in our process, the
21 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.

22 To call in dial the telephone number provided on
23 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,
24 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
25 feed. It is 93330293366 for this meeting. When prompted

1 to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

2 Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a
3 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star-
4 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When
5 it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says,
6 "the host would like you to talk," and to press star-six to
7 speak.

8 If you would like to give you name, please state
9 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
10 provide your name to give public comment.

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

16 And we do -- and this is end of day, end of
17 meeting public comment, and we do have a caller here with
18 their hand raised.

19 And go ahead. The floor is yours.

20 MS. HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much. This is
21 Helen Hutchinson with the League of Women Voters of
22 California.

23 And I wanted to thank the Commissioners for your
24 very quick response about your policy on subcommittees.
25 It's a really clear and helpful statement. I hope that it

1 will be posted on your website.

2 One small nuance that still needs to be addressed
3 is your definition of redistricting matters. Because your
4 definition differs from that of the 2010 Commission, people
5 may be confused. You adopted your more narrow definition
6 after a lot of discussion, and it is based on the advice of
7 counsel. And I -- so hope you can highlight that either as
8 an update or an addendum to the statement or something
9 else. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Hutchinson.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one
12 more caller with their hand raised.

13 Go ahead. The floor is yours.

14 MR. CONNOLY (telephonic): Yes, hello. My name
15 is Kevin Connoly, and I've been following redistricting
16 nationally on places like the Gerrymandering Project on
17 Facebook. Redistricting partners' e-mails and Hani Lo
18 Wang's Twitter account.

19 Regarding Twitter -- regarding timelines, when
20 disputes happen temperatures can run high, but just some
21 perspective.

22 The Utah legislature gutted their voter-approved
23 Commission and replaced with a watered down legislative
24 version.

25 After a year of forming, the New York Commission

1 didn't even have a website because the legislature hadn't
2 approved their budget.

3 Colorado's legislature pushed their Commission to
4 draw up preliminary maps using survey estimate data, not
5 even the Census.

6 Compare this to California. A blog reported that
7 the legislature doubled the budget from 10 years ago, and
8 more is on the way. California's 2020 lawsuit is the first
9 case I can find of someone going to court to get a deadline
10 extension.

11 On Facebook other states are definitely jealous
12 of our COI Tool developed for you. People would have been
13 just as grumpy if the legacy data wasn't being processed,
14 and your Commission had to wait an extra month after
15 everyone else to get started.

16 This isn't a threat to independent redistricting.
17 Check out other states to see what that looks like. It's
18 just figuring out what the court said before. Is there now
19 a need to ask for something else, and if so, what is
20 reasonable?

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for comment.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that is all of
23 our public comment at this time.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

25 Anything else from anyone? Okay.

1 It is now 3:39, so we will adjourn. And thank
2 you all very much. Have a good weekend.

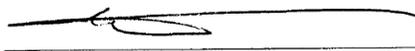
3 (Session recessed until May 18, 2021.)
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